



B

a sociologist

SOCIOLOGY

A LEVEL

Entry Requirements: GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science or Sociology requires students to have at least a grade 5 in English, due to the written nature of the examinations.

What will I do?

BACKGROUND

Sociology is the study of human societies, the people and their behaviours, in all sorts of contexts. It is a very broad discipline. It is classed as a social science. Sociologists study a wide range of topics such as Education, Families and Households, beliefs in society and crime and deviance. In studying topics like these, sociologists create theories to explain human behaviour and the workings of society.

DIFFICULTY

Sociology is an evidence-based subject. This means it is not just about personal opinion but must be backed up by facts. Sociologists therefore collect evidence by carrying out research to establish whether their theories are correct. In Sociology there are a lot of theories that you have to learn and you also have to learn how to apply them and criticise. Once the main theories begin to click (feminist, Marxist, functionalist, New Right etc.) they then need to be applied to the different topics.

WORKLOAD

Sociology is a mainly essay based subject so be expected to write many, although they do not always have to be very long. You will also be expected to do your own research and keep up to date with current affairs. The AQA specification is academic in nature.

REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL STUDY

You will be required to do extended reading into the topics, and keep up to date with current affairs including watching/reading the news. The topics you learn about often relate directly to current news affairs.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is by examination. AQA has two exams for both AS and A2 years, these are both sat in the summer as there are no longer January exams. The second exam generally carries the most weight when it comes to points. Both sets of the exams have source-based questions, shorter answers and essay answers. Topics studied are Education, Culture and Identity, Families, Health and work, and poverty and wealth.

Is this for me?

Sociology is a good foundation subject as the knowledge you learn can be applied to all aspects of society. Sociology can lead to a job in teaching, social work, the police force, Law, etc.

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