

GCSE Sociology

What is Sociology?

Sociology may be defined as the study of society; that is of the web of human interactions and relationships. The study of society, large groups of people and individuals.

It studies why people behave in the way that they do and how society and the institutions such as the Government, the legal system and education influence the way the way that you are. In GCSE sociology you will look at the topics of family, education, social stratification, crime and deviance, sociological theory and research methods. You will understand debates between Marxists, feminists, functionalists, interactionists and post-modernists, as well as being able to apply your knowledge of sociology to the real world, such as trying to explain why women still continue to end up being paid less despite years of equalities legislation. .

What Sociologists study?

Sociologists are interested in using research methods to study patterns and trends in society and behaviour so they can make generalisations such as those below. They also examine the reasons and explanations for such generalisations. Sociology is a great subject to study if you would like to work with people or if you would like to pursue academic studies at A Level and/or university. You need to be prepared to write 8 mini essays in the exam.

'The legal system favours the middle classes' / 'Men commit more crime than women' / 'Women do more housework than men'

At Dagenham Park we study the **AQA** exam board specification. You are expected to know about how sociologists study (research methods) and certain structures, processes and issues within society. You will be tested in **two final exams** both with equal weighting (50% each) detailed below:

What are the exams?

UNIT 1

1. **Education with theory and methods – 12 compulsory questions including 2 essays**
 2. **Families with theory and methods – 12 compulsory questions including 2 essays**
- **1 hour 45 minutes**

UNIT 2

3. **Crime and Deviance with theory and methods – 12 compulsory questions including 2 essays**
 4. **Social Stratification with theory and methods – 12 compulsory questions including 2 essays**
- **1 hour 45 minutes**

**If you have any questions – speak to Miss Hayes in 214 or you can email:
lhayes@dagenhampark.org.uk**