



Curriculum Overview

Sociology

Subject Leader

Mr J Randall

GCSE sociology is studied over three years, from Year 9 to final exams in Year 11 or selected as a 2 Year GCSE option in Year 10 to final exams in Year 11.

There is no Coursework.

Exam board: **Eduqas**

Two final exams of 1 hour 45 minutes each.

Paper 1: Understanding Social Structures

Paper2: Understanding social processes

Details of what is studied in each unit, example exam questions, links to exam board past papers, exam technique and revision material are available on the school's digital platform – FROG.



What is sociology?

Sociology is a social science built on research and theories seeking to explain how society shapes human behaviour and how human behaviour shapes society. It focuses on understanding how individuals and groups interact through social structures, such as class, social institutions, such as family and cultures, such as criminal gangs. Sociologists explore various aspects of society, including family dynamics, education, politics, race, gender, and class, to examine their impact on people's actions, beliefs, and opportunities. The goal of sociology is to uncover patterns and processes that govern social life, helping to inform policies and improve the well-being of communities.

Intent

The intent behind studying GCSE Eduqas Sociology is to develop a comprehensive understanding of society and the factors that shape human behaviour. By studying a range of social structures, institutions, and issues, students gain insight into how the lives of individuals may be influenced by belonging to social groups- principally social class, age, gender and ethnicity – as well as understanding how social groups interact to influence the nature of society.

Students will develop a 'sociological worldview', recognising what they study in the immediate world around them – in education, family and social social-inequality. They will also become fluent in the language of sociology and understand how it operates as a social science, based on research and theories. Moreover, students will appreciate that sociology is based on real-world events and experiences that are continually unfolding all around them – not just in textbooks.

The course aims to:

Promote Critical Thinking: Students are encouraged to question societal norms, values, and structures, helping them develop a critical perspective on issues like inequality, crime, education, and family dynamics.

Foster Understanding of Social Diversity: It explores diverse cultures, communities, and social identities, fostering empathy and awareness of differences in race, class, gender, and other social categories.

Provide Analytical Skills: Through studying theories, data, and case studies, students learn to analyse and evaluate social issues, using sociological concepts and evidence to form reasoned arguments.

Prepare for Further Education and Careers: Sociology provides a foundation for students considering further study in social sciences, humanities, or law, and can also be valuable for careers in social work, public policy, criminology, and other related fields.

Encourage Social Awareness: The course helps students become more aware of global and local social challenges, encouraging active citizenship and participation in debates about social change and justice.

In sum, the intent is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and critical mindset needed to understand and engage with the complexities of modern society

Skills in Sociology

Exam questions present a range of demands from simple 1-mark answers to multi-paragraph 15-mark answers. Marks are awarded for demonstrating the following skills:

- ✓ Detailed knowledge of sociological concepts
- ✓ Sustained use of sociological terms
- ✓ Explaining theories
- ✓ Applying evidence and examples
- ✓ Analysing ideas by identifying their impact in real life
- ✓ Evaluating theories

Relevant exam questions are identified explicitly during lessons and time is given to learning exam-technique.

Assessment during the course is based on actual exam-style questions and may come during as well as at the end of each unit.

Allocated curriculum time

Sociology - 2 Year GCSE	Y9	Y10	Y11
Fortnightly lesson allocation	0	6	5
Sociology 3 year GCSE	Year 9	Year 10	Yr11
Fortnightly lesson allocation	4	4	4

Year 9

Term	Syllabus	Exam Component
Autumn	<p>Core Concepts: key ideas upon which sociology is based e.g. culture, socialisation, social groups, functionalist, Marxist and feminist views.</p> <p>Education: achievement gaps between social groups; the role of education according to functionalist, Marxist, feminist views. Different types of schools.</p>	<p>Exam Paper 1: Understanding Social Processes</p>
Spring	<p>Education: continued</p> <p>Families: what is family (1950's -today)? Explaining changes in family; is the nuclear family the best type of family? is the nuclear family in decline? Functionalist, Marxist, feminist and New Right views.</p>	<p>Exam Paper 1: Understanding Social Processes</p>
Summer	<p>Families: continued</p> <p>Research Methodology: the role of research in sociology; different types of data; different methods of research; sampling; evaluating suitability of research methods; ethical issues.</p>	<p>Exam Paper 1: Understanding Social Processes</p> <p>Exam Paper2: Understanding Social Structures.</p>

Year 10

Term	Syllabus	Exam Component
Autumn	<p>Research: continued</p> <p>Crime and Deviance: defining crime and deviance; different types of crime; how crime links to social groups; explaining crime: Merton' strain theory and Cohen's delinquent subcultural theory; social control; Criminal Justice System; functionalist, Marxist, feminist, New Right views.</p>	<p>Exam Paper2: Understanding Social Structures.</p>
Spring	<p>Crime and Deviance: continued</p>	<p>Exam Paper2: Understanding Social Structures</p>
Summer	<p>Differentiation and Stratification: Life chances in a stratified society; Weber's types of authority; Power in society; Is inequality necessary? (functionalist, Marxist, feminist, New Right views); experiences of inequality by different social groups; Poverty.</p>	<p>Exam Paper2: Understanding Social Structures</p>

Year 11

Term	Syllabus	Exam Component
Autumn	Differentiation and Stratification: continued November Mock Exams	Exam Paper2: Understanding Social Structures
Spring	Revision March Mock Exams Half-term Revision Workshops	Exam Paper 1: Understanding Social Processes Exam Paper2: Understanding Social Structures
Summer	GCSE Exams: May	

