

**A Level Sociology**

**Lecturers**

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**Activity 1**The following activity is to encourage to think sociologically about the world/society in which we are all part of. All these issues arise at some point in either the first or second year of the course.

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| **Question** | **My answer** | **Actual answer** |
| What is the current population of the United Kingdom? |  |  |
| What percentages of marriages end in divorce in the UK? |  |  |
| What percentage of children achieved 5 GCSEs grades A to C last year? |  |  |
| Is the crime rate in Britain going up or down? |  |  |
| In 1993 there were roughly 45 000 people in jail, what is the prison population today? |  |  |
| The world population today is approximately 7.5 billion\*. How many of these are malnourished and how many are obese? |  |  |
| In 2017 global military expenditure was more than $1.7 trillion\*\*. How much did the developed world spend on aid to developing countries? |  |  |

*\* 7 500 000 000*

*\*\* £1 700 000 000 000*

Questions about the above questions:

1. How do we know how many people there are in the UK, and globally?
2. Suggest one way in which the answers to any of 3, 4, and 5 might be related.
3. Why does the world spend so much on war and so little on development aid?

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**Frequently asked questions**

**Does it matter that I have not studied Sociology before?**In short, no, most students have never studied Sociology before studying it at A Level so before we study complex theory we will study the fundamental ideologies of the main theories such as functionalism, marxism and feminism.

**Is there any coursework?**

No, the assessment for A Level Sociology is 100% exam based (3 x two-hour papers). We study the AQA Sociology specification at BTC and will thoroughly prepare you for sitting the exams via practice papers, mock exams and the analysis of exemplar material.

**Are there any trips/visits?**   
Yes – there are several non-compulsory trips eg. five days in Europe (Prague, Poland, or Italy), as well as a number of one-day mort local trips such as Glastonbury Tor, Wells Cathedral and HMP Bristol to name just a few.

**How big are the classes sizes?**   
Sociology is a very popular course. The average class is 18 students.

**What other subjects go well with Sociology?**   
Sociology works well with several other A Levels e.g. Psychology, History, Law and English.

**What can I do with a Sociology qualification?**   
Sociology is about the study of behaviour and society. Consequently, career options could include teaching, nursing, Police, social work, and human resources.

**Further reading/websites**

Sociology Review Magazine - Hodder Publications  
The Times  
The Telegraph  
The Guardian

[www.sociology.org.uk/](http://www.sociology.org.uk/)

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/glance/>

For the latest pieces of sociological research, topical news stories, exam skills and relevant short videos follow me on Facebook (Ian Sociology Luckhurst).

[www.sociology.uk.net](http://www.sociology.uk.net)

Television - Panorama / Channel 4 News / Question Time