

NEW: AQA A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY: ATTAINING AN A AND A*

CODE 8101

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Join Annie, as she takes you through some hints and tips that will help your students maximise their grades in A level Sociology. The course will give insight into the subject content to highlight how this should be used to enable students to reach the highest grades. Additionally, there will be a focus on skills and techniques needed in assessment, you will look at what examiners are looking for in student answers and some of the common ways in which students lose marks. Throughout the course, we will be exploring how to address these issues in the context of a recovery curriculum, in response to time lost due to lockdown and any changes to the assessment process. The course will also give ideas and strategies for ways in which you can enable students to become excellent independent learners.

PROGRAMME

Review of content: what are the key elements for gaining A/A* 10.00 – 10.30am

- Key themes across all topics, where are the challenges for high grade students
 - Family & households
 - Education
 - Theory, Methods and methods in context
 - Beliefs in Society
 - Crime and deviance

Maximising exam performance: review where top marks are lost and how to avoid them 10.30 – 11.30am

- For each type of question examining skills and common mistakes. How to get full/top band marks for each type of question.
 - Short answers – guidance on how to fully explain
 - 10 mark questions – hitting the skills marks as well as the knowledge
 - Methods in context – ensuring application is fully developed to the issue
 - Essays – covering skills and developing debates

Discussion: coffee break 11.30 – 11.45am

Student responses, how to give feedback to improve grades – focus on short questions 11.45 – 12.30pm

- Candidate style answers and commentaries – what the examiner looks for in a full marks short answer
- Feedback strategies to stretch students to maximise their potential – asking questions as feedback, no mark just feedback, amending answers using mark schemes
- Peer marking and its role in improving skills – teaching students how an examiner recognises a full marks answer

Lunch and informal discussion 12.30 – 1.15pm

Student responses, how to give feedback to improve grades – focus on essays 1.15 – 2.00pm

- What does an A/A* essay look like?
- What an examiner looks for in a top band essay using exemplars
- Going beyond a template, getting students to understand what a top grade essay looks like. Effective feedback strategies, to encourage better evaluation and conclusion writing skills.
- Peer marking getting students to assess like an examiner

Encouraging independent learning for A/A* sociology students 2.00 – 3.00pm

- Challenges of the present situation and lessons for getting the most from new technologies for independent learning.
- Ideas to develop independent analysis of current issues to develop analysis and evaluation
- Moving beyond the textbook, the use of wider resources to develop knowledge and skills and how to find them
- Balancing exam technique and specification requirements whilst encouraging student engagement with sociology in the wider world and signposting to HE

Developing strategies to support success 3.00 – 3.30pm

- Reflecting on learning, how can wider skills be embedded in exam technique
- Action planning, what can you do in your classroom
- Further professional development (Organisations and societies?)
- Resources and materials available

LOCATION/DATE

Online

Wednesday 24 February 2021

Thursday 29 April 2021

London

Thursday 24 June 2021

COURSE LEADER

Annie Townend has 20 years teaching experience and is currently Head of Sociology in a large, sixth form college with 300 students in the department. She has a wealth of examining experience being a former Principal Examiner for a major examinations board and member of the specification development team for Sociology.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Heads of Social Science
- Heads of Sociology
- Teachers of A level Sociology

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Increased awareness of key themes and topics in the specification at the top level
- Insights into what success looks like in examinations
- Strategies for using feedback to improve student performance
- Exemplar A/A* materials
- Strategies for enabling students to become stronger independent learners