

Examination Board

AQA

Specific Course Requirements

English Language and English Literature at level 5 are essential, as well as a level 4 in Mathematics and ideally a grade B in History. Students who have not studied History at GCSE will need to show similar or better achievement in Jewish Studies GCSE.

Course Content

This two-year linear course helps you to gain a critical understanding of the society in which you live. You will learn how society shapes peoples' ideas, social behaviour and cultures, how, in turn, people interact together and shape their societies.

Paper 1: You will learn how the Education System works and how Sociologists conduct their research

Paper 2: Covers Families and Households and the role of Mass Media in society

Paper 3: You will learn about crime and deviance, issues to do with criminological research and a separate topic on sociological theories and perspectives.

What do I need to know, or be able to do, to study this course?

An interest in wider social issues, and how this impacts on people's lives and behaviour, is an essential prerequisite. Some historical knowledge on British society from 1945 onwards would also be an advantage.

How will I be assessed on this course?

This linear 'A' level course is assessed by three exams (Papers 1, 2 and 3) taken at the end of two academic years in June.

What could I do with a qualification in this subject?

Sociology is an established subject, over 100 years old and all of the major universities have prestigious departments of Sociology. This is reflected in the fact that a wide variety of careers value the subject, both at 'A' Level and in Higher Education. These include: Law, Journalism, Civil Service, Media, Social Policy, Human Resource Management and Education Research.

The three most commonly asked questions about this course are:

Will this 'A' Level help me get to university?

Yes, Social Sciences have large research departments at university.

Is it similar to Psychology?

Some similarities on research methods, but Sociology focuses on society rather than the individual

Is it all essay based exam questions?

No. There are short answer questions across the three papers.