

Overview

These are some of the questions that you will look at in GCSE Sociology:

- Are all 'hoodies' hooligans?
- Why are young black people seven times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people?
- Why do girls do better at school than boys?
- What is gang culture?
- What does it mean to be poor in Britain today?

Sociology studies how society works. It will help you to understand how individuals fit into a wider social network and encourage you to question beliefs about society which you may have previously taken for granted. Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does and the extent to which our behaviour and opportunities can be shaped by our social class, age, gender and race.

Why Choose Sociology?

Sociology is about your life and the world around you. It is a subject that you will have experience of and one that will help you understand many aspects of your future. You can bring your own life events and ideas into the classroom in a way you might not be able to with other subjects. It helps you understand that the society we are presented with is not always the true picture and it will help you understand who is trying to manipulate your ideas and why they are trying to do that. If you know this, you can make more informed choices about your lives and your future.

What Makes A Good Sociology Student?

You need to be open minded. Some things that you "know" are not always accurate. You will need to be able to analyse the information given to you and make decisions about its accuracy and representativeness. You will need to be able to view society from many different perspectives – and accept that different people see the same concept in different ways. You will also be able to listen to and accept the views of others – even if you do not agree with them.

Assessment

Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE

Progression Pathways

After completing Sociology GCSE pupils can continue their studies in Sociology through an A-level course. Pupils may wish to do Sociology GCSE to develop the skills mentioned above or to pursue a degree in Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Anthropology, English Literature, Law or Business to name just a few.

Careers

There are many careers where a qualification in Sociology is useful. For example, many sociologists go into social work – community projects, charity work, welfare advisors and other areas of social services. Other careers are civil service, prison officers, police, teaching and jobs within the media industry. A qualification in sociology will provide you with many key skills, including logical thinking, planning, research and negotiation – all of which can be used in a variety of careers.