



# Sociology

## Aims

- To analyse the nature of society and the way society works;
- To consider solutions to social problems and issues;
- To foster curiosity about the nature of society and analyse current issues.

## Who studies what and when?

### LVI (AS Level)

#### Introduction

The AS Course comprises an introduction to sociology – the major perspectives; is sociology a science?; positivism and interpretivism; forms and formats of sociological research; the nature of data; validity and reliability; doing our own research. The core themes are socialisation, culture and identity; social differentiation; power and social stratification.

**Unit 1: Culture and Identity:** What is culture; socialism, identity, and social class; gender issues; ethnicity and nationality; age and disability?

**Unit 2: Education.** History and structure of the British educational system; the major sociological perspectives; social class difference; equality of opportunity and meritocracy; gender and ethnic difference, methodological issues in educational theory.

### UVI (A Level)

The A Level course covers themes explored at AS in greater depth: the philosophical underpinnings of positivism and interpretivism; the post-modernist perspective.

**Unit 3: The Mass Media:** ownership and control; new media; globalization; popular culture; selection and presentation of the news; audiences; gender, ethnicity, disability, social class and age in the media.

**Unit 4: Crime and Deviance:** Major sociological perspectives on crime and deviance; influence of class, gender and ethnicity; interpreting crime statistics. Synoptical perspective on crime and deviance.

## Qualities expected of students

Students should be curious about the nature of society, the way society works – and how it sometimes doesn't – and about solutions to social problems and related issues. The subject complements History, Government & Politics, Economics, Psychology, Geography, English Literature, Religious Studies and Physical Education.