

A Level Sociology – Curriculum Intent

Course Structure

The A Level Sociology course follows the **OCR specification** and is studied over two years.

In **Year 12**, students are introduced to core sociological concepts, theories, and methods through the study of:

- Socialisation, culture, and identity
- Media as an agent of socialisation
- Research methods

These topics provide the foundation for sociological thinking, introducing students to key debates, concepts, and evaluative skills.

In **Year 13**, students build on this foundation by studying:

- Globalisation and the digital social world
- Crime and deviance
- Social inequalities

Students are expected to make connections across topics, apply theory to contemporary issues, and develop more sustained and evaluative responses.

Research methods are taught explicitly and revisited throughout the course to ensure students can confidently apply methodological knowledge across all areas of the specification

Assessment Structure

The course is assessed through **three externally examined papers** at the end of the two-year course:

Component 1: Socialisation, Culture and Identity

- Written examination: **1 hour 30 minutes**
- Total marks: **90**
- Weighting: **30% of A Level**
- Content includes socialisation, identity, and the media

Component 2: Researching and Understanding Social Inequalities

- Written examination: **2 hours 15 minutes**
- Total marks: **105**
- Weighting: **35% of A Level**

- Content includes research methods and social inequality

Component 3: Debates in Contemporary Society

- Written examination: **2 hours 15 minutes**
- Total marks: **105**
- Weighting: **35% of A Level**
- Content includes globalisation, the digital social world, and crime and deviance

Assessment and Progress

Assessment is used to support learning and build confidence over time. Students complete a range of formative and summative assessments designed to strengthen knowledge, develop extended writing skills, and prepare for final examinations.

Assessment approaches include:

- Regular retrieval practice to support long-term memory
- Extended written responses with teacher feedback
- End-of-unit assessments to consolidate learning
- Mock examinations in Year 12 and Year 13

These approaches support students in developing secure knowledge, effective exam technique, and confidence in applying sociological concepts and theory.

Progression and Careers

A Level Sociology develops valuable transferable skills including analysis, evaluation, research, and communication. Students are well prepared for further study in subjects such as Sociology, Criminology, Law, Politics, Education, Psychology, and Social Sciences.

Students also progress into a wide range of careers including social care, law, education, journalism, public services, policy, and community work. Sociology supports students in becoming informed, thoughtful individuals who can understand society and engage critically with the world around them.