



# GCSE

## Sociology

### Course description

Sociology is the study of society and how it works. Society is made up of different parts – we call these “institutions”. Examples of institutions are:

- The education system
- The family
- The criminal justice system
- The media

All of these keep society running and have an impact on how this happens. For example, the family teaches children how to behave. Another example is that the education system teaches young people the skill they need to join the workplace. A final example is that the criminal justice system makes sure people who break the law are punished.

The units that we study are:

- 1) The sociological approach – what is sociology?
- 2) Sociological research method – how do sociologists study society?
- 3) Families
- 4) Education
- 5) Crime and deviance
- 6) Social stratification

Sociology teaches students valuable skills in critical thinking, discussion, debating, analysis, and evaluation. It is a popular subject that encourages students to question society and its structure.



**Head of Department**  
Mrs E Leone



**Exam Board**  
**AQA**

**Number of timetabled periods per fortnight:**



**7**

**Equivalent number of GCSEs awarded:**



**1**

**Exam Board website**  
[AQA | Sociology | GCSE | Sociology](#)



**School website**  
[Psychology & Sociology - Herne Bay High School](#)

### Assessment

There are two exams: 1 hour 45 minutes; 100 marks in total.

Paper 1

- Section A: Families
- Section B: Education

Paper 2:

- Section A: Crime and deviance
- Section B: Social stratification

In both exams (Paper 1 and Paper 2), you will have questions on “The sociological approach” and “Sociological research methods”, but there is not a separate exam on these topics.

