A LEVEL

Subject Information



Solihull College & University Centre

Stratford-upon-Avon College

Why choose A Levels at Solihull College?

Choosing your A Levels is about choosing the right place to help you succeed.

At Solihull College, you'll be taught by specialist teachers in small classes where you'll be known as an individual—not just another face in the room. We'll support you academically and personally, helping you build the confidence, knowledge and skills you need for university, apprenticeships and future careers.

You'll benefit from:

- Small class sizes
- Specialist subject teachers
- Regular feedback and personalised support
- Study Skills and Personal Progress Development (PPD)
- Excellent progression to university, apprenticeships and employment

What are lessons like?

Lessons are engaging, interactive and designed to help you become an independent learner.

Depending on your subjects, you can expect:

- Discussions and debate
- Practical work and investigations
- Group activities
- Independent research
- Creative projects
- Regular exam practice and feedback

Workload and Support

A Levels are a big step up from GCSEs, with greater depth of study and more independent learning.

Each week you can expect:

- 18 hours of lessons (6 hours for each subject)
- 1 Personal Progress Development (PPD) session
- Around 15 hours of independent study (approximately 5 hours per subject)
- You'll be supported throughout your programme with specialist teachers, regular feedback,
- Study Skills, your Personal Development Coach and regular progress reviews.

Options & Entry Requirements

Options		
Option A: choose one	**Option B: choose one**	**Option C: choose one**
Business	**Accounting**	**English Literature**
Chemistry*	**Applied Science***	**Mathematics**
Criminology	**Biology**	**Photography**
Media Studies	**History**	**Politics**
Sociology	**Law**	**Psychology**

*Applied Science and Chemistry cannot be studied together

PPD and Study Skills are compulsory elements of the A-Level Programme.

Entry Requirements	
Subject	**Entry Requirements**
General entry criteria	Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language and Mathematics
The following subjects have additional or specific GCSE requirements on top of the general entry criteria:	
Accounting **Mathematics**	• GCSE Mathematics at grade 6 or above • Four further GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language
Applied Science*	• Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language, Mathematics and Science
Biology	• GCSE Biology/Combined Science and Mathematics at grade 6 and above • Three further GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language
Chemistry	• GCSE Chemistry/Combined Science and Mathematics at grade 6 and above • Three further GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language
Photography	• A GCSE in an art-related subject at grade 5 or above • Four GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language and Mathematics

Personal Progress Development (PPD)

What's Involved

The aim of PPD is to equip students for a Modern Day Britain by helping them to develop new skills, attitudes and behaviours. PPD includes weekly contact with a Personal Development Coach, building positive pastoral relationships that enable students to progress and thrive. PPD provides everything students need to reach their full potential during their A-Level Programme and future careers.

P PERSONAL P PROGRESS D DEVELOPMENT



Compulsory Module

Course Content

- Career Planning & Employability
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Fundamental British Values
- Healthy Relationships & Consent
- Personal Growth
- Prevent
- Public Sexual Harassment
- Sustainability

Is this subject right for me?

- Respecting social diversity
- Participating in discussions with enthusiasm
- Using critical and creative thinking to identify and overcome challenges
- Identifying next steps and setting goals effectively

Study Skills

What's Involved

The aim of Study Skills is to help students to learn more effectively, manage their workload and improve their academic performance. During these sessions, students are encouraged to work out which learning strategies suit them best, becoming more independent and motivated learners.

Solihull College & University Centre



Compulsory Module

Course Content

- Learning styles
- Effective notetaking
- Time management
- Revision tips

Is this subject right for me?

- Nurturing a positive, proactive study mindset and identifying areas for improvement
- Using problem-solving skills to overcome challenges
- Sharing ideas about study habits and listening to others

A LEVEL ENRICHMENT

Solihull College & University Centre

Stratford-upon-Avon College

Enrichment brings learning to life

Through workshops, guest speakers, educational visits, competitions and careers events, you'll deepen your subject knowledge, build confidence and develop the skills needed for university and future careers.





UK UNIVERSITY & APPRENTICESHIP SEARCH FAIR

at Edgbaston Stadium



PSYCHOLOGY, CRIMINOLOGY, AND LAW

Guest Speaker Martin Glynn



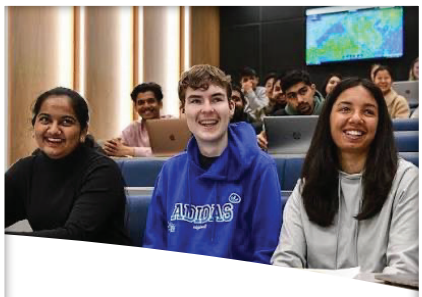
FROM CLASSROOM TO COURTROOM

Interactive experience at Birmingham Law Courts



HISTORY TRIP TO BERLIN

Explore Germany under Nazism through historic landmarks



SOCIOLOGY IN ACTION

Workshop at the University of Birmingham



A LEVEL STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

Build independent learning and study skills



ENGLISH LITERATURE SHAKESPEARE DAY

Visit Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's House & Theatre



ACCOUNTING

WorldSkills business challenge competition



CRIMINOLOGY

Applying Criminology in Practice workshop

Accounting



A-Level

Tutor: Abdullah Zaman

Why choose this subject?

Learn how businesses manage money and develop practical financial skills for the world of work.

Is this subject right for me?

- You enjoy working with numbers.
- You like solving logical problems.
- You pay attention to detail.
- You enjoy analysing information.

Course Content

- An introduction to the role of the accountant in business, types of business organisation, and the double entry model
- Verification of accounting records, accounting concepts used in the preparation of accounting records, preparation of financial statements of sole traders, and limited company accounts
- Analysis and evaluation of financial information, budgeting, marginal costing, standard costing and variance analysis, absorption and activity-based costing, and capital investment appraisal
- Accounting for organisations with incomplete records, partnership accounts, and accounting for limited companies
- Interpretation, analysis and communication of accounting information
- The impact of ethical considerations

How will I be assessed?

There will be exams at the end of year two:

- Two written exams
- Each exam is three hours long
- Each exam is worth 50% of the A-Level

Entry Requirements

GCSE Mathematics at grade 6 or above plus four further GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language.

Progression

Higher Education and careers in accountancy and related fields, such as banking, insurance, retail and public services.

Solihull College & University Centre

Biology



A-Level

Why choose this subject?

Explore the science of life while developing the practical skills needed for medicine, healthcare and scientific careers.

Is this subject right for me?

- You are curious about the natural world.
- You enjoy practical investigations.
- You are interested in healthcare or science.
- You enjoy applying scientific knowledge.

Course Content

- Development of practical skills in biology
- Foundations in biology
- Exchange and transport
- Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

How will I be assessed?

Three written exams plus Practical Endorsement:

- Paper 1 (2 hours 15 minutes): Biological processes (37% of A-Level)
- Paper 2 (2 hours 15 minutes): Biological diversity (37% of A-Level)
- Paper 3 (1 hour 30 minutes): Unified biology (26% of A-Level)
- Practical Endorsement: a non-exam assessment reported separately from the overall A-Level grade

Progression

Higher Education and careers in biology, veterinary science, dentistry, medicine and other areas of healthcare.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Biology or Combined Science and GCSE Mathematics at grade 6 or above plus three further GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language.

Solihull College & University Centre

Business



A-Level

Tutor: Rozina Abbas

Why choose this subject?

Discover how successful businesses make decisions and develop skills valued by universities and employers.

Is this subject right for me?

- You enjoy current affairs and business.
- You like analysing real-life situations.
- You are interested in entrepreneurship or management.
- You enjoy solving problems.

Course Content

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision-making
- Marketing management, operational management, financial management, and human resource management
- Analysing the strategic position of a business, choosing strategic direction, strategic methods: how to pursue strategies, and managing strategic change

How will I be assessed?

There will be exams at the end of year two:

- Three written exams
- Each exam is two hours long
- Each exam is worth 33.3% of the A-Level

Progression

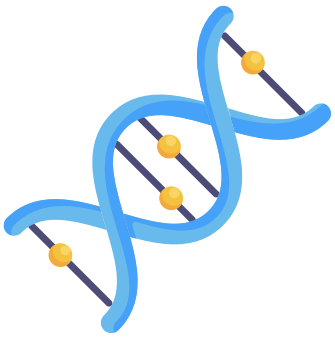
Higher Education and careers in accountancy, enterprise and management

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above. This must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics

Solihull College & University Centre

Chemistry



A-Level

Tutors: Fabio Lorenzini
Steve Round

Why choose this subject?

Investigate the science behind everyday life while building the practical and analytical skills needed for STEM careers.

Is this subject right for me?

- You enjoy science and problem solving.
- You like practical experiments.
- You are confident with maths.
- You enjoy investigating how things work.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Chemistry and Mathematics at grade 6 or above plus three further GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language

Course Content

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding and Structure, Redox I and II, Inorganic Chemistry and the Periodic Table, and Formulae, Equations and Amounts of Substance
- Organic Chemistry I, II and III, Modern Analytical Techniques I and II, Energetics I and II, Kinetics I and II, and Equilibrium I and II
- Acid-base Equilibria, Transition Metals

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year two, there will be three written exams:

- Paper 1: Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry - 30% of A-Level (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Paper 2: Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry - 30% of A-Level (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Chemistry - 40% of A-Level (2 hours 30 minutes)

Progression

Higher Education and careers in biomedical science, environmental science, forensic science, materials science, veterinary science, medicine and pharmacy .

Solihull College & University Centre

Criminology



AAQ

Alternative Academic Qualification
(equivalent to one A-Level)

Why choose this subject?

Investigate crime, criminal behaviour and the justice system through real-life case studies.

Is this subject right for me?

- You are interested in crime and justice.
- You enjoy analysing case studies.
- You like research and investigation.
- You enjoy applying knowledge to real-life situations.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language and Mathematics.

Course Content

Students must complete all the following units:

1. Changing Awareness of Crime
2. Criminological Theories
3. Crime Scene to Courtroom
4. Crime and Punishment

How will I be assessed?

The following units are externally assessed through examination:

- Unit 2 (25% of AAQ): Criminological Theories
- Unit 4 (25% of AAQ): Crime and Punishment

The following units are internally assessed through summative assessment methods:

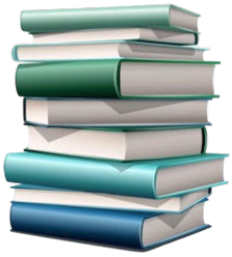
- Unit 1 (25% of AAQ): Changing Awareness of Crime
- Unit 3 (25% of AAQ): Crime Scene to Courtroom

Progression

Higher Education and careers in psychology and sociology, as well as careers in the criminal justice sector like the probation service, court services and the police

Solihull College
& University Centre

English Literature



A-Level

Tutors: Shabnum Bashir
Lucy Hammond
Humma Mouzam

Why choose this subject?

Explore powerful texts while developing the analytical, writing and communication skills valued across many careers.

Is this subject right for me?

- You enjoy reading.
- You like discussing ideas.
- You enjoy writing essays.
- You are curious about people and the world around you.

Course Content

Students will study a Shakespeare play and a poetry anthology, all through the lens of Love through the Ages. This course also involves studying a novel and producing a piece of writing based on independent study.

How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams at the end of year two plus coursework:

- Paper 1- 40% of A-Level (3 hour written exam)
- Paper 2- 40% of A-Level (2 hours 30 minute written exam)
- Coursework - 20% of A-Level: marked by tutors and moderated by AQA

Progression

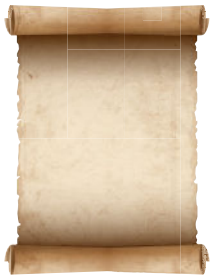
Students could progress to Higher Education and careers in teaching, journalism and information services, such as librianship. The skills developed are also valued in the fields of business and management.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics

Solihull College & University Centre

History



A-Level

Tutor: Chris Hourihan

Why choose this subject?

Discover how the past has shaped today's world while developing research, evaluation and critical thinking skills.

Is this subject right for me?

- You enjoy finding out why things happened.
- You like reading and research.
- You enjoy debating different viewpoints.
- You are interested in the wider world.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics

Course Content

- Breadth study: Germany 1918–45
- Depth study: Stuart Britain 1603–1702
- Coursework:
  - 3500–4500 words
  - Student's topic of choice – a question in the context of approximately 100 years (not duplicating the content of the breadth and depth studies)

How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams at the end of year two plus coursework:

- Breadth study written exam - 40% of A-Level (2 hours 30 minutes)
- Depth study written exam - 40% of A-Level (2 hours 30 minutes)
- Coursework - 20% of A-Level. Marked by tutor and moderated by AQA

Progression

Students could progress to Higher Education and careers like teaching and museum work. The skills developed are also valued in public services, business and journalism.

Solihull College & University Centre

Law

A-Level

Tutor: Momna Alam

Why choose this subject?

Understand how the legal system works while developing logical thinking, debate and analytical skills.

Is this subject right for me?

- You enjoy debating.
- You like analysing evidence.
- You are interested in justice and society.
- You enjoy constructing logical arguments.

Course Content

- The nature of law and the English legal system
- Criminal law
- Tort
- Law of contract
- Human rights

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year two, there will be three written exams:

- Paper 1: Criminal Law: The nature of law and the English legal system - 33.3% of A-Level (2 hours)
- Paper 2: Tort: The nature of law and the English legal system - 33.3% of A-Level (2 hours)
- Paper 3: Law of contract or human rights: The nature of law and the English legal system - 33.3% of A-Level (2 hours)

Progression

Higher Education and working in the probation service, court services and police, as well as Solicitor, Barrister, Legal Executive and Paralegal careers

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics

Solihull College & University Centre

Mathematics



A-Level

Tutor: Balbinder Paneser

Why choose this subject?

Develop advanced problem-solving skills that support a huge range of university courses and careers.

Is this subject right for me?

- You enjoy solving challenging problems.
- You are confident with GCSE Maths.
- You enjoy logical thinking.
- You like working with numbers.

Entry Requirements

GCSE Mathematics at grade 6 or above plus four further GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language.

Course Content

- **Pure Mathematics:** proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods, and vectors
- **Statistics**: sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, and hypothesis testing
- **Mechanics:** quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, and moments

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year two, there will be three written exams and each exam will last two hours:

- Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (33.3% of A-Level)
- Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (33.3% of A-Level)
- Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (33.3% of A-Level)

Progression

Higher Education and careers in accountancy, computing, economics, engineering and science.

Solihull College & University Centre

Media Studies



A-Level

Why choose this subject?

WJEC Eduqas A-Level Media Studies aims to develop students' creativity and analytical thinking through the study of contemporary media, as well as providing hands-on experience in media production. Students will create original projects such as short films or print-based media. They will explore how media influences society using a theoretical framework that includes audiences, media language, representation and media industries. Students will study several media types in depth, such as newspapers, magazines, video games, music videos, radio, television and film. This course equips students with valuable transferable skills in critical analysis and communication, which are useful across a wide range of careers.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics.

Course Content

- Media Products, Industries and Audiences
  - » Analysing Media Language and Representation: advertising, marketing, music videos, newspapers
  - » Understanding Media Industries and Audiences: advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games – and media contexts
- Media Forms and Products in Depth: television in the global age, magazines, media in the online age
- Cross-Media Production: coursework element

Is this subject right for me?

- Demonstrating originality and creative thinking
- Nurturing a curious mindset, engaging with a variety of forms of media
- Demonstrating strong analytical skills, paying attention to detail
- Thriving on undertaking hands-on work – practical media production tasks
- Demonstrating the ability to reflect on your own work, as well as that of others

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed via two written exams and a non-exam assessment:

- Media Products, Industries and Audiences - 2 hours 15 minutes written exam (35% of A-Level)
- Media Forms and Products in Depth - 2 hours 30 minutes written exam (35% A-Level)
- Cross-Media Production - non-exam assessment (30% of A-Level)

Progression

Higher education and careers in media production, public relations, and broadcast or print journalism.

Solihull College & University Centre

Art and Design (Photography)



A-Level

Tutor: Clive Adams

Why choose this subject?

AQA A-Level Art and Design (Photography) enables students to explore a variety of photographic media, techniques and processes. This course covers both traditional and digital technologies. Students will investigate past and recent images, artefacts and resources, including European and non-European examples. They will gain an understanding of the elements of visual language, as well as an awareness of the purpose of their chosen specialist area.

Course Content

Genres of photography:
Portraiture, landscape, documentary, fashion, experimental image-making, and moving image

Skills and techniques:

- Responding to briefs
- Exploring line, form, colour, pattern and texture
- Appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement
- Using cameras, film, lenses, filters and lighting
- Production, presentation and layout of images

Knowledge and understanding:

- Materials, processes, technologies and resources
- Conveying and interpreting ideas, feelings and meanings
- Historical and contemporary developments
- Social, environmental, cultural and ethical contexts
- Continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions

Is this subject right for me?

- Practising techniques, experimenting and embracing feedback
- Demonstrating the ability to read and interpret images
- Appreciating different social and cultural perspectives

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed via practical work and their portfolio:

- Personal investigation - 60% of A-Level (no time limit). Marked by tutor and moderated by AQA
- Externally set assignment - 40% of A-Level (Preparatory period plus 15 hours of supervised time). Marked by the tutor and moderated by AQA

Entry Requirements

A GCSE in an art-related subject at grade 5 or above, plus four GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics

Progression

Higher education and careers in freelance photography, medical photography and forensic photography, as well as working in the creative industries.

Solihull College & University Centre

Politics



A-Level

Why choose this subject?

Explore how governments make decisions and understand the issues shaping Britain and the wider world.

Is this subject right for me?

- You follow current affairs.
- You enjoy debating.
- You are interested in politics and society.
- You like analysing different opinions.

Course Content

Topics students will cover include:

- **Government and politics of the UK:** the British constitution, structure and role of parliament, the judiciary, democracy and participation, elections and referendums, political parties and pressure groups
- **Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics:** the legislative branch of government – congress, the executive branch of government – president, the electoral process, civil rights, constitutional arrangements
- **Political ideas:** liberalism, conservatism, socialism, nationalism, multiculturalism, anarchism, ecologism

How will I be assessed?

There will be three two hour written exams at the end of year two:

- Paper 1: Government and politics of the UK (33% of A-Level)
- Paper 2 (33% of A-Level)
  - » The government and politics of the USA
  - » Comparative politics
- Paper 3: Political ideas (33% of A-Level)

Progression

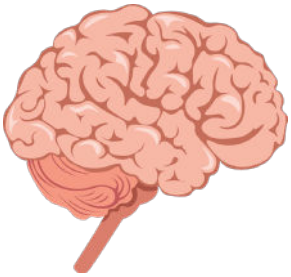
Students could progress to Higher Education and careers in law, journalism, the civil service and international relations. The skills developed are also valued in public policy and social sciences.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics.

Solihull College & University Centre

Psychology



A-Level

Tutor: Kayleigh Oakley

Why choose this subject?

Discover why people think, feel and behave the way they do through fascinating real-world research.

Is this subject right for me?

- You are interested in people and behaviour.
- You enjoy science and research.
- You like evaluating evidence.
- You are naturally curious.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above. This must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics

Course Content

- **Introductory Topics in Psychology:** Social Influence, Memory, and Attachment
- **Psychology in Context:** Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology, and Research Methods
- **Issues and Options in Psychology:** Issues and Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia, and Forensic Psychology

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year two, there will be three written exams and each exam will last two hours:

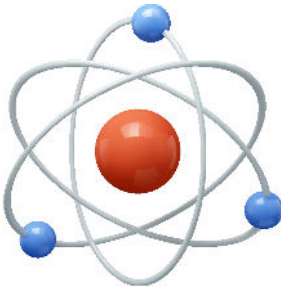
- Introductory Topics in Psychology (33.3% of A-Level)
- Psychology in Context (33.3% of A-Level)
- Issues and Options in Psychology (33.3% of A-Level)

Progression

Students could progress to Higher Education and careers like teaching or the helping professions. Psychology is also valued in the fields of business, sport and forensics.

Solihull College & University Centre

Applied Science



AAQ

Alternative Academic Qualification
(equivalent to one A-Level)

Why choose this subject?

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) – equivalent to one A-Level

AAQ Applied Science enables students to explore the principles and applications of biology, chemistry and physics while developing practical laboratory skills and scientific understanding. It provides a balance of theory, investigation and real-world application, supporting progression into Higher Education and science-related careers. Students will learn how science is applied in everyday life and industry through both examined and practical units, building transferable skills such as problem-solving, research, analysis and evaluation.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including English Language, Mathematics and Science

Course Content

Students complete four mandatory units and one optional unit:

- Mandatory units:
  1. Principles and Applications of Biology
  2. Principles and Applications of Chemistry
  3. Principles and Applications of Physics
  4. Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Optional units (students complete one):
  1. Science Investigation Skills
  2. Contemporary Issues in Science

Is this subject right for me?

- Demonstrating an interest in how science works in practical and professional contexts
- Engaging in laboratory-based and independent research tasks with enthusiasm
- Using strong organisational skills to manage assignments and exam preparation
- Demonstrating an ability to link theoretical knowledge with experimental evidence

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a blend of external exams and internally assessed coursework:

- External assessments (50% of AAQ): three exams (one each in biology, chemistry, and physics)
- Internal assessments (50% of AAQ): practical and investigative assignments set and verified by Pearson

Progression

Higher Education and careers in applied sport and exercise science, biomedical science, environmental science, nursing, and secondary science education, as well as health and social care professions.

Solihull College & University Centre

Sociology

A-Level

Why choose this subject?

Understand how society influences our lives while exploring contemporary social issues and debates.

Is this subject right for me?

- You are interested in current affairs.
- You enjoy discussing social issues.
- You like challenging assumptions.
- You enjoy evaluating different viewpoints.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs at grade 5 and above – this must include GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics

Course Content

- **Mandatory units during year one:** Education, Methods in Context, and Theory and Methods
- **Optional topics during year one and year two:** Families and Households (year one), Beliefs in Society (year two)
- **Mandatory units during year two:** Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year two, there will be three written exams and each exam will last two hours:

- Education with Theory and Methods (33.3% of A-Level)
- Topics in Sociology (33.3% of A-Level)
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (33.3% of A-Level)

Progression

Students could progress to Higher Education and careers like social work, teaching, and nursing. Sociology is also valued in the fields of public policy, human resources, research, and police and probation.

Solihull College & University Centre