

GCSE Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

The GCSE Sociology course develops powerful knowledge because it provides students with a deep understanding of the society in which they live and the social issues which impact on literally millions of people. Thus the course creates well-informed, socially-aware young people whose knowledge and understanding of the world will exceed that of many of their peers.

GCSE Sociology helps develop many skills. One of the key skills students develop is that of critical thinking. Students become adept at analysing facts, evidence, observations, and arguments in order to form rational, unbiased judgements. Students will also develop skills of research and interpretation. They will conduct their own research and analyse previously-conducted studies, drawing out logical and balanced conclusions.

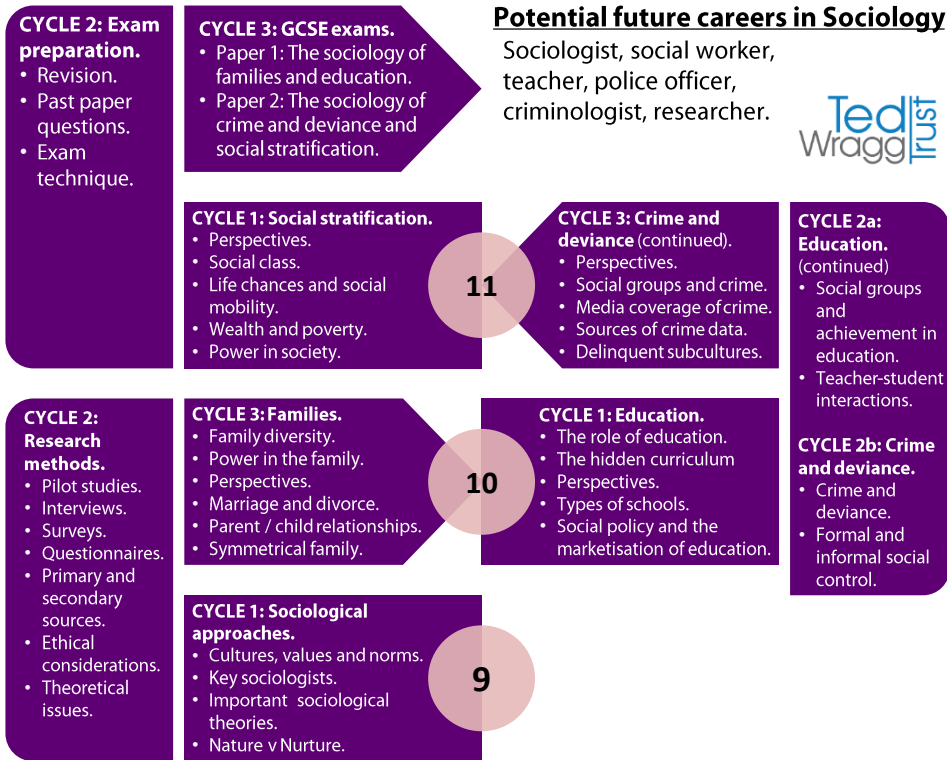
In terms of cultural capital, GCSE Sociology helps students understand the world around them as they gain a deep understanding of the social issues that affect many people. They also gain an understanding of sociological approaches and how these can be used to inform government policies and laws.

Supporting literacy is important within Sociology as students are introduced to many new terms and concepts, such as nature and nurture. These key concepts are reinforced through the 'Do Now' tasks which begin each lesson and are revisited throughout the course. Students also regularly complete exam-style questions which require them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of these terms.

The curriculum is designed to cover all the elements required by the exam board specification. The course begins by examining sociological approaches, (theories), and social structures, processes and issues; before moving onto sociological research methods. Studying these modules at the beginning of the course means students have a solid grounding in the works of key sociologists such as Durkheim and Marx and the methods they adopted before they study the four primary elements of the course, namely, families and education, (paper one), and crime and deviance and social stratification, (paper two). The chosen exam board is AQA which is the one used by many schools. Schools which opt for a different exam board will cover the same broad curriculum as the AQA one but may opt for different case studies, etc.

Retrieval practice primarily takes place in lessons through the 'Do Now' tasks which form the silent starter at the start of each lesson. It also occurs through the inclusion of exam-style questions which require students to refer to previously gained knowledge.

Spiral learning is used in the delivery of the course. In particular, the sociological approaches and key theories are consistently referred to throughout the course, as the conclusions of key sociologists are applied to social issues, and interpreted in the light of current thinking and societal norms and values.



Key concepts



Society



Values and norms



Culture



Stratification

Researching



Interpreting



Empathising



Critical thinking



Key skills