



Sociology is the study of how society works and how people interact within it.

At Key Stage 4, students explore the main social structures that shape our everyday experiences, including families, social class, politics, education, crime and deviance, and social stratification. They develop an understanding of how these factors influence life in the UK today.

The GCSE course helps students build a clear and up-to-date awareness of the issues affecting society, both past and present. It also strengthens their extended writing skills.

Studying Sociology at Key Stage 4 broadens students' understanding of a range of topics and encourages them to apply what they learn to **real-life situations**, such as:

- Understanding why certain groups may achieve differently in school
- Exploring how the media shapes our views on crime
- Examining how family life varies across cultures and communities
- Investigating why people vote differently in elections
- Analysing how social class can affect job opportunities and life chances
- Considering why some behaviours are labelled "deviant" in one society but not another

The course develops confidence by building on skills gained at Key Stage 3, while further enhancing analytical and communication abilities. Students learn to compare different perspectives on social issues and construct well-reasoned arguments.

Through Sociology, learners gain valuable transferable skills including research and investigative skills, critical thinking, communication, and the ability to develop and justify their own opinions.

How the Course Is Delivered

This is a holistic course where each topic links to others. Lessons use a mix of resources, including the recommended textbook, teacher-led presentations, documentaries, news clips, and contemporary articles.

Students learn in a variety of ways:

- Independent and group research
- Class discussions and idea-sharing
- Teacher-led lessons
- Group work and collaborative tasks
- Presentations to develop confidence and communication skills

Many topics are thought-provoking, helping students build respect for others and become well-rounded individuals.

Feedback and Support

Students receive regular feedback through:

- Close-the-Gap tasks
- Praise points and stamps
- Opportunities to improve spelling, punctuation, and grammar

Curriculum Time

3 lessons per fortnight in year 9

5 lessons per fortnight in year 10 and 11

Homework and Assessment

Homework is set regularly and may include:

- Exam-style questions
- Independent research
- Revision book tasks
- Worksheets to consolidate learning
- Creative tasks

Students are assessed after each topic to check understanding and exam readiness. Teachers use exam-style questions throughout the course, with writing frames to help students structure their responses.

Exams

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification

- Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
- Families
- Education
- Sociological research methods

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification

This component covers the following topic areas

- Social differentiation and stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Applied methods of sociological enquiry