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# YEAR 10 SUBJECTS

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## Sociology – Youth, Crime, Culture and Communities

Sociology focuses on the study of human behaviour and social interaction to understand how societies are organised, develop and change. Sociologists use a range of theories to examine social issues, explain concepts and understand human society.

The study of Sociology assists in the development of an appreciation of cultural diversity, and in an understanding of human behaviour and social structures. Further, it directs students' attention to how aspects of society are interrelated, as well as to the causes and impacts of social change. Sociology provides valuable knowledge and skills for participation in everyday life. It develops a capacity for detailed observation of social patterns and group behaviour, and encourages students to become aware of and to think about daily life and activities, as well as wider social issues, from a sociological perspective.

In this unit, students will explore the following key sociological topics:

**Youth and family** – including individual behaviour in group settings, labelling and stereotyping of groups, experiences of youth in different times, spaces & places, and differences in family types and experiences.

**Social norms** – including deviance (rule breaking behaviour), traditional views of deviance, why people behave in a way that deviates from social norms, and moral panic. This topic also includes criminality, why people engage in criminal behaviour, the justice system, punishment and connections between crime and other aspects of society.

**Culture and ethnicity** – including indigenous culture, indigenous experiences and indigenous & non-indigenous perspectives of this culture. This topic also includes ethnicity and how people see and define themselves as a result of their identified ethnic group, influences and changes relating to these identities.

**Community, social movements and social change** – including changing definitions and experiences of community as influenced by political, social, economic and technological change, and the role, purpose and power of social movements in calling for and achieving social change.

In doing so, students will gain an introduction to each of VCE Sociology Units 1 to 4.