



SOCIOLOGY

A-Level Course Information



Qualification: Advanced Level Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

Subject Leader: Mr S. Leggott

Entry Requirements:

Minimum Entry Requirements:

5 x 5s

4 in English and Maths

Subject Specific Entry Requirements:

6 in a humanities subject or English GCSE

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of people in society. Sociologists are interested in looking at how our identities and behaviour are shaped by society and by social groups such as our families and friends, and by institutions such as schools and the mass media. Sociology also tries to explain how and why society is changing, for example why divorce is much more common today than 40 years ago, or why girls have overtaken boys in their performance in exams and entry to universities in the last 20 years.

Studying sociology will give you a better understanding of the society in which you live and the social influences shaping your life. Sociology encourages you to look at the social world in a critical way and to answer questions about society based on evidence rather than just opinions.

What can I do with Sociology after A-Level?

As a well-regarded course seated in the field of humanities and social science, sociology can lead on to further study in a range of subjects and be useful in a variety of careers. Besides sociology, many students go on to study for degrees in psychology, criminology or philosophy, but there is always great diversity here.

Students find the transferable skills and knowledge gained from sociology useful in areas such as law, human resources, public relations, social work, market research and journalism.

Sociology Extras

Sociology will include the opportunity for students to attend external lectures designed for A-level students to extend their knowledge and understanding of what is studied in college. Guest speakers are also invited to deliver talks on a range of topics.

What will I study?

The Sociology A-Level covers 4 different topics:

1. Education with Research Methods

- The role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
- Relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum and the organisation of teaching and learning
- The significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

2. Families and Households

- The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies
- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- The nature of childhood and changes in the status of children in the family and society
- Demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population and migration and globalisation.

3. Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- Crime, deviance, social order and social control
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victimology and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies

4. The Media

- The new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society
- The relationship between ownership and control of the media
- The media, globalisation and popular culture
- The processes of selection and presentation of news content
- Media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability
- The relationship between the media, their content and presentation, and audiences.