

Thinking about choosing to study Sociology at Advanced level?

or

Already studying it and wondering what your next step might be?

This worksheet has been designed to help you consider how you can use what you learn from an Advanced level course in Sociology in your future career planning.

+ What to study it with?

When choosing to study A level courses full time it is usual to study four subjects at AS level in the first year then three at A2 level in the second year. It is also possible to study some subjects via the vocationally related route (Applied A level double awards and BTEC Diplomas). The other subjects you choose to combine with Sociology may have an influence upon what you can choose beyond Advanced level, so check out your choice. Although some Advanced level subjects require a good grade at GCSE as a foundation for study at the advanced level, others can be studied from scratch. It's a good idea to check this out before finalising your Advanced level course choices.

CAREER WARNING



SOCIOLOGY

Studying any Advanced level course will give you two main things, knowledge about the content of the subject (the study of how people interact, society based issues, crime, poverty, the family, etc.) and skills in how to deal with that content. Although you may not need to remember the content for very much longer than your course, the skills you develop can be built on and used throughout the rest of your life.

MIX & MATCH +

Sociology can be combined with other subjects such as Geography, Psychology, Economics, Law and Business Studies to provide an Advanced level study programme that is linked to careers and courses in business management, personnel, health and social welfare. If it is taken with Mathematics or Statistics other career options requiring numerical and social research skills may be possible. Students considering Nursing and medical careers may take Sociology alongside sciences, or a vocationally related course in Health and Social Care, as some of the training courses for health care work include the study of Sociology.

The higher education and employment scenes are continually changing due to social, economic and political pressures. This worksheet, therefore, is not a definitive guide to your future career but is more of a prompt to get you thinking about making connections between your choice of Advanced level courses and higher education and career opportunities.

Sociology Skills		⊗Ways in which you might learn
<i>Research skills:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ researching a topic by finding and choosing the most useful materials to use ✱ analysing written and statistical information and drawing out from it the key pieces of information needed ✱ summarising complex documents and reporting on research finding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ learning about how society is structured, organised and functions and looking for the causes of social problems ✱ studying topics such as media, education, class, gender and ethnicity, crime, etc.
<i>Communication skills - written and visual:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ putting across clear and relevant information when writing about a subject ✱ using visual materials to illustrate straightforward and complex matters ✱ adjusting the style of writing to suit the audience or task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ writing essays, reports, and assignments ✱ illustrating written materials with graphs, charts and photographs
<i>Communication skills - verbal:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ taking part in discussions and making relevant contributions ✱ listening and responding to others and encouraging them to speak ✱ giving presentations, using images where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ interviewing people during surveys or research studies ✱ debating topics such as divorce and the impact on the family. ✱ giving presentations on the outcome of projects
<i>Numerical skills:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ collecting and recording data ✱ reading, understanding and interpreting graphs and charts ✱ interpreting and presenting data in statistical tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ organising, conducting and analysing surveys ✱ producing graphs, charts, tables and diagrams of statistical data relating to sociological experiments
<i>Skills of critical analysis:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ investigating and clarifying problems by developing hypotheses ✱ testing hypotheses using research techniques and analysis ✱ evaluating evidence and forming conclusions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ planning, preparing and carrying out surveys to investigate such things as gender and race stereotyping ✱ using sociological methods and theories to evaluate social problems

⊗ Ways in which you might use

- using a knowledge of society and social groupings to study and investigate the causes of social unrest
 - recommending approaches to deal with social problems like crime, poverty, ageing populations, etc.
-
- designing and conducting surveys to study social attitudes
 - writing supervision orders and care plans for clients, offenders, etc.
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- improving relations and solving conflict between group
 - taking part in case conferences to discuss particular individuals
 - working with groups to establish community initiatives and projects
-
- dealing with budgets, accounts and funding requests
 - calculating costs for social projects, community and self-help initiatives
-
- predicting how groups will react to changing social pressures like working from home, divorce, etc.
 - advising others on how to deal with people in problem areas such as the police and teachers

sociology

🔗 other skills

In addition to the specific skills you will develop whilst studying Sociology at Advanced level, you may also develop a number of other skills which will be extremely important, whether you go on to higher education or into employment.

>Improving own learning and performance:

- dealing with complex subjects
- checking understanding of work set and seeking clarification if unsur
- agreeing and setting targets and planning action
- following a plan to meet targets and making revisions to the plan as necessary
- checking progress with an appropriate person
- identifying any support needed and using it effectively

>Working with others:

- planning activities with others
- identifying and agreeing targets with others and checking understanding
- identifying and confirming responsibilities within the group
- agreeing working arrangements with those involved

>Working with Information Technology:

- deciding what, when and whether to use information technology
- selecting and using appropriate technological hardware and software to process data, prepare and present information
- identifying support needed and using it effectively

Sociology

CAREER c-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s

There are a number of careers where having an Advanced level qualification in Sociology, and all the skills that you develop through studying it, will be very useful. You can find out more about these careers by looking up information in your careers library under the Connexions Resources Classification Index (CRCI) codes listed here.

CRCI code	Title
V	Social Work and Counselling Services
A	Administration, Business and Office Work
AA	Human Resource Management
J	Healthcare
O	Marketing and Advertising
SB	Retail Management

However, being able to understand how and why groups within society function in the way they do will be a very useful asset in many jobs, so you need not be restricted by this list.

Although it is possible to enter some of these jobs after Advanced level studies, many of these areas recruit people with higher qualifications so you may need to seriously consider going on to higher education.

6 ways to check it out



Put a cross against those skills you already have.



Tick those skills you would like to gain or develop further.



Could you see yourself studying this subject at:

	Yes	No
Advanced level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Degree level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Look at the Career Connections section which lists careers related to Sociology. Do any of these appeal to you? Why?



Look at the 'Thinking of doing a degree' section which lists degree programmes that are popular with Sociology students. Tick those that appeal to you. Pick out your top 3 and explain why.



So what do you think?
Are you interested in studying Sociology further? Give 3 reasons for your answer:

1

2

3

Remember: Advanced level course grades can be converted into UCAS points which count towards admission to university so it is important to choose subjects which reflect your interests and abilities

A = 120 points
B = 100 points
C = 80 points
D = 60 points
E = 40 points

Thinking of doing **a** degree?



Degree level programmes normally require a minimum of 2 A2 levels, or the equivalent, plus supporting GCSE passes. There are a wide variety of courses where Advanced level Sociology will be of direct relevance. However, it should be noted that Advanced level Sociology is not an essential requirement for Sociology and Social Science degree courses.

Degree programmes in Sociology and Social Sciences

A range of courses are available in Social Sciences. These include the following titles:

- #
- #
- #
- #
- #

These may be offered as single subject or combined courses. For example, Social Administration and Social Policy are often combined. Courses entitled Social Sciences may offer a wide range of options, including: Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Statistics, Law, Philosophy and Anthropology, together with many other subjects depending on how a 'social science' is defined. For example, some institutions may include Geography as an option.

Sociology related degree courses

Other degree courses where A level Sociology may be useful include:

#

Politics

#

#

#

#

#

#

#

Women's Studies

#

Note: Options exist for Social Work degrees but these normally require relevant experience prior to entry and have minimum age requirements.

Details of all the degrees available in these areas, and more, can be found on the University Central Admissions System website at www.ucas.com

There are many degrees where having an Advanced level qualification in Sociology may not be of direct relevance but will be useful, however, so you need not be restricted by this list.

Sociology FACTFILE

Opportunities for Graduates

Recent statistics show the following trends for graduates from Sociology degrees:

- ★ nearly 65% entered full-time employment (higher numbers than previous generations of graduates)
- ★ nearly 12% entered further full-time studies or training (just under half of these took a higher degree)
- ★ graduates entered a wide range of jobs with significant numbers taking up work in management and administrative work in commerce, industry and the public sector
- ★ 14% entered related jobs in areas such as community work, social work and probation work
- ★ around 20% of those entering employment went into clerical and secretarial jobs.

...jobs



These are some of the jobs that Sociology graduates have gone into in recent years ...

- Housing Office
- Probation Office
- Social Worker
- Classroom Assistant
- Public Sector Administrator
- Database Administrator
- Helpdesk Agent
- Library Assistant
- Customer Services

- Clerical Assistant



need to find out more?

You might find these publications useful. Check to see if your Careers Library or local library have copies.

- > Questions & Answers Social Work
published by Trotmans
- > Get Set for Sociology
published by Edinburgh University Press
- > Degree Course Guide - Sociology, Anthropology and Social Policy
published by Trotman

Free information is available from the following organisations. If writing please send a stamped addressed envelope to cover postage:

- ▷ British Association of Social Workers
16 Kent Street
Birmingham B5 6RD
0121 622 3911
www.basw.co.uk
- ▷ Community Service Volunteers
237 Pentonville Road
London N1 9NJ
020 7278 6601
Email: information@csv.org.uk
www.csv.org.uk
- ▷ General Social Care Council (Social Work Careers and Training)
Information Office
Goldings House
2 Hays lane
London SE1 2HB
020 7397 5100
www.gsc.org.uk
- ▷ Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland
50 Fitzroy Street
London W1T 5BT
020 7387 0455
Email: admin@therai.org.uk
www.therai.org.uk