

What are the entry requirements?

As for all Advanced Courses, you need Grade 4 in GCSE English. 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?

The majority of our students do extremely well and make significant progress during the two years, gaining high grades at the end - all with the right attitude and approach.

A Level results 2023

A* - E: 99%

A* - C: 71%

A* - B: 46%

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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?

During the course we focus on the key themes of socialisation, culture and identity and inequalities between social groups.

In the first year of the course we look at Health. This means looking at:

- The definitions of health and illness
- The inequalities in health chances in terms of social class, gender and ethnicity
- The role of the globalised health industry.

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
- Subcultures and pupils responses to school
- Education policy
- Different techniques used to find out about society
- Quantitative and qualitative methods
- Primary and secondary data

In Year 2 we study Global Development. This means looking at:

- Cultural, political and economic links between societies, focusing on explaining inequalities
- Issues of aid, trade and debt
- Social change and strategies for development

We also study Crime & Deviance along with Theory & Methods. This means looking at:

- Explanations of crime, deviance, order and control
- Class, gender, ethnicity and age factors in relation to crime
- The impact of the mass media on crime
- Key questions about the nature of society
- A range of Sociological theories
- 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, Health & Social Care. 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 weekly. This may involve reading articles, answering questions, writing essays, or learning via online apps.

You don't need to have studied Sociology at GCSE. Most of our students are new to Sociology.