

# SOCIOLOGY



ROYAL  
HOSPITAL  
SCHOOL



**EVER WONDERED:**

**HOW WE DEVELOPED INTO THE SOCIETY WE ARE TODAY?**

**HOW THE WAY YOU SEE YOURSELF DETERMINES THE WAY PEOPLE IDENTIFY YOU?**

**WHETHER BOYS ARE BOUND TO FAIL AT SCHOOL?**

**WHETHER MEN OR WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO COMMIT A CRIME?**



## WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY?

Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power. More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question, "Why has society developed like this? With poverty, ignorance, crime and injustice."

**THE FUNCTION OF SOCIOLOGY, AS OF EVERY SCIENCE, IS TO REVEAL THAT WHICH IS HIDDEN**

- Pierre Bourdieu

## SKILLS REQUIRED?

There are NO specific entry requirements for this course but due to the amount of essay writing, it is recommended that students have achieved a good GCSE in English language and/or literature.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A Level Sociology at RHS follows the AQA syllabus.

At A Level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A Level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In the first year you will cover the following topics:

- Education and methods in context:  
You'll consider the role of education in society. For example as part of your studies you'll look into gender and ethnicity differences in school achievement. You'll also learn how to apply your own sociology research methods to the study of education.

- Research methods:  
You'll learn how to conduct your own sociological research, from interviews to reviewing documents and official statistics.

You'll also study the following optional topic:

- Families and Households



In the second year of the A Level you'll broaden your understanding of society. You'll study:

- Crime and deviance with theory and methods:  
You'll learn about criminal and deviant behaviour, including factors that might lead a person to follow this path in life and how the media portrays them
- Theory and methods:  
you'll expand on your knowledge of research methods and study theory and methods.

You'll also study the following optional topic:

- The Media



## WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

A Level Sociology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

- the use of evidence to support your arguments
- how to investigate facts and use deduction
- critical thinking
- making reasoned arguments
- developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues
- the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues.

# HOW WILL IT FIT IN WITH MY OTHER SUBJECTS?

There's no limit to the other subjects that you can take alongside sociology. There's such breadth to the subject that it will complement just about anything. Students who study sociology often also study English literature, religious studies and psychology. But students who want a career in any of the caring services, or in marketing or business, will find an understanding of sociology useful.

## POSSIBLE DEGREE OPTIONS

According to [bestcourse4me.com](http://bestcourse4me.com), the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in sociology are:

- Sociology
- Psychology
- English studies
- Business studies
- Law
- Teaching

## POSSIBLE CAREER OPTIONS

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine.

Studying sociology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including:

- Social work
- Human resources
- Advertising
- Policing
- Civil Service
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Law
- Teaching

## SOCIOLOGY MAKES YOU THINK!

If you would like to discuss the A Level specification and the options that the Psychology and Sociology Department offer, please don't hesitate to contact

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