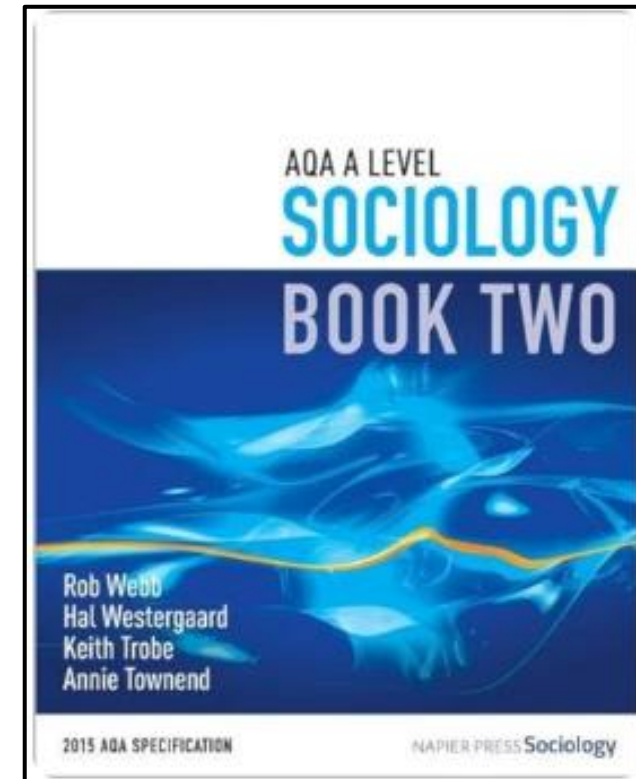
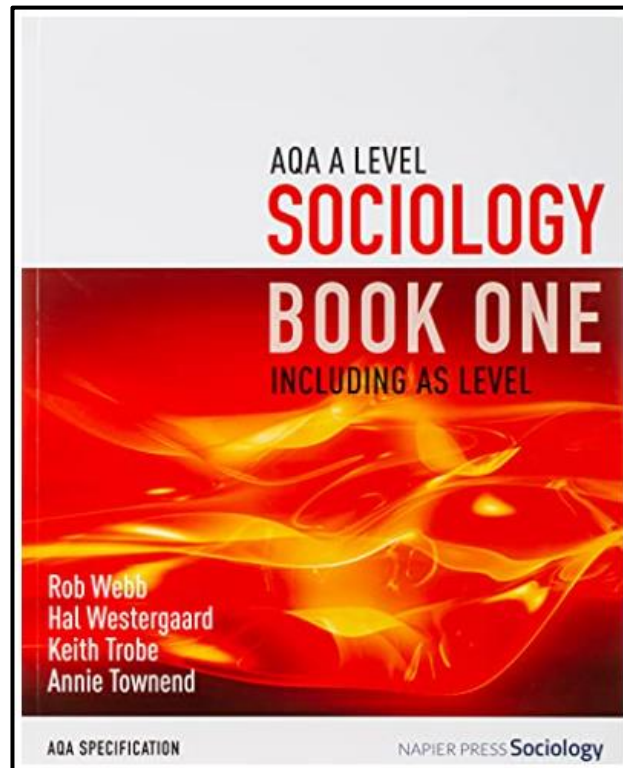


Welcome to the Southam College  
Sixth Form



# Welcome to A level Sociology

# AQA A-Level in Sociology



# What is Sociology?



British Sociological Association:



‘Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life.’



# What is Sociology?



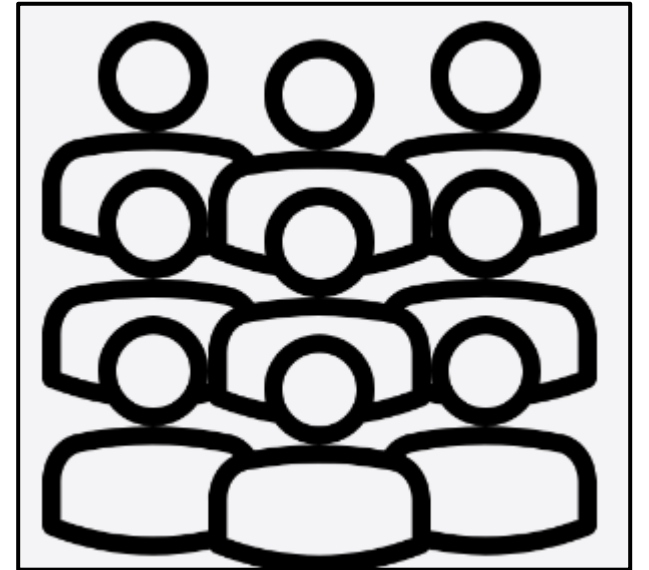
- It offers the systematic study of society, social behaviour, and social change.
- The focus is on understanding how human actions are shaped by social structures, cultures, and institutions.
- It provides substantive explanations for events, actions, patterns of relationship, and institutions.



# What is Sociology?

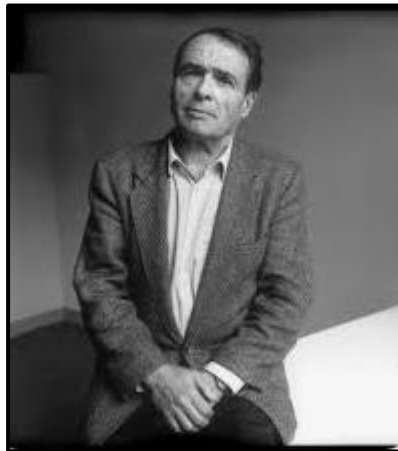


- It has been taught in British universities since the very beginning of the twentieth century, first at the London School of Economics and soon after at Liverpool University.
- The discipline provides groundbreaking research in major social issues such as poverty and crime.

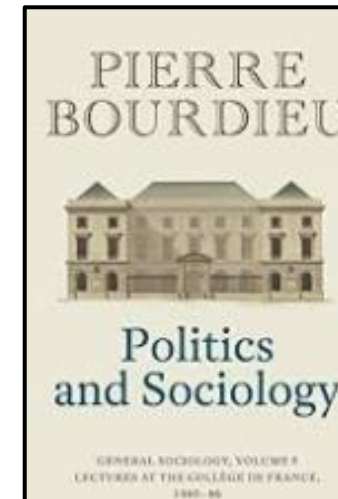


# Why Study Sociology?

‘The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal what is hidden....’



Pierre Bourdieu



# Why Study Sociology?



Have you ever wondered.....?

- How and why does social control exist?
- What shapes human behaviour?
- How do institutions impact our lives?
- Why do social inequalities exist?
- Why do some people strive, and others don't?
- What barriers exist in society?



# Why Study Sociology?



Studying sociology.....

- Helps you make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all.
- The course is relevant to the society you live in, so you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are relevant to everyday life; plus, it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.



# What Skills Will I Develop?

The study of Sociology will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills:

## Critical Analysis:

- Develops critical thinking and analytical skills. Provides the ability to question, analyse, evaluate and assess social issues from multiple viewpoints.

## Research Skills:

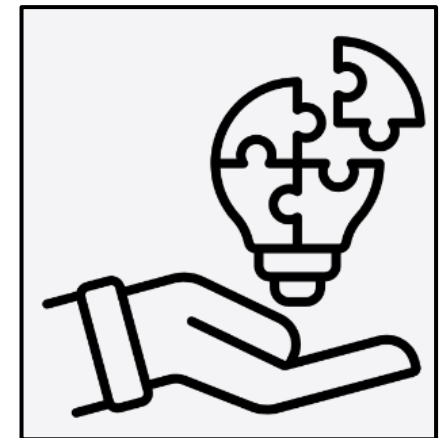
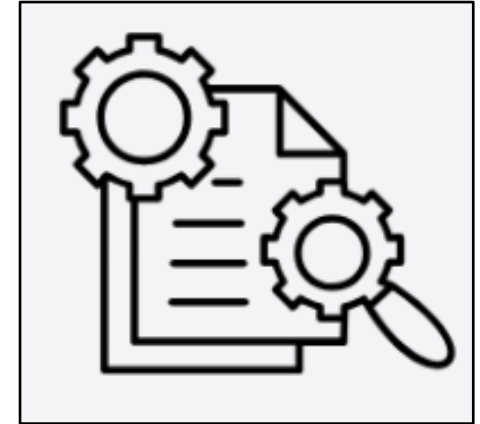
- Conducting and interpreting sociological research.

## Communication:

- Articulating complex ideas effectively within written and verbal formats and supported with substantiated evidence.

## Empathy and Understanding:

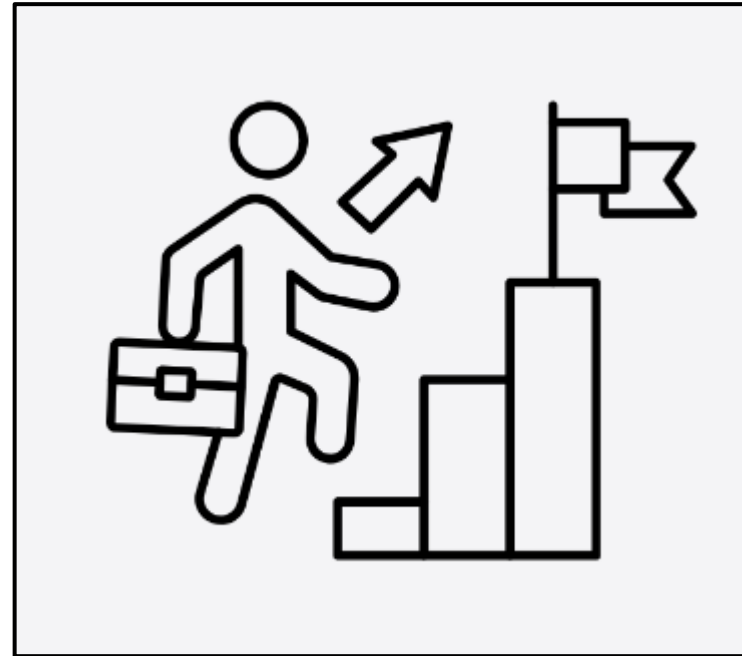
- Recognising and respecting diverse perspectives and promotes an awareness of social issues, diversity, and global perspectives.



# Benefits of Studying Criminology?

- The A-Level in Sociology is designed to support learners progressing to university.
- Studying Sociology can give you a host of exciting career options, including:

- Law
- Teaching
- Social work
- Public Relations
- Human resources
- Business
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Journalism



# Entry Requirements



Grade 6 in English Literature or English Language.



# Assessment Structure



- No coursework; assessment is through exams.
- The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

## Year 1 – AS

Two exams at AS each worth 50% of your AS qualification. Each exam lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 60 marks.

## Year 2 – A-Level

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each.

# Course Structure



**Exam Board:** AQA (Assessment and Qualifications)

**Qualification Level:** AS and A-Level

**Duration:** 2 Years

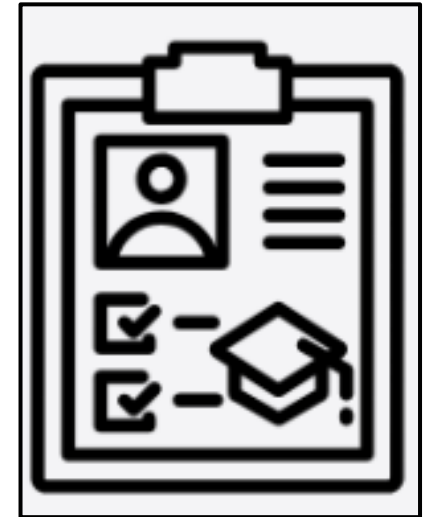
**Main Components:**

Year 1 Topics:

Education, Families, and Households & Research Methods

Year 2 Topics:

Crime and Deviance, Beliefs in Society & Theory and Methods.



# Year 1 – Education Topic



How can factors within school's impact education?

How can outside school factors impact educational achievement?



How does class, gender and ethnicity impact educational achievement?

What is the role and function of the education system?

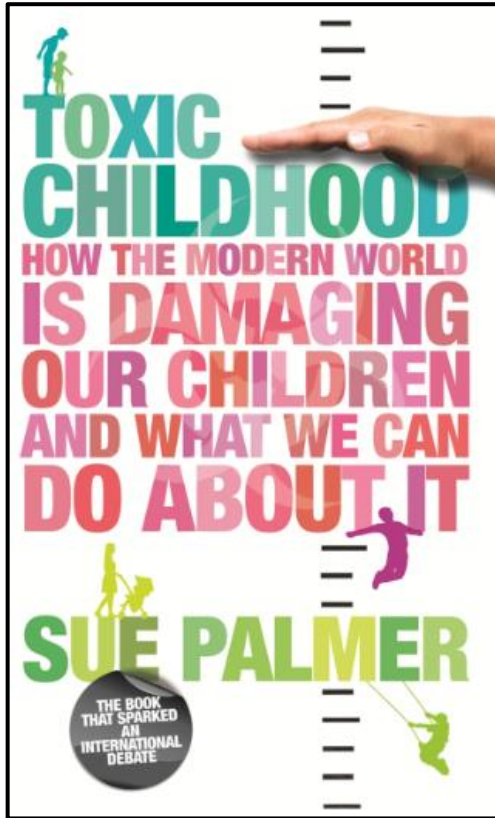
How significant are education policies and do they hinder or promote opportunities for all?

# Year 1 – Families and Households



What are the changing patterns of families and households e.g. marriage and divorce?

What are the current demographic trends in the United Kingdom?



What's the purpose of the family unit?

What is its relationship to the economy and to state policies.

How is childhood changing?

How are gender roles changing?

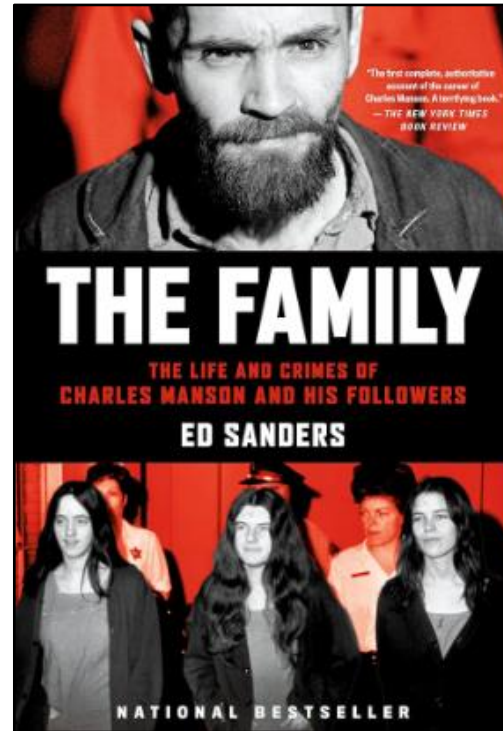
# Year 2 – Beliefs in Society

Is religion significant?

What are the positive and negative functions of beliefs in society?

Who believes in certain beliefs and practices and why?

What significance does religious beliefs/ideology have in a globalised world?



What religious organisations exist?

What is the relationship between social change, stability and beliefs and practices?

What is the difference between ideology and science and religion?



# Year 2 – Crime and Deviance

What is the relationship between class, age, gender and ethnicity with regards to crime and deviance?

Are we becoming a surveillance society?



What is the function of crime and deviance?

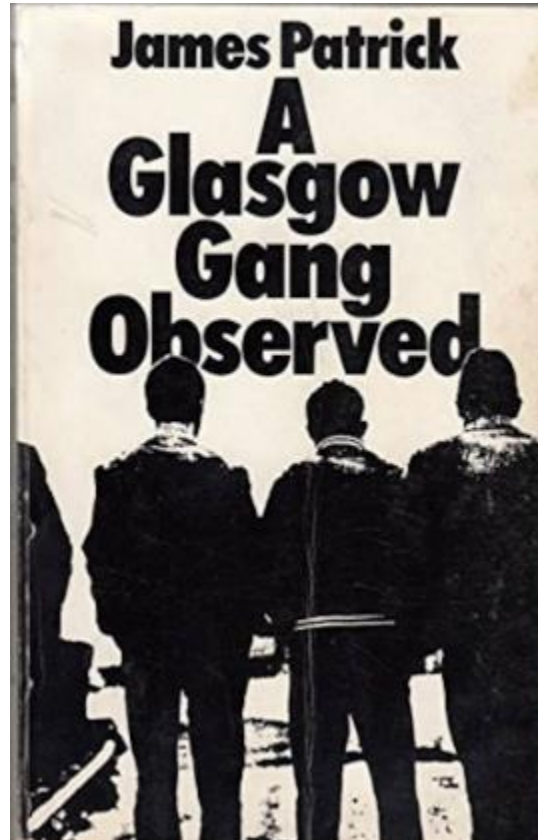
What is the role of the criminal justice system?

What are the explanations for the rates of offending and victimisation?

How is social order and control maintained?

# Year 1 & 2 – Research Methods

What's the distinction between primary and secondary data, quantitative and qualitative data?



What is positivism, interpretivism and the nature of 'social facts'?

What influences the choice of topic, method(s) and the conduct of research?

What are the strengths and limitations of various sources of data, e.g. questionnaires, interviews, observation, experiments etc?

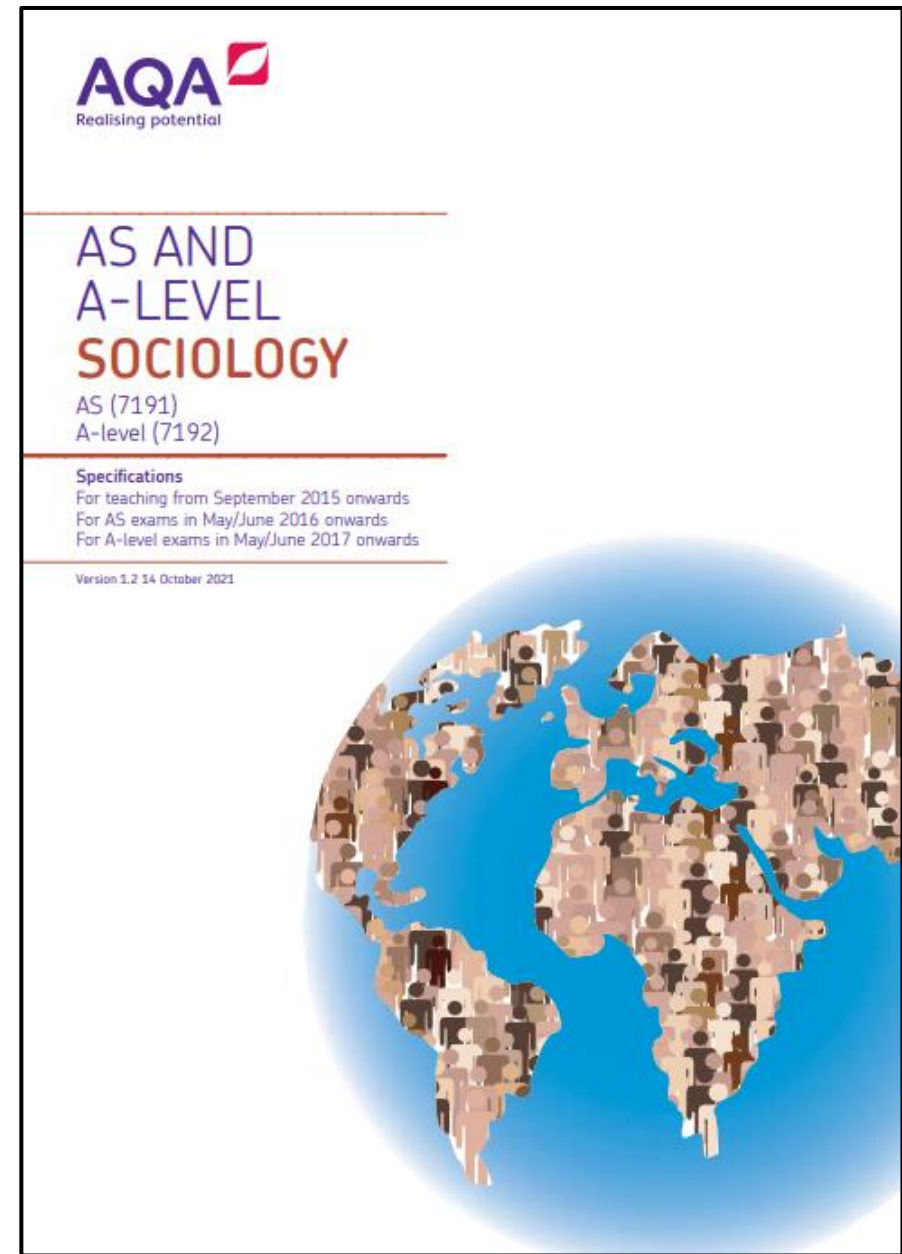
# Useful Resources

## Useful Website:

[AQA | Sociology | AS Level | AS Sociology](#)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-level/sociology-7191/specification>

**School Support:** Contact the Social Sciences Department for further information.



Contact for further information:



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