

ST MARY'S COLLEGE



INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered...

- Why people queue for buses?
- Why some people commit crimes?
- Why girls do better than boys in education? (It's true!)
- What effect violence on TV has on us?
- Where all those statistics on the news come from?!



If so, then **Sociology is the subject for you. Put simply, Sociology tries to understand society and our place in it.** We are all brought up in some kind of family, all go through education, and are all influenced by the society around us. (Ask yourself the question: **Would you come to college wearing nothing but a pink tutu? Why not? Would anything change your mind?**)

AS LEVEL

Content

Module	Assessment
Unit 1 – Families & Households What do we mean by 'family'? Why are families important? How has family life changed over the last 50 years	1 hour Written Exam , taken in January. This counts as 40% of the final AS grade. There is a chance to resit in June.
Unit 2 – Education and Research Methods Has education, always been this way? Does it do what it says on the tin? Why do some groups do better than others? How do Sociologists use various research methods to find out about the social world? Can we trust their evidence?	2 hour written exam, taken in June. This counts as 60% of the final AS grade. Students answer one question on education, one on research methods, and one on educational research

How is the course delivered?

The Department adopts a variety of teaching and learning styles, eg whole class teaching, small groupwork, simulations, research, worksheets, activities, use of video and discussions.

Entry requirements

You will need to have a **GCSE grade C or above in English Language**. Please note that entry requirements for an AS programme depend upon the number of courses that you intend to take.

What skills and interests do I need?

- Good written communication skills, since you are mainly assessed through essays.
- The ability to examine and judge a range of arguments & views in an open-minded way.
- A willingness to learn – Sociology AS involves a lot of new information.
- A good general knowledge.
- An interest in social issues and current affairs.



How will I be assessed?

There will be a written exam for each unit. These can be taken in January and May. There will be an opportunity to re-sit the following January. Please note: **there is no coursework element in AS Sociology**.

SOCIOLOGY AT A2 LEVEL

Content

Module	Assessment
Unit 3 – Beliefs in Society What is religion? How is religion different to science and ideology? Why are some groups more religious? Does religion still matter today?	1 hour 30 minute written exam , taken in January. This counts as 20% of the final A level mark.
Unit 4 – Crime & Deviance, Theory & Methods What's the difference between crime and deviance? Who commits crime? Why? Does punishment work? Where do all these sociological ideas come from? Why do researchers choose one method rather than another? Is Sociology a science?	2 hour written exam , taken in June. This counts as 30% of the final A level mark. Students answer one question on Crime and Deviance, one question on Theory and Methods, & one question on researching crime and deviance.



What are A2 Sociology lessons like?

The teaching methods will be similar to those employed within the AS. A2 students are also encouraged to develop the independence and study skills required for University.

Entry requirements

A pass grade in AS Sociology. Please note – grades A to E at AS level are considered passes.



How will I be assessed?

There will be a written exam for each unit. These can be taken in January and June. The marks will be combined with the marks achieved for the AS and lead to a full A-level qualification.

Where will Sociology get me?

Almost all our students progress to University degree level courses, and go on to careers in the police, probation service, social work, health, counselling, teaching, law, personnel management, journalism, media, advertising & marketing – the list is endless! Plus you will gain all the skills that Universities & employers are looking for – working with others, presenting information clearly, dealing with complex issues, meeting deadlines, empathy, motivation, enthusiasm etc!

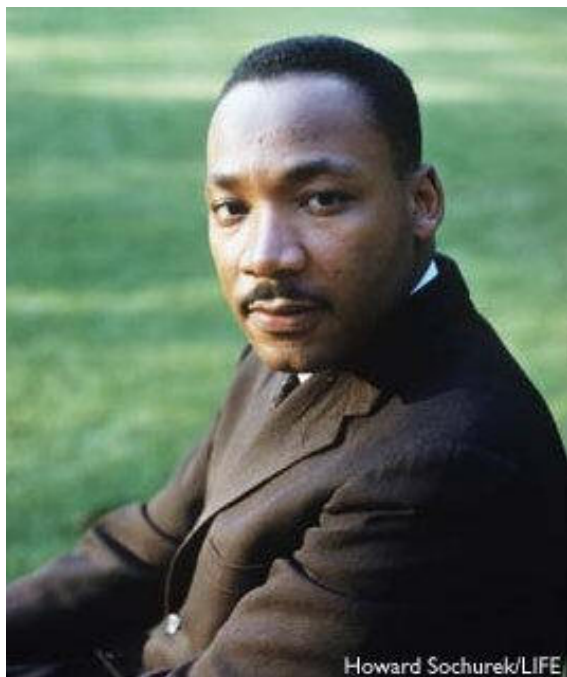
Where can I get more information?

For further information please contact Daniela Reiter.

Full details of the A level Sociology syllabus can be found at www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/sociology_AS_new.php



Just in case you're not convinced, here are some famous sociology graduates:



Rev. Martin Luther King



Robin Williams



Dan Aykroyd



Ronald Reagan

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