



Why study
sociology?

Why study sociology?

- It will allow you to understand how society works.
- It will allow you to understand why and how society changes over time.
- It will make you question everyday life that you have taken for granted and never analysed.



But isn't sociology just a 'common sense' subject?

NO.

Sociology is the academic study of societal institutions and human social relationships.

In sociology, theories and research are used to provide evidence and critical thought to the problems and processes that are found in our society.



So in sociology, do students just debate topics every lesson?

NO.

There is lots of discussion and debate as the topics looked at are interesting and relevant to contemporary life; however, the subject is a written discipline with many essay questions in the exams.

What is compulsory sociology if I go on to study a sociology degree?

In every sociology degree you will study:

- Sociological theories such as Functionalism, Feminism, Postmodernism, social action etc.
- Research methods such as questionnaires, interviews, observation, official statistics etc.
- Class, gender, ethnicity.
- Themes such as power, globalisation and identity.





What is the difference between a BA Hons and a BSC Hons in Sociology?

- A BSC Hons will be more scientific and mathematical. It is more likely to focus on quantitative research methods and analysis.
- A BA Hons will be less scientific and more humanities based.
- Both degree types have equal status and it is important to look at the modules offered at every university you are considering to ensure you are passionate about the course content.



What
sociology
modules are
on offer at
universities?



These are just some of the individual modules that will contribute to a full degree course

- War, memory and society
- Sociology of health and medicine
- Racism and xenophobia
- Emotional life
- The sociology of religion
- Sexualities
- Making the news
- Crimes against humanity
- Education, culture and society

What career paths will it open for me?

Here is a list of careers directly related to a sociology degree:

Policy officer

Researcher

Teacher

Social worker

Demographer

International aid worker

Lecturer

Careers where a sociology degree will be helpful:

Researcher

Journalist

Police officer

Family support worker

Charity officer

What will all this do for my development of professional skills?

This is what universities say....

Data analysis
BRISTOL

Problem-
solving
PLYMOUTH

Effective written
and oral
communication
BATH

Awareness and
attitude to
work
SHEFFIELD

Ability to work in
a team
LIVERPOOL

What will all this do for my development of personal skills?

Improve your LORIC

Leadership — in sociology, you will need to develop leadership skills when conducting and analysing research. You will develop leadership skills when debating sociological views and justifying the value of them to others.

Organisation — in sociology, you will develop organisational skills by learning how to construct a coherent and logical essay/argument.

Resilience — you will learn to grapple with the complex information you read and will have to continuously stay abreast of contemporary issues as they are always changing.

What will all this do for my development of personal skills?

Initiative — showing willingness to discover contemporary research that challenges or supports existing theories. Being proactive to conduct research and develop new skills when analysing data and content.



Communication — developing written skills through essays and research analysis. Improving your vocabulary by articulating complex sociological arguments to others. Developing data presentation skills when explaining research findings, both orally and in a written context.

A high-angle, slightly blurred photograph of a large, diverse crowd of people walking in a public space, likely a transit hub or a busy city square. The people are dressed in a variety of casual and business-casual attire. The overall tone is busy and social. Overlaid on the right side of the image is white text. A thin vertical white line is positioned to the left of the text.

A degree in sociology
will enable you to
understand the
world you live in.



A degree in sociology will encourage you to think critically about every aspect of societal life.



A degree in sociology will allow you to develop a range of transferable skills that employers value

A degree in sociology will contribute to you being a well-rounded, interesting, educated individual who can engage in discussion about the society we live in.



Additional information

If you want to find out more, here are some links to websites with more information:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/sociology>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/sociology/five-reasons-to-study-sociology/>

<https://www.britsoc.co.uk/>

<https://icould.com/explore/search/sociology?cpa ge=1>

© The PiXL Club Ltd. 2019

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold, or transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with, or endorsed by, any other company, organisation or institution. These papers were made by teachers in good faith based upon our understanding to date.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification.