



Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology involves studying human social life, groups and societies in a systematic way. Sociologists investigate and explain the social world and our behaviour in it. They are particularly interested in understanding the ways in which society influences us and shapes our daily lives.

As a sociology student, you will explore and ask questions about the workings of the society you live in. Studying society will help you to understand how society is organised and to make sense of your own experiences in it. Sociology can be thought-provoking and challenging because it encourages us to think carefully about our views and assumptions.

You will study contemporary British society and examine its main social structures, such as the family and education systems. You will also explore what is known as the 'social processes' that influence us, such as socialisation and social control, as well as some of the controversial issues relating to sociology, such as the quality of parenting and teenage crime.

Outline of the course

Paper 1 is a 1 hour 45 minutes examination containing the following modules (100 marks and worth 50%)

Education:

Topics discussed in this module:

- How is the education system organised in contemporary Britain?
- How can parental attitudes affect achievement?
- How might the school affect achievement?
- What is the role of the school in class, gender and ethnicity and underachievement?

Family:

Topics discussed in this module:

- How might an individual's family and household settings change over the course of their life?
- What were gender roles and relationships between adult partners like in the past?
- How have relationships between parents and their children changed over time?
- What are the consequences of divorce?

Paper 2 is a 1 hour 45 minutes examination containing the following modules (100 marks and worth 50%).

Crime and deviance:

Topics discussed in this module:

- What are the differences between formal and informal control?
- How do sociologists explain criminal and deviant behaviour?
- How far do official statistics on recorded crime measure the extent of crime?
- Why is youth crime viewed as a social problem?

Candidates are expected to make reference to relevant areas of social theory and methodology.

Social Stratification (inequality):

Topics discussed in this module:

- How are wealth and income distributed in Britain?
- How much social mobility is there in Britain?
- How do we explain poverty?
- Does social class still matter?
- What gender inequalities still exist?
- Do ethnic minorities face barriers?

Delivery

Sociology is taught by enthusiastic and passionate specialist teachers, who use a range of teaching and learning methods and have a range of resources available to students to complement learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Careers and Future Progression

The skills and abilities that you develop over the duration of the course lay the foundations to a range of opportunities and careers in fields such as:

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| ✓ Accountancy | ✓ Health promotion | ✓ Probation |
| ✓ Advertising | ✓ Healthcare | ✓ Protective agencies |
| ✓ Anti-social behaviour coordination | ✓ Housing | ✓ Public relations |
| ✓ Audience and market research | ✓ Human resources | ✓ Research |
| ✓ Broadcasting | ✓ Human rights, migration & refugee support | ✓ Sales management |
| ✓ Campaigning groups | ✓ Investigating justice & victim support | ✓ Social and welfare professions |
| ✓ Child welfare | ✓ Journalism and media | ✓ Social policy development |
| ✓ Civil services | ✓ Legal professions | ✓ Social work |
| ✓ Community care | ✓ Local government | ✓ Teaching |
| | ✓ Marketing and PR | ✓ The civil service |
| | | ✓ The criminal justice system |
| | | ✓ The press and public relations |

- ✓ Community development & research
- ✓ Community, health & social work
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Government advisory departments
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Mental health
- ✓ Police
- ✓ Policy analysis and consultancy
- ✓ Policy and administration
- ✓ Politics
- ✓ The voluntary and community sector
- ✓ Writing and journalism
- ✓ Youth and community work

For further information see

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