

Sociology gives a strong academic basis for a large number of university courses. It provides students with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and reflect on social issues that are often relevant to their own social experiences. It opens up the possibility for deep investigations into discussion such as 'What impact do digital forms of communication have on social relations?', 'How do sociologists investigate inequality in society?' and 'What are the patterns and trends of religion in relation to social class?'

What will you learn?

A level Sociology consists of three papers:

PAPER 1

Education with Theory and Methods:

- The relationships between class, gender and ethnicity & educational achievement
- Recent reforms to the educational system.

Theory and Methods:

- The nature of sociological thought
- The methods of social enquiry.

PAPER 2

Options selected by the The Bourne Academy.

Families and Households:

- The different family structures over time and place and current trends regarding marriage and divorce
- Demographics of families in the UK
- Childhood and relationships between family members.

Beliefs in Society:

- Critical awareness of contemporary social processes
- The study of beliefs in society, why some societies are clerical and others secular
- The extent to which religion can act as both a conservative force and as an agent of social change.

PAPER 3

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods:

This option focuses on debates in contemporary society through a detailed study of crime and deviance. The social construction of crime and deviance are considered and the ways in which crime is socially distributed, explained and reduced.

How will you be assessed?

A level Sociology is 100% examination, with three exams at the end of Y13 which are two hours each.

Where will it take you?

An A Level in Sociology can lead to university studies, as well as developing a range of skills and attributes. Studying Sociology develops strong critical thinking skills and makes you consider important issues with a global outlook. Crucially, it also improves your ability to analyse and formulate clear, logical arguments – skills that are particularly useful across a range of different University subjects.

Who to talk to?

Please speak to Mr Schmidt (Teacher in Charge of Sociology) or email: daniel.schmidt@thebourneacademy.com

What will you need to study this course?

Five or more 9-4 grades at GCSE including English and Maths. At least a grade 5 in GCSE English and one more essay based qualification.