

# Sociology

## A level (OCR)

Religious Studies at A Level is an exciting and academically rigorous course. You will develop your understanding of religious thought, consider the challenges faced by religion in an increasingly secular society, and develop skills of analysis, evaluation and argument.

## Entry Requirements

- **Minimum Standard:** Five or more grades at 4+ in GCSE or equivalent, including English and Maths.
- **Additional Criteria:** Minimum standard with a 5+ in English (Lang or Lit).

## What will you learn?

A Level Sociology consists of three papers. Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods: relationships between class, gender and ethnicity and educational achievement; recent reforms to the educational system; the nature of sociological thought and methods of social enquiry. Paper 2: Options selected by The Bourne Academy. Families and Households: family structures over time and place, trends regarding marriage and divorce, demographics of families in the UK, childhood and relationships between family members. Beliefs in Society: contemporary social processes, why some societies are more religious and others secular, and the role of religion as a conservative force and agent of social change. Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods: debates in contemporary society, the social construction of crime and deviance, and how crime is socially distributed, explained and reduced.

## How will you learn?

You will learn through a mix of core topics, theoretical perspectives, and essay-based exam preparation over two years.

- Classroom activities: Lessons combine teacher-led explanations with group debates, discussions, and real-world case studies.
- Skill development: You will learn how to interpret data, analyze research methods, and build structured, critical arguments.
- Independent study: Success relies on building a bank of key sociologists, reading current news, and practicing timed essay writing.

## How will you be assessed?

33.3%

Paper 1 – 33.3% Education with methods in context. Written exam.

33.3%

Paper 2 – 33.3% Topics in Sociology. Written exam.

33.3%

Paper 3 – 33.3% Crime and Deviance with theory and methods. Written exam.

## 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 should you talk to?

Please speak to Mrs Clark or email:  
carrie.clark@thebourneacademy.com