

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Sociology

### Q 1. What is Sociology?

*Sociology is the study of society. Students will study the world we live in today and come to explore, discuss and debate a variety of reasons for social behaviour. In Sociology, we do not study people as individual, yet social groups explaining why particular patterns and trends exist based upon social factors such as social class, age, gender and ethnicity.*

### Q 2. What do you study in Sociology?

*A Level Sociology at Loreto consists of studying five core units: Family & Households, Education, Research Methods, Crime & Deviance and Social Inequality.*

*In the first year, students will start by studying the Family & Household unit, examining the families which exist today, their purpose and function and the roles of family members such as adults and children. Students will then move onto the Education unit, where they will explore debates around the purpose of the education system and discuss reasons for differences in achievement. The final unit in the first year is Research Methods, exploring ways in which Sociologist collect evidence and the positives and negatives of different approaches.*

*In the second year, students will study Crime & Deviance first, learning reasons for criminality together with explaining key patterns and trends around crime statistics such as why men appear more criminal than women. Students will study the final unit of Social Inequality after Crime & Deviance, coming to explore reasons for differences and inequality linked to social class, age, gender and ethnicity.*

### Q 3. What is the difference between Sociology and Psychology?

*The key difference is that Sociology studies the behaviour of social groups and Psychology studies the behaviour of the individual.*



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*We do not look at scientific and numerical explanations unlike Psychology, hence why the assessments are more essay based.*

## Q 4. Is there lots of information to revise?

*Yes, lots of content is covered in the classroom but the way in which the material is taught and delivered and the departmental resources produced makes the content very manageable.*

*For each unit taught students are given a booklet, which has all knowledge and content inside. Furthermore, students are given a second booklet, an exam booklet, which marries to the content and enables students to have ample examination practice.*

## Q 5. How is it assessed?

*Sociology is mainly essay based and students who were able to write essays in their English and History GCSE find the essays easy to comprehend.*

*Students follow the Eduqas examination board and are required to sit three exams at the end of their second year of studying.*

*These exams are long, two being 2 hours & 30 minutes and the other being 1 hour & 45 minutes, however teachers will prepare student and ensure lots of practice is given inside the classroom.*

*No coursework is required in Sociology.*

## Q 6. What other subjects go well when studying Sociology?

*Sociology is a social science, which means lots of other subjects go well with Sociology for different reasons. Therefore, we advise students to pick three subjects that they enjoy and want to learn about.*

*For example, subjects such as Law, Criminology and Psychology go well due to overlap in the key units being studied and the structure of content (although they may argue different things!). However, other subjects such as English, History and Theology go well due to the overlap with examination skills and essay base focus.*



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**Q 7. What are the average class sizes in Sociology and what grades are required to study Sociology at Loreto?**

*Sociology is a popular subject at Loreto and class sizes of approximately 22 students in each class. We are a popular subject with over 500 students in the department and 8 teachers who have a wealth of experience to share with students.*

*Students need six GCSEs 9-4, two from English, Maths OR Science (two at least grade 6) to take Sociology.*

**Q 8. What is the pass rate like for Sociology at Loreto?**

*Sociology has an excellent pass and high-grade rate here at Loreto and students far exceed national averages.*

*Each student is given a target grade based on prior GCSE performance when they join Loreto and it is common for many students to achieve beyond this.*

**Q 9. Can you only go into social work or any other careers paths available after studying Sociology?**

*People think social work and sociology and that is it, yet the paths that students take are very diverse. Sociology gives students a platform to go into a range of fields both at Higher Education level and within the employment field.*

*Many of our students have gone into social work and other public sector jobs, teaching, the police and civil service. Yet others have gone into other social science related courses and career paths such as law, psychology, criminology, social policy and social anthropology. Others have used their high grade in Sociology alongside Science and Maths related courses to pursue a career in medicine and finance.*

**Q 10. Could I be doing anything before the course starts and what support will I get on the course?**

*Yes, we would recommend taking an interest in current affairs and the news as these will become useful for making contemporary examples and links to support exam answers. Perhaps begin reading a range of newspapers or digesting the news online as a start.*



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*When taking Sociology, the department and teachers offer students lots of support throughout their two-year study programme. Students all receive their own booklets for each unit to work from, stationery and revision material are given out to all students, revision guides and plans are shared, together with revision timetables and past paper questions and model student answers. Regular assessments with constructive and detailed feedback are scheduled on a departmental basis, and all teaching material and resources are shared online for students to access together with additional material to stretch students further.*

*Drop-in support sessions are run throughout the year together with revision lessons and support programmes, and teacher support readily available.*

