

*WHTC University application subject guides*

# Sociology and Criminology

This guide has been written to help support you in your application to university. It contains the following information relevant to your subject to help you decide where to apply and put together the best application that you possibly can:

1. Course links
2. Entrance requirements
3. Recommended A-levels
4. Admissions tests
5. Recommended reading
6. Interesting MOOCs
7. Useful additional resources
8. Related courses
9. Oxbridge example interview questions

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## 1. Course links

Below are links to the top courses for this subject in the UK (according to [The Complete University Guide](#)). Click on the links to find information about what the course is like, what you'll learn, and loads of information about things such as fees and accommodation. However, remember that there are loads of other great universities out there, so check out The Complete University Guide or just google studying your subject at university.

### **Sociology**

1. [University of Cambridge](#)- Human, Social and Political sciences
2. [University of Bristol](#)
3. [London School of Economics](#)
4. University of Exeter- offer [Sociology as a BA](#) and a [BSC \(statistical training\)](#)

5. [University of Bath](#)

Sociology isn't offered as a separate course at the University of Oxford, but is considered as part of politics. You can study it as part of Philosophy, Politics & Economics or History & Politics

### **Criminology**

1. [Loughborough University](#)
2. [Durham University](#)
3. [Lancaster University](#)
4. [University of Bath](#)
5. [University College London](#)- Security and crime science

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## **2. Entrance requirements**

Here are the grades that the university suggests you need to get in to that course, and the likely offer that they will give you.

### **Sociology**

1. **University of Cambridge-** A\* AA
2. **University of Bristol-** AAB
3. **LSE-** AAB
4. **University of Exeter-** AAB
5. **University of Bath-** AAB

### **Criminology**

1. **Loughborough university-** ABB
2. **Durham university-** AAB
3. **Lancaster university-** ABB
4. **University of Bath-** AAB

## 5. University College London- AAA

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### 3. Recommended A-levels

Different universities may differ as to what A-levels they ask you for. Some might list one subject as 'essential', while another might list the same subject as just 'helpful', so make sure to check out the course page (under Section 1 of this document, or on the university website) to be sure what your chosen university expects!

**For all the universities listed for both Sociology and Criminology there is no required subject just preferences for essay-based subjects and humanities subjects. For instance, the following might be useful:**

- Sociology
  - Economics
  - English Language and Literature
  - Psychology
  - Religious Studies
  - History
  - Geography
  - Business Studies
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### 4. Admissions tests

What admissions tests are you typically required to sit in addition to submitting your application? This also differs from uni to uni, so if your chosen university isn't on this list, make sure you check out the course page so you know exactly what you need to apply.

University of Cambridge- [at-interview written assessment](#)

**No required admission tests for other universities (except Oxford politics)**



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## 5. Recommended reading

Reading some relevant books or articles is a really great way to demonstrate your passion for your chosen subject in your personal statement, and show how you've gone beyond the curriculum. Plus, if you really want to spend three years or more studying this subject at university, it should be enjoyable! Try taking notes and jotting down your thoughts as you're reading so that you can share some of this in your personal statement

**Why I'm no longer talking about race- Reni Eddo-Lodge:** The book that sparked a national conversation. Exploring everything from eradicated black history to the inextricable link between class and race, Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race is an essential book for anyone who wants to understand race relations in Britain today.

**Constructing childhood: Theory, policy, and social practice.- L.A. James:** This text provides a critical analysis of the social construction of childhood and children's agency. Combining social theory, social policy and the empirical findings of social science research, this book offers an account of childhood that is grounded in substantive areas of children's lives such as health, education, crime and the family.

**Undoing Gender- Judith Butler:** Butler is one of the most prominent gender theorists within the world. Butler considers the norms that govern and fail to govern gender and sexuality as they relate to the constraints on recognizable personhood.

**Discipline and Punishment – Michel Foucault:** Foucault shows the development of the Western system of prisons, police organizations, administrative and legal hierarchies for social control - and the growth of disciplinary society as a whole. This is a good but challenging read for those interested in criminal institutions.

**The sociological imagination- C. Wright Mills:** This is an essential read for all sociologists; it clearly states the case for sociology as a discipline distinct from the other social sciences. This book describes what is best about sociology and why it is necessary to studying the discipline.

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## 6. Interesting MOOCs

Another great way of learning more about your chosen subject and demonstrating your interest is to take a MOOC, or Massive Open Online Course. These are free courses delivered by universities that you can take online. If the ones below don't take your fancy, try looking at [Class Central](#) - they have a huge list of different courses for every subject imaginable, and they're all free!

[Introduction to Sociology](#) Princeton university- The premise of this class is that in order to benefit from the sociological perspective, we need to learn how to ask certain basic questions. We need to know how to seek answers through methods that strive to be systematic and generalizable. We will review comparative, historical, demographic, experimental, and ethnographic methods. Along the way, we will study core concepts including ethnocentrism, social networks, community, unanticipated consequences, social capital, race, class, and gender.

[Understanding violence](#) Emory university- This course introduces you to experts who study different forms of violence and we will discuss the various causes of violence. You will also learn about efforts to reduce violence and engage in a day of compassion.

[Understanding of the origins of crime](#) Griffith university- We will use the theory of evolution to make sense of a broad range of crimes including several types of homicide, child abuse and neglect, spousal assault and group level aggression such as warfare, hooliganism, rioting, and gang fights.

[Feminism and social justice](#) University of California- In the course, Professor Aptheker presents a broad definition of feminism that serves to frame three significant events in the history of feminism and social justice: the Empire Zinc strike of 1951, the 1971-1972 trial of Angela Davis, and the #metoo Movement.

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## 7. Useful additional resources

There are loads of other great things out there that you might want to look at to develop your interest and strengthen your application, from videos to podcasts, to websites. Here are a few suggestions:

<https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=sociology> – A range of sociology related ted talks

[Gender and society blog](#)- A peer-reviewed journal, focused on the study of gender. It is the official journal of Sociologists for Women in Society, and was founded in 1987 as an outlet for feminist social science. Currently, it is a top-ranked journal in both sociology and women's studies.

[Sociology lens](#)- An active and popular community website which brings together news, opinion, reviews and sociology research resources. The site aims to offer a lively and informative venue for faculty, graduate students, professionals and the wider public to discuss current issues in sociology.

[www.soundcloud.com/thesociologicalreview](http://www.soundcloud.com/thesociologicalreview) - A podcast on new sociological research and current affairs in society.

<https://anchor.fm/digital-sociology-podcast> - A podcast committed to a range of sociological issues.

### **Podcasts that can be found on Spotify:**

**Surviving society** – Political podcast on antiracist and public sociology.

**The Sociology show**- Main themes centre on AS/A Level topics.

**Thinking allowed**- A podcast based on new research on how society works.



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## 8. Related courses

At university, there are loads of different combinations of subjects that you can do. Maybe you might find one of these alternatives more interesting? A few ideas are listed below with a sample link, but in most cases there are lots of universities that offer these different combinations so make sure to have a good look around!

A Joint Honours degree gives you the opportunity to study two subjects as one degree. This type of degree will broaden your skill set and enhance your career prospects. There are a range of popular and unique Sociology joint honour degrees

[Sociology and social psychology](#)

[Sociology and media](#)

[Sociology and criminology](#)

[Sociology, social policy and criminology](#)

[Law and sociology](#)

[History and sociology](#)

[Philosophy and sociology](#)

[Sociology and anthropology](#)

[Sociology and modern languages](#)

[Film and sociology](#)

[Business and management and sociology](#)

[Criminal justice and criminology](#)

[Criminology and law](#)



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## 9. Oxbridge example interview questions

As you will know, applicants to Oxford and Cambridge have to take an interview in order to get a place. It is normal to get open-ended questions, as well as being given charts or pieces of writing to analyse. Here is a sample of the kind of questions you might get asked. Remember, you're supposed to not know the answer! They often deliberately choose topics that they think no one will have studied in order to make the questions fair. What they're looking for is to see how you think under pressure, and how you can present your ideas and your logic.

What is freedom?

Should prisoners get a vote? What is the strongest argument for and against?  
What other groups of people are excluded from getting a vote and why is that?

How do you measure the success of a political voting system?

Should a political party define ideology, or should ideology define the party?

Are there always winners and losers in politics?

In a democracy, can the majority impose its will on the minority?

How would you bring a population out of poverty?

How would you eradicate gender inequalities in society?

What makes us human?

What are your views on nature vs. nurture?

How would you explain human culture to an alien visiting earth?