

What are the entry requirements?

As for all Advanced Courses, you need Grade 4 in GCSE English. You don't need to have studied Sociology at GCSE. Most of our students are new to Sociology.

The main requirement is an interest in the world around you and what makes people tick. Also a willingness to get involved in discussion and debate in class.

Will I do well?

Depends on how much effort and enthusiasm you put into your studies! The majority of our students do extremely well and make significant progress during the two years, gaining really high grades at the end - all with the right attitude and approach.

A Level results 2019

A* - E: 95%

A* - C: 66%

A* - B: 39%

Please contact:

Jane Burton, Programme Leader

jsb@varndean.ac.uk

01273 508011, Ext 203



A Level Sociology



Varndean
College Brighton & Hove

What is Sociology?

Sociologists ask questions about the behaviour of individuals and groups in society. So if you are interested in people or if you want to understand what is happening in the world, you should find it enjoyable and thought provoking. We try to understand how society operates, and why problems sometimes arise. You will not be told what to think, nor is it just about learning a lot of facts. Our approach is to encourage you to question things people take for granted and to help you work out your own ideas.

What will I study?

In the first year course we look at Culture and Identity. This means looking at:

- The socialisation process and the role of agencies of socialisation
- The relationship of identity to age, disability, ethnicity, gender, social class, sexuality and nationality
- Different views of culture
- The effect of globalisation on culture

The second topic for Year 1 Sociology is Education and Research Methods. This means looking at:

- Educational differences to do with social class, gender and ethnicity, the role of education system, social interaction, sub-cultures and curriculum
- Different techniques used to find out about society
- Quantitative and qualitative methods
- Primary and secondary data

In Year 2 we study Global Development: Cultural, political and economic links between societies, focusing on explaining inequalities; issues of aid, trade and debt; social change and strategies for development.

Also Crime along with Research Methods: Explanations of crime, deviance, order and control; class, gender, ethnicity and age factors; impact of the mass media.

Key questions about the nature of society and the nature of sociological explanation; a critical look at issues relating to research.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam. At the end of the second year you will sit three A Level exams, each of which is two hours long and includes a variety of different length essay questions, assessing a range of skills.

What does it lead to?

Sociology students go on to study a wide range of degree courses in Sociology and in other related Social Sciences – such as Anthropology, International Development, Criminology, Cultural Studies as well as combining it with other subjects such as Law, Psychology etc. Sociology is particularly useful in any career that involves working with people – management, nursing, social work, teaching, police, human resources, journalism, law.

What are the lessons like?

In the lessons we spend a lot of time discussing different ideas. Looking at different evidence for competing viewpoints. You will be expected to work individually, in groups, watch videos, produce posters, make presentations and make notes. Homework will be set regularly. This may involve reading articles, answering questions, writing essays, preparing presentations etc.