



Sociology



Sociology is the study of society and the people within it (including their behaviour). Studying Sociology will help you to ‘think outside of the box’. It is a sophisticated and fascinating discipline – it helps you to become a reflective learner and makes you realise that there’s more to individuals and society than ‘meets the eye’! Indeed, studying Sociology will help you to question things and lead to some very interesting discussions both in and out of school. This subject is of interest to anyone who is interested in the world in which we live and who is prepared for healthy classroom debates and discussions.

What will you learn about?

This flyer will set out the requirements for the 2 year A level course. The AS syllabus is a less detailed version of what you see here.

Education with methods in context (Unit 1): Here you will probably discover things about education you have never even thought of, such as why girls outperform boys in exams and explanations for pupil subcultures in school. Through focusing on research studies, you are given the opportunity to learn about *how* sociologists study society and how the results of such investigations affect government policy (such as the recent and upcoming reforms to examinations)

Research Methods and topics in sociology (Unit 2): . One topic we teach here is **families and households**. You will study the differing opinions on the different types of families in society today such as lone parent households, same-sex parents, nuclear families etc. Socially sensitive topics such as domestic violence, gay rights and the effectiveness of single parent families will be discussed at length in class.

The other topic in unit 2 focusses on the **role of the media** in contemporary society ranging from who owns the media to representations of a range of groups. You will consider to what extent the media controls the audience and what this control means for society.

Crime and Deviance with theory and methods (unit 3). You will discover who commits crimes and why, as well as examining crime prevention and punishment. You will examine the link between crime and the other topic areas covered, such as why people from less stable family environments may be more likely to commit crime, or the link between educational achievement and criminality. We also explore political ideology here too, should offenders be more harshly punished or rehabilitated to make them more useful members of society? **Theories and Methods** are explored further – ‘real sociology’ takes place by uncovering threads that run through all of the topics at AS and A2 level. Indeed, you will be able to answer questions such as: *“Can (and should) Sociology be a ‘science’?”* *“Should sociologists keep their values out of research?”*

How is the course assessed?

The formal assessment of the course is through **written exams** consisting of stimulus material and structured questions – these require a range of written responses, from short answers, to essays.

What courses might Sociology complement?

As you learn about research methods, use essential skills (e.g. interpretation, analysis and evaluation) and consider various topics and theories, studying Sociology should aid your performance across the board at both A level and University. Sociology complements a number of other subjects e.g. Psychology, History, Business Studies, English, Politics, Philosophy and Geography. It is an academic subject and, therefore, helpful in gaining qualifications for entry into university.

What career opportunities will studying Sociology lead to?

It is helpful for any 'people centred' profession, including criminology, media, marketing, law, politics, journalism, social work and teaching.

What would you need to do to be a successful Sociology student?

An interest in the topics covered in the course is important, as you will then be motivated to work hard and succeed in Sociology! You also need to be organised (in terms of meeting deadlines) and willing to conduct independent work regularly e.g. note-taking and research. You need to be able to answer questions in a well-structured and clear manner and must absolutely be willing to get involved in class debates. A truly successful student is able to keep up to date with current news stories and events to support their arguments in essay writing.

For any further information, please contact **Mrs. Baker or Mrs Ghelichi-Winstanley.**