



carmel
college

Inspiring minds.
Shaping futures.

SOCIOLOGY

COURSE GUIDE 2017

“It’s the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don’t see.”

SAM RICHARDS

Sociology

Exam Board OCR

What is Sociology?

Are you interested in contemporary, modern Britain? Do you want to acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of the social world in which you live? Then choose Sociology and learn to develop your skills in organising and presenting information, ideas, descriptions and arguments.

The Sociology department at Carmel is a successful and lively one. We offer a range of teaching styles and learning experiences and aim to broaden your understanding of the social and political world around you, as well as enabling you to achieve exam success.

What will I study?

The course is a 2 year course. You will study modules introducing socialisation, culture and identity (with a particular focus on youth subcultures); research methods and social inequalities; and globalisation and the digital world (with a particular focus on crime and deviance).

What exams do I have to take?

You will sit 3 exams at the end of the second year. The first exam will be 1 hour 30 minutes (30% of the total A level); the second and third exams will be 2 hours and 15 minutes each (each are 35% of the total A level).

Where can Sociology lead?

Sociology students go on to a hugely diverse range of careers and H.E. courses, from jobs in the media, such as researchers and journalists, to teaching, police work, social work, health care – the list is endless!

There is also a wide variety of opportunities in all aspects of social research, such as youth services, criminal justice system, education, etc.

Our students say...

The thing I enjoy most at Carmel College is the level of independence you get.

You have the freedom to flourish in your chosen subjects and to achieve. The level of support given by tutors is definitely one of the highlights of studying at Carmel as there is plenty of assistance available to you should you need it. Sociology is a subject that allows you to develop critical thinking skills and you can apply what you've learnt to everyday life. The Sociology department has offered many trips and visits for its students, for example I went on a trip to London and was given a walking talk on sociological theory, something that really helped my understanding of the subject. After I leave Carmel I hope to go onto study at Liverpool University and study either Sociology or Philosophy with the aim of gaining a PHD in my chosen field.



Josh Hibbert
Cowley International College

Studying:
Sociology, Philosophy & Religion,
Government and Politics, Critical
Thinking



On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington



Outside The White House, Washington DC

What is the Sociology department like?

Our Sociology department has a range of specialist resources to help you with your knowledge, skills and interest in the subject. We have multi-media projectors and interactive white boards in each of our teaching bases, specialist journals, an up-to-date and wide ranging collection of books, DVDs and a well-developed dedicated area on the college intranet site.

We tackle contemporary topics in exciting ways and work on developing your research skills for you to become a sociologist in the making. We use a wide variety of teaching and e-learning methods to help you to make sense of your own experiences in society, and to give you the 'tools' which will allow you to become a better informed and more socially aware member of society.

What support will I receive?

In Sociology, you will develop the necessary skills to enable you to assess different views and reach conclusions about society, based on a careful consideration of evidence. As most schools do not offer GCSE Sociology, it is not necessary to have any prior learning in the subject – we help you to develop and understand the elements and skills in Sociology. We have an established and sound tutorial system where you can ask any member of the department for help at any time. In addition, you can ask the Study Support Tutors for specific help, for example, with essay writing.

How can I enrich my Sociology studies?

Along with an immensely challenging and exciting discipline, you will also have the opportunity to experience the social world first hand. We organise visits and speakers in the following areas:

- Visits to the Crown Court where you will meet the staff and sit in the public gallery in a variety of different cases;
- Speakers from different religions who talk about their beliefs and how they affect their lives;
- Revision visits to Manchester University to help with preparation for your exams;
- Visits to the Houses of Parliament and The Old Bailey, Washington DC and New York City;
- Sociology Day with guest speakers and activities.



Sociology students with Billy Fury, Liverpool



The Rocky Statue, Philadelphia

Our students say...

I chose Sociology because it provided a contrast to the science subjects I had taken.

It is a subject where you can voice your opinions and discuss social affairs. Although they can be quite heated at times, class debates are something I particularly enjoy as it gives you a different perspective at looking at society. By choosing Sociology, it has helped me to understand the diverse pool of cultures we have in today's society. This has not only aided me academically but also as a person which I think is greatly important as I will be heading to university in a year's time. Carmel has provided the perfect platform for me to exceed and pursue my academic career in Dentistry.



Hashim Imran
Merchant Taylors

Studying:

Sociology, Chemistry, Biology,
Psychology



What are the entry requirements for Sociology?

You will need **GCSE grade 5 in English Language.**

Meet the Tutors

Andrea Mathews
Head of Sociology and AQA Examiner

Karen Parr
Sociology Tutor

Cath Sharples
Sociology Tutor

Frequently Asked Questions

How successful are Carmel's Sociology students?

We have an excellent and established A Level course. We have a 100% pass rate, with 59% of our students achieving a grade A* - C. Most of our students use this success to progress on to a Sociology related degree or career.

Which subjects complement this A Level?

It really depends on your career options, but any of the following work well with Sociology: Government & Politics, Health & Social Care, History, Media Studies, Law, Psychology, Philosophy & Religion.

Can I study Sociology if I haven't taken it at GCSE?

Yes! Most schools do not offer GCSE Sociology, so the course is taught with the assumption that you have no prior knowledge of the subject.

What makes a successful Sociology student?

An interest in social and political issues; a willingness to participate; an ability to write effectively; effort and initiative; keeping up to date with the news, documentaries, etc; respecting and listening to other people's views.



Carmel College
Prescot Road
St Helens
Merseyside WA10 3AG

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A trip to the People's Museum, Manchester



Students visit the Liberty Bell, Philadelphia

More Information

A course specification is available on the exam board website: www.ocr.org.uk
Contact the Sociology department any time if you want to find out more:
andrea@carmel.ac.uk