

'The Aspiring Sociologist'

KS4/5



**CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**



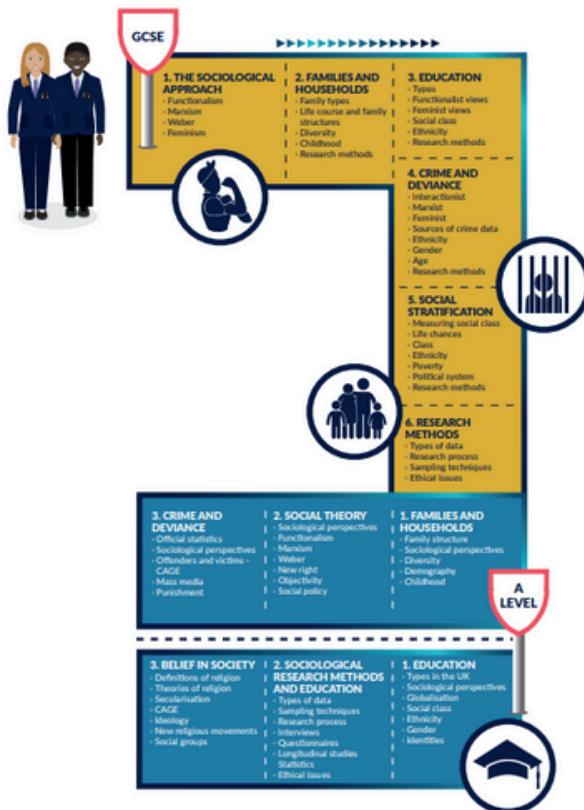
Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring Sociologist'



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SOCIOLOGY



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Welcome to the aspiring Sociology Pathway.

An aspiring sociologist is someone who is deeply curious about the world around them and passionate about understanding how society works. They are naturally inquisitive, always questioning why people behave the way they do, how institutions shape our lives, and what lies behind patterns of inequality, power, and social change.

With a strong interest in topics like family, education, crime, gender, race, and class, aspiring sociologists are keen observers of everyday life. They often notice things others overlook — from the dynamics of a classroom to the influence of social media — and seek to explain them using evidence and theory.

Upon completion of Level 3 qualifications you can study Sociology as a BA Hons Degree and usually consists of 3 years of study or you can also study it as part of a joint honours degree. Sociology is often paired with subjects like Criminology, Politics, Anthropology, History, Social policy and such courses allow students to explore intersections between disciplines and tailor their studies to specific interests or career goals. After graduating many students will go on to post graduate study in areas like criminology, law, social work, health and international development.

A Sociology degree and/or post graduate study opens up diverse career opportunities. Graduates often go into human resources, marketing PR and consumer analysis, social research and policy, criminal justice system and probation, journalism and media, human resources and recruitment, and teaching and education, youth and community services.

Securing a place at university to study Sociology is competitive so prepare well, consider how you will stand out beyond a standard applicant. Consider the following:

- Read around the subject - Sociology Review Magazines
- Listen to Podcasts
- Watch documentaries
- Keep up to date with current affairs
- Complete an EPQ
- Entering competitions
- Undertake a research project
- Cambridge Master Classes

Reading list



Please speak to your sociology teacher.

Competitions



Cambridge Centre
for International Research

Cambridge Re:think Essay Competition 2025

Aimed at students interested in globalization's impact, this competition invites essays on whether globalization is beneficial for the world.

Deadline: Not specified (typically announced in the academic year)

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



Thinking Allowed (BBC Radio 4)

@thesociologyshowpodcast

Academic-level discussions of current sociological research and issues. Real-world contemporary sociological research, content is great for synoptic links and developing evaluation. Excellent sociologists and academics featured regularly.



The Sociology Guy Podcast

Directly supports the AQA A Level specification. Very student-friendly and exam-focused, includes tips for using theory, structure, and key studies. Useful for quick revision and classroom reinforcement.

Sociology Support (YouTube Channel)

Podcast-style videos and revision walkthroughs Tailored to AQA exam content. Paper walkthroughs and model answers. Evaluation tips and “top band” exam strategies. Clear visuals for visual learners, Step-by-step exam help with real A Level questions, Teacher-led analysis of difficult theories and debates

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



The News

View the latest news



Newsnight

Comprehensive coverage of the day's important national and international news stories



Panorama

Investigative documentary series revealing the truth about the stories that matter.



Louis Theroux Documentaries

Louis Sebastian Theroux is a British-American documentarian, journalist, broadcaster, and author



Stacey Dooley Documentaries

Unflinching, thought-provoking and compassionate. Stacey Dooley meets people at the heart of challenging situations - from around the world and closer to home.



Tutor2u Sociology

High-quality content on all key topics, plus exam skills videos and webinars.



The Sociology Guy

Breakdown of difficult topics like Marxism, Feminism, and Education policy.

Sociology Support - YouTube Channel

A Level focused. Topics include exam walkthroughs, model essays, and case studies.

Listen and Watch



Social media

@theteachersociology - Kate Flately a very experienced examiner gives excellent exam technique advise how to get A A* grades. Very useful for revision.

@thesociologyguy (Craig Hasledine) - A Level teacher and creator of The Sociology Guy podcast. Regular posts on theory, methods, and exam strategies. Great for AQA-specific tips and revision threads.

 **@DrVickieCooper** - Criminologist and sociologist at The Open University. Posts on social inequality, crime, and housing—useful for Crime & Deviance units.

 **@DannyDorling** - Social geographer and inequality expert. Tweets often about education, housing, and class inequality. Relevant to stratification, education, and social policy debates.

 **@helenhastesociology** - A Level Sociology teacher and resource creator. Offers advice on how to use sociological concepts in essays.

Instagram

 **@thesociologyguy** - Reels, infographics, and summaries of key concepts and thinkers. Revision-friendly content focused on the AQA syllabus.

 **@alevelsociology**. Regular posts on sociological theory, exam questions, and key terms. Flashcards, quiz-style stories, and accessible language.

 **@misssociology** - AQA-focused teacher sharing revision ideas, mind maps, and essay structures.

Work Experience and Events



Work experience is highly valuable for Sociology students, helping you apply academic knowledge in real-world settings, gain transferable skills, and explore potential career paths. You can find work experience in a wide range of sectors, depending on their interests.

Places to look for work experience include:

- Charities and NGOs (e.g. Shelter, Mind, The Trussell Trust)
- Youth organisations (e.g. YMCA, Princes Trust)
- Community centres
- Homeless shelters and food banks
- Refugee and asylum seeker support services
- HR departments – internships in recruitment or diversity initiatives
- CSR teams – supporting community engagement or sustainability projects, market research firms.
- Police or probation services (e.g. admin roles, community policing schemes), courts and legal charities (e.g. Citizens Advice, JUSTICE), restorative justice organisations.
- Radio stations, podcasts, blogs – writing or content creation, social media teams for charities or campaigns, local newspapers or online media platforms.

Work experience is a great way to gain a first hand insight into working life. The range of career opportunities open to Sociology students is extensive and the above are just a small number of available options.

All students are encouraged to complete at least one work experience placement however you will certainly benefit from completing several across a range of employment sectors.

For further advice and support on careers speak to our Bournside Careers Lead Mrs Martin.

Work Experience and Events



Charity Work Experience | Springpod

In this virtual work experience programme, you will explore such aspects of working in charity as volunteer management, fundraising, and policy development.



Police Cadets | Gloucestershire Constabulary

Our Volunteer Police Cadet scheme provides exciting opportunities to develop new skills and self-confidence, while taking an active part in helping to deliver policing to the local communities.



Cheltenham Charity Shop | Barnardo's

Volunteering local charities such as Barnardo's work experience as a school student.



CHELTENHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Regeneration | Cheltenham Borough

Council Community regeneration is about revitalising geographical areas of greatest need, building sustainable communities and improving people's quality of life.



Pantry Project

Can you join our bank of volunteers that staff The Pantry in Cheltenham, or help grow veg in our Polytunnel? You'll receive all the training you need.



What can I do with my degree? | Prospects.ac.uk

Look for volunteering or work experience opportunities with organisations and businesses relevant to your career interests.



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)

