

Sociology

GCSE Eduqas
Course Code: 4192

General Course Information

Sociologists want to understand the behaviour of people in terms of the age, gender, social class and other groups they belong to. They try to find and explain patterns of behaviour common to the people in these groups. Sociology is not just common sense as sociologists must provide evidence to support the claims they make. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of contemporary social issues and changes. They will learn the research methods and how different sociologists see society in very different ways and be able to apply and evaluate a range of research methods through active involvement. Students are encouraged to develop skills that will enable them to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society and develop a lifelong interest in social issues.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of qualification

100 marks

This component focuses on the themes of socialisation, identity and culture. Learners study the key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, including socialisation and the acquisition of identity, and develop these through detailed study of families and education.

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of qualification

100 marks

The focus in this component is on social differentiation, power and stratification. This includes the theme of power, issues of social order and social control, studied through crime and deviance. Learners also study applied methods of sociological enquiry.

Who's it for?

Students will need to have good English skills and be interested in the ways in which people interact together. There will be opportunities for visits, speakers, discussions and debates. Students are encouraged to make use of the Media, to keep up to date with current affairs and wherever possible make use of the Internet with research. Sociology encourages a questioning approach, the development of an enquiring mind and the ability to think for oneself. Students are expected to work independently with regular homework set. Sociology is an interesting and enjoyable subject repaying effort and enthusiastic commitment.

Progression

Students may progress onto Sociology A level which is very flexible. Sociology degrees may be combined with other subjects and refined in a number of ways e.g. Social Work Degrees, Criminology degrees, Development Studies and Urban Development courses, each offering interesting possibilities for study and leading on to higher degrees and research opportunities.

