



AS AND A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY



**Student
Handbook
2015-2017**

Welcome to your A Level Sociology course. This booklet is designed to outline the structure of the course you will be following, to help you with your studies and to inform you of what we expect of you as A level students. Our aim is that you should thoroughly enjoy your sociology course – your teachers will always be willing to discuss your progress, give advice and help and direct you towards your highest achievement. For your part, we ask that you pay careful attention to our requirements of you during Year 12 & year 13.

This course is designed for those students who wish to study for an A level in sociology over a two year period. These students will be taught the necessary content over the two years and then sit three two hour exams in June 2017 which will assess their knowledge and understanding of sociology as a subject.

However, there is also the option to study sociology for one year and to achieve an AS level in the topic in June 2016. These students will be taught the same content as the A-level students and take two one and a half hour exams at the end of the year. If you then decide to complete the full A-level you will be re-examined on the same topics the following year as part of the full A-level qualification.

The AQA Syllabus

AS (7191)

A-level (7192)

AQA Sociology A Level is a linear course. This means that students will sit AS exams at the end of their AS course and all the A-level exams at the end of their A-level course.

Year 1 (AS) subject content

Paper 1: Education with Methods in Context	Paper 2: Research methods & topics in sociology
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Methods in context 	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Methods • Families & households •
Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 60 marks in total • 50% of AS • Mix of short answer & extended writing questions 	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 60 marks in total • 50% of AS • Mix of short answer & extended writing questions

Year 2 subject content

Paper 1: Education with theory & methods	Paper 2: Topics in sociology	Paper 3: Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Methods in context • Theory & Methods • 	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families & Households • The Media 	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime & Deviance • Theory & Methods
Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours • 80 marks in total • 33.3% of A-level • Mix of short answer & extended writing questions 	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours • 80 marks in total • 33.3% of A-level • Mix of short answer & extended writing questions 	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours • 80 marks in total • 33.3% of A-level • Mix of short answer & extended writing questions

A full copy of the specification can be found at www.aqa.org.uk

AS Teaching Timetable

You will be taught the content of the course in the following order. Please note that this is not the quite the order in which you will be examined in.

Teaching Group (4/5)	Term 1 (September – December)	Term 2 (January – April)
Option 1 PE/PK Room 19	Memory (PE) Attachment (PK) Abnormality(split)	Stress (PE) Social Influence (PK) Research Methods (split)
Option 2 PK/GH Room 19	Memory(GH) Attachment (PK) Abnormality(split)	Stress (GH) Social Influence (PK) Research Methods (split)

Option 3 PK/JE Room 19	Memory (JE) Attachment (PK) Abnormality(split)	Stress (JE) Social Influence (PK) Research Methods (split)
Option 4 GH/GS Room 19	Memory (GH) Attachment (GS) Abnormality(split)	Stress (GH) Social Influence (GS) Research Methods (split)
Option 5 PE/PK Room 19	Memory (PE) Attachment (PK) Abnormality(split)	Stress (PE) Social Influence (PK) Research Methods (split)
Option 6 GH/PK Room 19	Memory (GH) Attachment (PK) Abnormality(split)	Stress (GH) Attachment (PK) Abnormality (split)

Study Skills and Homework

1. Homework & Assessment

Each of your two teachers will set between two to three hours homework per week. This may be further reading; note-taking, follow-up activities, completion exercises or more formal essays or assessments. It is essential that you meet **deadlines** and anyone who continually misses deadlines will be asked to discuss their progress and work with head of year 12 Mrs Iwanczyk. Work received a week after the deadline date will not be given a mark/grade. You will have at least 4 official assessments a term from each member of staff teaching the course. Staff will give you detailed feedback on your assessments – both written and verbal – which should help you set personal targets for your progress. From previous years examinations the grade boundaries are as follows:

Mark /grade equivalent

A = 80%+

B = 70%+

C = 60%+

D = 50%+

E = 40%+

A tracking system operates in the sociology department, which is designed to monitor your progress during the A Level course.

Your 4 standard assessments for each module are entered into the departmental database. This enables us to track your progress throughout the course and identify your areas of strength, whilst targeting additional help and advice to help develop your weaknesses.

2. Background reading, note taking and how to research (see also 'Resources' below)

Sociology is such a wide subject that the more reading you do the fuller will be your knowledge of the subject. You will need to purchase a class textbook and you may also wish to purchase study guides or revision books of your own. Additionally there are many useful texts in the Library and in the bookcase in Room 20. If you need any help with this then ask your teachers who will be able to advise you. Your base level of reading is to ensure that you have read and noted the relevant chapter in your core text.

In addition:

- Look through other references – skim read to see if they provide additional information. DO NOT COPY OUT EVERY WORD. Read through an article and then make notes, quote examples and maybe note page references. Avoid copying straight from the text; in that way you might remember something of what you have written.
- Use the library – use the indexes of books whose titles look suitable to find relevant information. Ask the librarian for help.
- Use the Internet and CD ROMs for further details on topics but make sure you read the information and that it is relevant to your research.
- Particularly helpful are articles in the 'Sociology Review'. A full index of all articles is available. Sociology factsheets are also a valuable resource which is available on College Resources.
- Read newspapers! Especially broadsheets such as the Times/Guardian/Independent etc. These always have relevant articles that link to psychology especially in the weekend editions. Additionally the internet and TV may also provide you with useful articles or documentaries.

3 Organisation of your files & expectations of the tracking document

You will need a supply of ring-binders or lever arch files as sociology generates a huge amount of notes and paper. It is essential that your file is well organised; in our experience a well-ordered file aids revision and leads to higher grades. Follow the following guidelines:

- File chronologically and include any photocopied sheets at the correct place
- Underline or highlight titles and keywords. You may wish to devise your own index and/or glossary
- Include background reading notes at the correct place in your file
- Do **NOT** start a new piece of paper every lesson; apart from wasting paper it means that continuity is lost and often pages become dis-organised. Bring your file to every lesson.
- NOTE taking – unlike GCSE when you were probably ‘spoon-fed’ with information, staff will often talk or lead discussions with you during lessons and it is essential that you take your own notes (they will not always say ‘write this down’!) Do **not** write every word. Develop your own shorthand code, learn to write quickly (although your notes need to be ordered and legible they don’t need to be pristinely neat) and try to be discerning in what you write down. Summarize the main ideas and arguments in headings.
- **Key Studies** are particularly important at A Level. Make sure you highlight these in your notes. You may wish to research further a key study introduced in lessons and/or research other, relevant studies.
- Staff will check your files regularly. Do not leave it to the previous night to get your file into order. Files will be periodically checked by your teachers and the quality assessed for screening.
- At the start of term you will be issued with a tracking sheet and mark scheme which must be both stuck into your psychology file. You must fill out your tracking sheet after every piece of assessed work.

YOU MUST BRING YOUR FILE TO EVERY LESSON!

4. Policies

Literacy: Schemes of work and lesson plans include opportunities for you to develop speaking and listening skills such as:

- individual and group presentations
 - opportunities for discussion and debate
 - group work, drama activities and role play
 - Opportunities to teach parts of the lesson.
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- When asking questions in lessons, staff will expect and insist on fully articulated answers using appropriate subject specific vocabulary.
 - All teachers will have high expectations in terms of the quality of your written expression whether or not this carries specific marks in the assessment criteria.
 - You will be given examples of model essays/answers where appropriate, with a focus on good structure, grammar, use of subject specific vocabulary, accurate spelling and expression.
 - All written work will be marked for accuracy of spelling and grammar using the following notations:

- Underline spelling errors (thier)
- Wavy line under examples of poor expression
- Circle examples of incorrect punctuation
- // to indicate where a new paragraph needs to be introduced.
- Other ways of improving literacy in the department are:
 - giving out/you making glossaries of key terms/ subject specific terminology at the start of the course, within the student handbook or at the start of each new topic
 - Typing out subject specific terms, which are laminated and put up on the walls of the classroom
 - Creation of laminated sets of pairs – word/definition for quick starters and plenaries.
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Stretch & Challenge: We believe that you should be provided with a suitably stimulating and challenging environment, both curricular and extra-curricular, which will allow your abilities and talents to flourish. Schemes of work make provision for differentiation including enrichment and extension activities; these include:

- Additional articles and research that allow you to access further detail around key topic areas.
- A large selection of documentaries and films that offer you the opportunity to enhance your subject knowledge.
- Additional trips and conferences.
- Targeted high order questioning by teachers for the most able students.
- Students to teach more challenging material to their peers or access more complicated subject matter should be made available.

Special Educational Needs: All students are entitled to equality of regard and equality of opportunity irrespective of particular needs or disabilities. The sociology department is committed to ensuring that this core belief permeates all aspects of teaching and learning and that the special educational needs of individual students are catered for wherever possible. Wherever possible teachers should make every effort to make all teaching and learning strategies accessible to all and, where appropriate create specific strategies to ensure that students have access to all learning. Students should also feel confident in communicating any specific needs or requirements to their teacher where necessary.

5. Resources

You will need to buy a copy of

This is your basic text and you need to ensure that it is well read.

The department holds a series of class texts with which you may be issued. If you take one home it must be booked out through the library.

Other Sources of Sociological Information

- Newspapers: The Independent & Guardian in the library regularly have news/features & relevant articles
- Magazines – the library subscribes to Sociology Review which has excellent articles directly related to sociology students. Another magazine which has relevant articles is The New Scientist – also to be found in the Library.
- The Internet/TV