

The **AQA GCE Sociology (A-Level)** is a comprehensive course designed to provide students with a deep understanding of society, social structures, and human behaviour. It develops critical thinking, analytical, and evaluative skills to explore contemporary social issues and their underlying causes.

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### **Key Features**

1. **Qualification Level:** A-Level (Level 3).
  2. **Assessment:**
    - Three written exams (100% of the qualification).
    - No coursework.
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### **Content of Study**

The course explores fundamental sociological themes and issues, combining theoretical perspectives with practical analysis of contemporary society.

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### **Core Themes**

1. **Socialization, Culture, and Identity**
    - How individuals learn and internalize norms, values, and roles.
  2. **\*\*Social Differentiation, Power, and Stratification - Inequalities in society, based on factors such as class, gender, ethnicity, and age.**
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### **Core Topics**

1. **Education**
    - Role and purpose of education in society.
    - Links between education, social class, gender, and ethnicity.
    - The impact of educational policies on achievement and equality.
  2. **Methods in Context**
    - Applying sociological research methods to the study of education.
  3. **Research Methods**
    - Approaches to conducting sociological research, including surveys, interviews, and participant observation.
  4. **Crime and Deviance**
    - Theories of crime and deviance, including functionalist, Marxist, and interactionist perspectives.
    - Relationships between crime and social factors such as class, gender, and ethnicity.
    - Crime prevention, surveillance, and punishment.
  5. **Theory and Methods**
    - Debates about positivism and interpretivism.
    - The role of sociology in shaping social policy.
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### Optional Topics (Choose one from each group):

#### 1. Group 1:

- Culture and Identity
- Families and Households
- Health
- Work, Poverty, and Welfare

#### 2. Group 2:

- Beliefs in Society
- Global Development
- The Media  
and Differentiation

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### Assessment Overview

#### 1. Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods (33.3%)

- Written exam: 2 hours (80 marks).
- Content: Education, Methods in Context, Theory and Methods.
- Questions: Short-answer and extended writing.

#### 2. Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (33.3%)

- Written exam: 2 hours (80 marks).
- Content: One topic from Group 1 and one from Group 2.
- Questions: Short-answer and extended writing.

#### 3. Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (33.3%)

- Written exam: 2 hours (80 marks).
- Content: Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods.
- Questions: Short-answer and extended writing.

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### Skills Developed

- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating sociological theories and evidence.
- **Research Methods:** Designing and analysing sociological investigations.
- **Analytical Skills:** Understanding patterns, relationships, and social trends.
- **Communication:** Writing structured, evidence-based arguments.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Appreciating diversity and social change.

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### Career Pathways

This qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in sociology, criminology, social work, politics, or cultural studies.
2. **Professional Training:** Careers in teaching, journalism, law, or public administration.
3. **Employment:** Roles in social research, human resources, community work, or policy development.

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**Who Is It For?**

- Students interested in understanding society, culture, and behaviour.
- Those who enjoy debating and evaluating social issues.
- Learners aiming for careers in the social sciences, public services, or education.