

Year 1 Sociology is comprised of...

4 units studied in year 1:

- Education
 - Methods in Context (MiC)
 - Research Methods
 - Families and Households
-
- You have 2 teachers – one teacher will cover the topic of education, the other will cover families and households
 - Research methods and MiC will be covered by both teachers

Subject content

Compulsory content

- [3.1.1 Education](#)
- [3.1.2 Methods in Context](#)
- [3.2.1 Research Methods](#)

Optional

- [3.2.2 Topics in Sociology](#)
 - [3.2.2.1 Culture and Identity](#)
 - [3.2.2.2 Families and Households](#)
 - [3.2.2.3 Health](#)
 - [3.2.2.4 Work, Poverty and Welfare](#)

Assessments

Paper 1: Education with Methods in Context

What's assessed

Compulsory content 3.1.1, 3.1.2

Assessed

- 1 hour 30 minutes written exam
- 60 marks
- 50% of AS level

Questions

Education: short answer and extended writing, 40 marks

Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks

Paper 2: Research Methods and Topics in Sociology

What's assessed

Section A: compulsory content 3.2.1
Section B: one from 3.2.2 Topics in Sociology

Assessed

- 1 hour 30 minutes written exam
- 60 marks
- 50% of AS level

Questions

Section A: short answer and extended writing, 20 marks

Section B: short answer and extended writing, 40 marks

Course specification: Education

3.1.1 Education

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning
- the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

Course specification: Methods in Context

3.1.2 Methods in Context

Students must be able to apply sociological research methods to the study of education.

- The *Methods in Context* part of the course requires you to combine your knowledge of *Research Methods* and apply it to an *Educational* context
- For example, *how would you go about researching why girls get better GCSE results than boys? Or, what are the problems with using questionnaires to find out about the unauthorised absence?*

Course specification: Research Methods

3.2.1 Research Methods

Students must examine the following areas:

- quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'
- the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.

Course specification: Families & Households

3.2.2.2 Families and Households

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies
- changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society
- demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.



COURSE ASSESSMENT

Course assessment: Is there an exam at end of Y12?

- It depends. Most of you won't sit a sociology exam until Y13 (when there are 3 x 2hrs)

Will I sit a 'proper' AS sociology exam (not a mock) at the end of this year?

YES. If you decide not to take the course into Y13, you sit the exam to gain a standalone AS level in sociology.

YES. If your teachers think you will not pass the full A-Level, based on your performance at AS Level. This will be discussed with you in advance

NO. If you take the course into Y13, you only sit the full A-Level exams in 2021

Course assessment: Knowing your AOs

Assessment Objectives

AO1

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Sociological theory, concepts and evidence

Sociological Research Methods

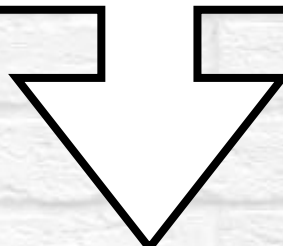
AO2

Apply sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods to a range of issues

AO3

Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods in order to:

- Present arguments
- Make judgements
- Draw conclusions

- **AO1 is KNOWLEDGE**
 - **AO2 is APPLICATION**
 - **AO3 is ANALYSIS + EVALUATION**
- 

These are what get you marks in exams. All of these skills are interwoven in the topics you cover in lessons