

Course Content

AS and A Level

Unit 1: Education with Research Methods in Context

- the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning

Unit 2: Families and Households

- the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies
- changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life and much more gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

AS and A-level

Unit 3: Research Methods

- quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'

Unit 4: Crime and Deviance

- crime, deviance, social order and social control
- the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes

Skills and Qualifications Required

Our AS and A-level Sociology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

- the use of evidence to support your arguments
- how to investigate facts and use deduction
- critical thinking
- making reasoned arguments
- developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues
- the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues.

Assessment

There are two exams at AS each worth 50% of your AS qualification. Each exam lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 60 marks. The exams consist of short answer and extended writing questions. At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

A Pathway To...

"Studying sociology gave me a good foundation from which to improve and undertake further learning in my training to be a Probation Officer. Understanding how individuals have become involved in crime, as well as how systems and society as a whole respond to individuals who fail to abide by the law, has helped me to tailor my methods of working with offenders in order to successfully rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society."

For more information speak to:

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