

# GCSE Sociology

Why did you choose sociology?

Discuss your reasons

# What is sociology?

- As a sociology student, you will explore and ask questions about the workings of the society you live in.
- Studying sociology will help you to understand how society is organised, and to make sense of your own experiences in it.
- Sociology can be thought provoking and challenging because it encourages us to think carefully about views and assumptions

# Am I interested in finding out.....



What are psychopaths?  
(Criminology)

Why do girls do better than  
boys at school? (Education)

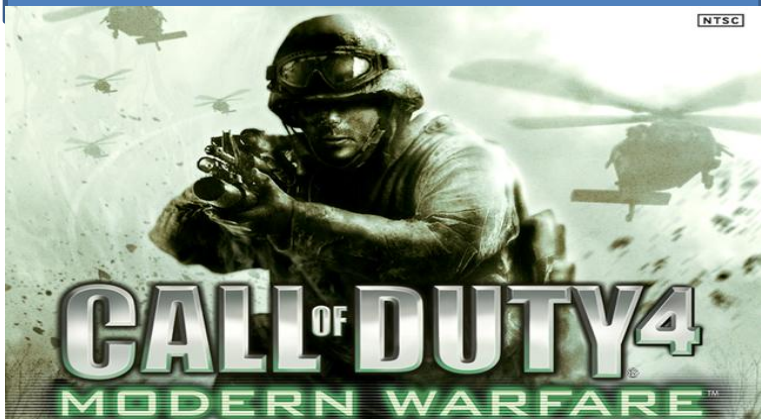


Why there are so many divorces in modern  
Britain (Family)

# Am I interested in finding out.....

Why some people are multibillionaires and others can't afford heating bills? (Wealth and poverty)

Whether violence on TV, film or video games makes children violent? (Media)



why are students protesting about tuition fees? (Education and Politics)

# Why should I choose GCSE Sociology?

**Sociology makes you think and allows you to understand the society in which you live**

**Sociology studies crime, education, the family, politics, the media and poverty.**

**Sociology helps you to understand your world**

# What's it like to study Sociology?

- **There is lots of discussion and debate**
- **Your views are always valued**
- **You learn to support your views with evidence**
- **You carry out research in and out of school**
- **You talk and ask people about their lives and attitudes**

# So .. What will I actually study?

## **Year 9: Unit 1**

- 1. Studying Society**
- 2. Families**
- 3. Education**

## **Year 10/11: Unit 2**

- 1. Crime**
- 2. Social Inequality**
- 3. Mass Media**
- 4. Power**

# How am I assessed?

**Unit 1 Examination 1½ hours :**

**50% of course**

**Unit 2 Examination 1½ hours :**

**50% of course**

**Notes:**

- **There is no coursework in GCSE Sociology**



# Big Questions we will cover in the Studying Society Unit

- What is sociology?
- How do we understand the language that sociologists use?
- How do sociologists go about their research?

## AQA Unit 1 Studying Society

# What is sociology?

Objective - explain what belonging to a society means

### Lesson Outcomes:

- **LO1 ALL (Must):** describe what a society is (E-D)
- **LO2 MOST (Should):** explain what it means to belong to a society and what norms and values are (C-B)
- **LO3 SOME (Could):** evaluate how norms and values work in our society (A-A\*)

# No man is an island

- We are all members of groups such as families, peer groups and friendship groups and we all come into contact with organisations such as the school, the workplace, the Church, the legal system, the political system and the mass media.

# Society

- A group of people who have common interests and a distinctive culture

# What is sociology?

- Sociology is the study of the society in which we live and examines how we are influenced and shaped through being members of groups and organisations.
- It concentrates on:
  - The way we make society what it is
  - The way society makes us what we are

# What does it mean to belong to a society?

- If you are studying sociology you are likely to disagree with this statement.
- Being a member of a society means that we all have something in common, and that common thread is our **culture**.
- We all share a way of life that is different from those who live in other cultures and this is defined by a set of **laws, norms, roles and values**.

# What does it mean to belong to a society?

- Our everyday behaviour is shaped and guided by a set of formal written rules (**laws**) and informal, unwritten rules (**norms**) that are special to our particular culture.
- Breaking a law would lead to punishment whereas breaking a norm would be disapproved of.

# What does it mean to belong to a society?

- We all perform a number of **roles** in our society. These are special patterns of behaviour expected of people in different situations.
- A teacher in front of a class will take on a completely different role from when she is interacting as a mother with her own children.
- A group of students will behave differently when they are in the classroom, out with their friends or at home with their parents.



# What does it mean to belong to a society?

- To feel a part of the society in which we live there are likely to be a set of **values** that are shared by most members.
- We all have beliefs about what is right and wrong, what is good and bad, what is important and not important and these form the basis of our **values**

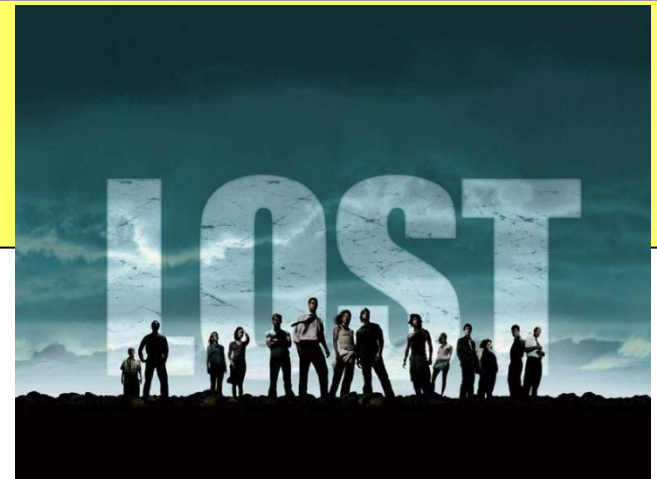
# What is society?

Imagine you are on a jumbo jet flight. There are 380 people on board – a mixture of women, children and men of various races, nationalities and religions. Some children are travelling without their parents, and some adults without their husbands/wives/partners. Most, however speak English.



# What is so

- The jet gets into difficulties and is forced to land on a remote island.
- Extensive search operations are conducted for the plane; it is given up as a lost aircraft and the search is called off.



# What is society?

Meanwhile, the passengers and crew on the plane have survived the first problems of being wrecked and begin to build a society for the long term. There is some food and water on the plane, but it obviously won't last long.

# What is society?

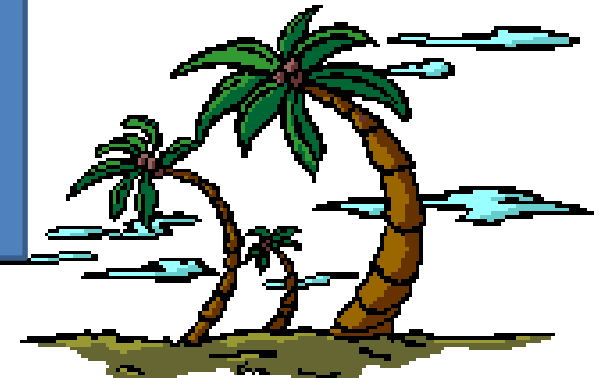
- Working in groups of 4, decide how the marooned people will make their new society. Here are some of the main problems the islanders will have to face.
  1. How to survive – what is needed
  2. How the various survival tasks and everyday work will be organised – who will do what? Why?
  3. How decisions are going to be made – will there be a leader – if so, who? Will everybody have an equal say? What if they cannot agree?
  4. How children are going to be looked after – including any new babies who might be born.
  5. How family life and sexual relationships will be organised.
  6. How to share the things that people need and want – equal shares or will some people get more than others? If so, who and why?
  7. Do you think that that people will be able to get on with each other? Which groups might come into conflict? How would you deal with this?
  8. How to deal with people who break the rules

# What is society?



Present back the societies you designed.

What was similar? What was different?



# COWS



In your groups you will need to work in COWS roles:

**C - Checker** - checks pupils are on task and work is correct

**O - Organiser** - organises materials and asks questions

**W - Writer** - takes notes for the group

**S - Speaker** - feeds back what the group has come up with.

# Key ideas

- Sociology is the systematic study of human social life, groups and societies
- Sociologists ask questions about the workings of society, for example, how families have changed since the 1960s



# Plenary

Things you have  
been reminded of  
in today's lesson

A question you  
have about  
today's lesson

Things you have  
learnt in today's  
lesson

