

Curriculum Overview: AQA Sociology A Level (Social Sciences Department)



Overall Rationale:

- The Social Science department delivers the AQA Sociology specification (linear qualification). The AS specification is designed to be taken over one year with all assessments taken at the end of the course. The A-level specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course.
- The course itself offers an engaging and effective introduction to Sociology and therefore students do not require formal prior learning. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by higher education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. The integral element of the course includes a focus on sociological theories, perspectives and methods, the design of the research used to obtain the data under consideration, including its strengths and limitations. Students will develop skills that will enable them to draw out the links between each of the topic areas studied on the course (synoptic skills). Students on the course will study the following two core themes:
 - socialisation, culture and identity
 - social differentiation, power and stratification.
- These themes are taught via application to substantive areas of Sociology, through both compulsory and option topics of **Education, Families and Households, Beliefs in Society, Crime and Deviance and Theory and Research Methods**. The option topics have been chosen due to the challenge it offers to our students (Beliefs in Society) and for its potential to be applied to relevant real-world application (Families and Households). In addition, students will learn about the significance of conflict and consensus, social structure and social action, and the role of values. The central focus of study is on UK society today, with consideration given to comparative dimensions where relevant, including the siting of UK society within its globalised context. (AQA Specification)



Term / Length of Unit	Outline	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Knowledge/Skills End Points	Reading / Literacy
A-Level covered over two Years	<p>Overall, this course enables students to focus on contemporary society and will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity.</p> <p>The course allows students to achieve an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues.</p>	<p>Overall, the course offers a range of skills which will be assessed through three main assessment objectives: AO's.</p> <p><u>Sociological skills developed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: sociological theories, concepts and evidence and sociological research methods 	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p> <p>To be set by individual class teacher</p>	<p>Full schemes of learning with associated resources on Staff Resources – Social Science Sociology SOL – Year 12 and Year 13</p>	<p>Overall, the course will encourage students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes. • Appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate. • Understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided reading tasks • Independent reading tasks • Textbook support and guidance AQA • Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts • Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions • Key concept definitions

	<p>Throughout the course students are encouraged to develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world (real world application).</p> <p><u>Unit Coverage – 7xUnits:</u></p> <p>Unit 1 – Education 4.1.1 (Year 1)</p> <p>Unit 2 – Families and Households 4.2.2 (Year 1)</p> <p>Unit 3 — Research Methods 4.1.3 (Year 1 and Year 2)</p> <p>Unit 4 – Education & Methods in Context 4.1.2 (Year 1)</p> <p>Unit 5 - Beliefs in Society 4.2.5 (Year 2)</p> <p>Unit 6 – Crime and Deviance 4.3.1 (Year 2)</p> <p>Unit 7 – Theory and Methods 4.1.3 (Year 2) (Taught by two teachers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AO2: Apply sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods to a range of issues • AO3: Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - present arguments - - make judgements - - - draw conclusions <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>This will take place: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at the end of each topic coverage (timed class tests). - PPE's during Jan-Feb - AS Exams during May-June (2x Papers) - A Level exam during May-July (3x Papers) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society. • Develop a lifelong interest in social issues. <p><u>Course Assessment Command Words</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain • Identify • Describe • Discuss • Analyse • Assess • Evaluate <p><u>Sociological skills developed:</u></p> <p><u>AO1</u> – Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p><u>AO2</u> – Interpretation and Application</p> <p><u>AO3</u> – Evaluation and Analysis</p> <p>Synoptic links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of command words • Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles • BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge).
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**Year 12
Autumn 1**

**Unit 2 - Paper 2: Topics
in Sociology - Families
and Households (4.2.2)**

(Taught by two teachers)

In class exam
questions. HL exam
questions. PPE as per
whole school exam
schedule.

Students complete
small mark Questions
(2 and 6)

Students complete 10-
mark Questions

Students complete 20-
mark Questions

End of Topic
Assessments

Writing
task/research/review/
revision and retrieval
of content

Exam practice and
technique tasks –
planning, constructing,
reviewing exam
questions.

Wider reading

SOL PPT's
for each
lesson
developed
by class
teacher –
Staff
Resources.
A wide
variety of
books to
support
extra
reading.
Suggested
websites
and
podcasts.

Knowledge:

**Unit 2: Families and
Households (7x Topics)**

- **Topic 1:** Sociological perspectives of the role of the family
- **Topic 2:** Couples
- **Topic 3:** Childhood
- **Topic 4:** Changing family patterns
- **Topic 5:** Family diversity
- **Topic 6:** Demographic changes
- **Topic 7:** Families and Social Policy

Key Subject Terminology:

- Norms and Values
- Primary Socialisation
- Functionalism
- Nuclear family
- Functional fit theory
- Mobile workforce
- Marxism
- Ideology
- Capitalism
- Feminism (Liberal, Marxist, radical and difference feminists)
- New Right
- Subordination
- Exploitation
- Personal life perspective
- Conjugal roles
- Toxic relationships
- Demographic changes e.g. birth, death, fertility rates
- Unequal relationships
- Toxic childhood
- Postmodernism
- Political policies
- Family diversity



 Year 12 Autumn 2	Unit 2 - Paper 2: Topics in Sociology - Families and Households (4.2.2) – <i>continued</i>				Knowledge: Unit 2: Families and Households <ul style="list-style-type: none">Topic 7: Families and Social Policy – <i>continued</i> Unit 1: Education (6x Topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Topic 1: Sociological Perspectives of the role of educationTopic 2: Educational policy and inequalityTopic 3: Class differences in achievement (Internal factors)Topic 4: Class differences in achievement (External factors)Topic 5: Ethnic differences in achievement (external and internal factors)Topic 6: Gender differences in education (external and internal factors)	Key Subject Terminology: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Marxism, Functionalism, New Right, FeminismPolitical policy and impacts on educationGender biasEthnocentric curriculumSecondary socialisationInternal factors e.g. labelling, setting and streamingExternal factors, e.g. economic, cultural and social capitalMeritocracyMarketisationRole allocationHidden curriculumPrivatisationSocial solidarityFalse & class consciousnessIdeological state apparatusInequalityGendered identities/careers
	Unit 1 - Paper 1: Education (4.1.1) (Taught by two teachers)	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (2 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10-mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20-mark Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT’s for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff</p> <p>Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>		



**Year 12
Spring 1**

Unit 1 - Paper 1:
Education (4.1.1)

Unit 3 – Paper 2:
Research Methods
(4.1.3)

(Taught by two teachers)

In class exam questions. HL exam questions.

PPE as per whole school exam schedule.

Students complete small mark Questions (2 and 6)

Students complete 10-mark Questions

Students complete 20-mark Questions

End of Topic Assessments

Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content

Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.

Wider reading

SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.

Knowledge:

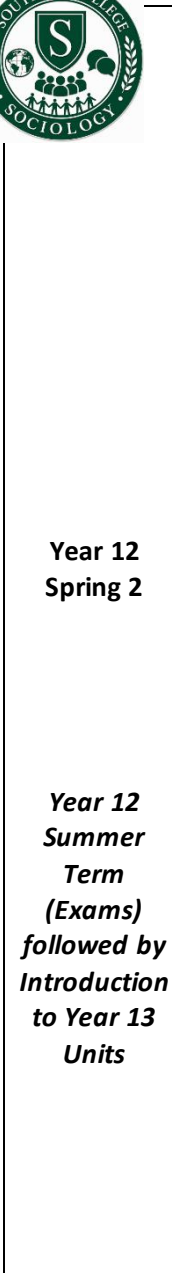
Unit 1: Education (6x Topics)

- **Topic 6:** Gender differences in education (external and internal factors)
- ***Continued***

Unit 3: Research Methods (7x Topics)

- **Topic 1:** Choosing a Research Method
- **Topic 2:** Experiments
- **Topics 3:** Questionnaires
- **Topic 4:** Interviews
- **Topic 5:** Participant Observation
- **Topic 6:** Secondary Sources

- Key Subject Terminology:**
- Primary and secondary sources of data
 - Quantitative and qualitative data
 - Practical issues
 - Ethical issues
 - Theoretical issues
 - Reliability
 - Sampling and sample frame
 - Representative data
 - Validity
 - Informed consent
 - BSA standards
 - Hypothesis
 - Operationalising concepts
 - Pilot studies
 - Confidentiality and vulnerability
 - Detachment and objectivity
 - Low response rate
 - Positivism
 - Interpretivism
 - Subjectivity
 - Verstehen
 - Structured, unstructured, semi-structured & group interviews



Southam
College

YEAR 13 (Year 2) AQA Sociology A Level

Term / Length of Unit	Outline	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Knowledge/Skills End Points	Reading / Literacy
<p>Overall A-Level covered over two Years</p> <p>Year 12 material (year 1) revisited at the end of the Spring Term</p>	<p>Overall, this course enables students to focus on contemporary society and will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity.</p> <p>It will build on and enhance the knowledge gained in Year 12 and the depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding will be advanced through the introduction of two three new unit areas.</p> <p>The course allows students to achieve an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues.</p> <p>Throughout the course students are encouraged to develop their own</p>	<p>Overall, the course offers a range of skills which will be assessed.</p> <p><u>Sociological skills developed:</u></p> <p><u>AO1:</u> Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts and evidence and sociological research methods</p> <p><u>AO2:</u> Apply sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods to a range of issues</p> <p><u>AO3:</u> Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p> <p>To be set by individual class teacher</p>	<p>Full schemes of learning with associated resources on Staff Resources – Social Science Sociology SOL – Year 12 and Year 13</p>	<p>Overall, the course will encourage students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes • appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate • understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process • develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society • develop a lifelong interest in social issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided reading tasks • Independent reading tasks • Textbook support and guidance AQA • Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts • Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions • Key concept definitions • Understanding of command words • Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles • BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)



sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world (real world application).

research methods in order to: • present arguments • make judgements • draw conclusions.

Unit Coverage – 7xUnits:

Unit 1 – Education 4.1.1 (Year 1) ***Revisited in Summer Term Yr13***

Unit 2 – Families and Households 4.2.2 (Year 1) ***Revisited in Summer Term Yr13***

Unit 3 — Research Methods 4.1.3 (Year 1 and Year 2) ***Revisited in Summer Term Yr13***

Unit 5 - Beliefs in Society 4.2.5 (Year 2)

Unit 6 – Crime and Deviance 4.3.1 (Year 2) ***Delivery begins in summer Term Yr12***

Unit 7 – Theory and Methods 4.1.3 (Year 2) (Taught by two teachers)

Assessment:

This will take place:
- at the end of each topic coverage (timed class tests).

- PPE's during Jan-Feb

- A Level exam during May-July (3x Papers)

Course Assessment

Command Words

- Explain
- Identify
- Describe
- Discuss
- Analyse
- Assess
- Evaluate

Sociological skills developed:

AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding

AO2 – Interpretation and Application

AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis

Synoptic links



**Year 13
Autumn 1**

Unit 6 – Paper 3:
Crime and Deviance
4.3.1 (Year 2)

Unit 5 – Paper 2:
Topics in Sociology:
Beliefs in Society 4.2.5
(Year 2)

(Taught by two teachers)

In class exam
questions. HL exam
questions.

Students complete
small mark
Questions (4 and 6)

Students complete
10-mark Questions

Students complete
20- and 30-marks
Questions

End of Topic
Assessments

Writing
task/research/review/
revision and retrieval
of content

Exam practice and
technique tasks –
planning,
constructing,
reviewing exam
questions.

Wider reading

SOL PPT's for
each lesson
developed by
class teacher –
Staff
Resources. A
wide variety
of books to
support extra
reading.
Suggested
websites and
podcasts.

Knowledge:
**Unit 6: Crime and
Deviance (9x Topics)**

- **Topic 1:**
Functionalist,
Strain and
Subcultural
Theories (Yr12
Summer Term 2)
- **Topic 2:**
Interactionism
and Labelling
Theory (Yr12
Summer Term 2)
- **Topic 3:** Class,
Power and Crime
(Yr12 Summer
Term 2)
- **Topic 4:** Realist
Theories of Crime
- **Topic 5:** Gender,
Crime and Justice
- **Topic 6:**
Ethnicity, Crime
and Justice

**Unit 5: Beliefs in Society
(7x Topics)**

- **Topic 1:** Theories
and perspectives
of religion and
beliefs
- **Topic 2:** Religion
and Social Change

Key Subject Terminology:

- Boundary maintenance
- Adaptation and change
- American dream
- Strain theory
- Status frustration
- Status hierarchy
- Social construction of
crime
- Primary and secondary
deviance
- Deviance amplification
spiral
- Self-fulfilling prophecy
- Master status
- Criminogenic capitalism
- Selective enforcement
- Ideological functions
- Differential association
- Right realism
- Rational choice theory
- Zero tolerance
- Relative deprivation
- Marginalisation
- Policing and control
- Chivalry thesis &
patriarchy
- Sex-role theory
- Patriarchal control
- Class and gender deals
- Liberation thesis
- Victimisation
- Stop and search
- Collective conscience



<p>Year 13 Autumn 2</p>	<p>Unit 5 – Paper 2: Topics in Sociology: Beliefs in Society 4.2.5 (Year 2)</p> <p>Unit 6 – Paper 3: Crime and Deviance 4.3.1 (Year 2)</p> <p>(Taught by two teachers)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions.</p> <p>PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (4 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10-mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20- and 30-marks Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff</p> <p>Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<p>Knowledge:</p> <p><u>Unit 6: Crime and Deviance (9x Topics)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 7: Crime and the Media • Topic 8: Globalisation, Green Crime, Human Rights and State Crime • Topic 9: Control, punishment and victims <p><u>Unit 5: Beliefs in Society (7x Topics)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 3: Secularisation • Topic 4: Religion, Renewal and Choice • Topic 5: Religion in a Global Context • Topic 6: Organisations, Movements and Members 	<p><u>Key Subject Terminology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media representations of crime • Commodification of crime • Moral panics • Global criminal economy • Green crime • Global risk society • Primary and secondary green crimes • State crimes • Authoritarian state personality • Culture of denial • Situational crime prevention • Displacement • Surveillance • Forms of punishment and perspectives • Rationalisation • Structural differentiation • Religious diversity • Believing without belonging • Vicarious religion • Spiritual shopping • Religious market theory • Existential security theory • Fundamentalism • Cultural defence • Cultural transition
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**Year 13
Spring 1**

Unit 5 – Paper 2:
Topics in Sociology:
Beliefs in Society 4.2.5
(Year 2)

**Unit 7 – Paper 1 and
Paper 3:**
Theory and Methods
4.1.3 (Year 2)

(Taught by two teachers)

In class exam
questions. HL exam
questions. PPE as
per whole school
exam schedule.

Students complete
small mark
Questions (4 and 6)

Students complete
10-mark Questions

Students complete
20- and 30-marks
Questions

End of Topic
Assessments

Writing
task/research/review/
revision and retrieval
of content

Exam practice and
technique tasks –
planning,
constructing,
reviewing exam
questions.

Wider reading

SOL PPT's for
each lesson
developed by
class teacher –
Staff
Resources. A
wide variety
of books to
support extra
reading.
Suggested
websites and
podcasts.

Knowledge:

Unit 5: Beliefs in Society (7x Topics)

- **Topic 7:** Ideology and
Science *Continued*

Unit 7: Theory and Methods (10x Topics)

- **Topic 1:**
Quantitative
research methods
- **Topic 2:**
Qualitative
research methods
- **Topic 3:**
Functionalism
- **Topic 4:** Marxism
- **Topic 5:** Feminist
Theories
- **Topic 6:** Action
Theories

Key Subject Terminology:

- CUDOS norms
- Open and closed
systems
- Ideology of nationalism
- Utopia
- Hegemony and
revolution
- Free-floating
intelligentsia
- Quantitative and
qualitative features
- Positivism &
Interpretivism (free will)
- Value consensus
- Systems needs
- Social change
- Historical Marxism
- Exploitation
- Economic determinism
- Ideological state
apparatus
- Sex and gender
- Political action
- Ideology of familism
- Dual systems feminism
- Essentialism
- Enlightenment project
- Dramaturgical analogy
- Phenomenology
- Typification
- Ethnomethodology
- Structuration theory
- Indexicality & Reflexivity



<p>Year 13 Spring 2</p>	<p>Unit 7 – Paper 1 and Paper 3: Theory and Methods 4.1.3 (Year 2)</p> <p>(Taught by two teachers)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (4 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10-mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20- and 30-marks Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff</p> <p>Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<p>Knowledge:</p> <p><u>Unit 7: Theory and Methods (10x Topics)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 7: Globalisation, modernity and postmodernity • Topic 8: Sociology and Social Policy • Topic 9: Sociology and Science • Topic 10: Objectivity and values in Sociology <p><i>Consolidation of Year 1 and year 2 material/content</i></p> <p><i>REVISION and EXAM PRACTICE</i></p>	<p><u>Key Subject Terminology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern society • Globalisation • Simulacra • Reflexivity • Risk society • Flexible accumulation • Social democratic perspectives • Policies • The New Right • Open systems • Closed systems • Verifications • Verstehen • Natural science • Falsifications • Fallacy of induction • Scientific paradigms • Revolutions • Realism • View of the underdog • Value commitment • Committed sociology • Funding and careers • Relativism and objectivity • Subjectivity
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