

Sociology A Level

What is the difference between psychology and sociology?

Psychologists and sociologists both study people, but while psychologists delve into the mind of an individual or small group to understand human behaviour and social and emotional reactions, sociologists look beyond individuals to examine society through specific associations – such as the family, race or religion – to understand current issues.

What are the similarities to other subjects?

The title social sciences is made up of two words. 'Social' refers to the fact that these subjects are related in some way to humanity. 'Sciences' is appended to provide the understanding that these disciplines use the scientific method when conducting research. The following is a list of the various social sciences, with the exception of sociology, and what those disciplines entail:

- Education discusses personal development in learning and how to instruct, and researches the subject of learning.
- Law is a study of relationships. It includes how people relate to one another, how people relate to their government entities and what people are responsible for as members of a society.
- Anthropology is the study of how cultures have evolved.
- Psychology asks fundamental questions about how the mind works and influences individuals.
- Linguistics is the study of how people use language.
- Political science is concerned with government and citizenship.
- History is the study of the past and how it relates to the present and the future.
- Economics is the study of monetary systems, how they have developed and how money affects a society.

What topics do you cover?

We cover the compulsory content in the lower sixth of Families and Households, Education and Methods in Context. In upper sixth we cover Crime and Deviance, Beliefs and Society and Theory and Methods

What type of person would enjoy sociology?

Anyone who has a broad understanding of the world around them and wants to find out WHY we act the way we do! Sociology is a chance to debate, question and challenge our thoughts and understanding of society

Where can sociology take me?

A Level Sociology is very good preparation for university, where strong essay writing skills are very important. Universities recognise that Sociology A Level provides students with a very good foundation in social, political and policy knowledge.

Is it a respected university course?

Yes - it prepares you for any profession that involves human interaction and allows you to explore the world in a considered and holistic way. Many of our students go on to take Sociology degrees and the job prospects upon graduation are high

What subjects does it work well with?

Sociology works in any combination but specifically with other humanities or social sciences. Our most popular combinations are Psychology, English Literature, History, Politics, Geography and Economics

What are the class sizes?

There is only one class and we do have large classes, this year we have 24 in lower sixth and 25 in upper sixth

How many essays are there in the exams?

The weighting is spread, there will always be short answer questions in each exam and then they build up to 10 mark analyse and evaluate questions and up to 20 marks for Beliefs in Society, Theory and Methods and Families and Households and 30 marks for Education and Crime and Deviance

Do you need to be good at English?

Yes. This is an essay based subject and you must be able to write a sustained argument for up to 30 marks (alongside completing other essays) in an exam by the end of upper sixth. We ask for a 7 in English Literature and English Language