

# Sociology

A - Level AQA

## General Course Information

Students will acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social issues and changes. They will learn the theoretical and conceptual ideas in sociological debate and be able to understand and evaluate a range of research methods through active involvement. Students are encouraged to develop skills that will enable them to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society and develop a lifelong interest in social issues.

## How is the course assessed?

Most lessons take place in the classroom environment. The Department supplies textbooks for students which are used for presentations, discussions, debates and teacher/student dialogue. There is a wide selection of resources including material from journals, examination guides and mark schemes, displays, handouts and newspaper articles. Students are encouraged to use ICT wherever possible and to develop their use of the Internet.

Students are also expected to work independently, making some notes to supplement class provision and to be responsible for their own learning. Sociology is an interesting and enjoyable subject, which repays effort and enthusiastic commitment.

Assessment requirements are as follows:

The first paper is Education with Methods in Context. The second paper is Families and Households with Research Methods. Each paper is examined through a stimulus approach and a variety of skills are required. Students should show knowledge and understanding, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence and arguments.

Both papers are one and a half hours long, are of equal weighting and sat at the end of the summer. Following this, additional topics will be studied, including Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods and Beliefs in Society. 3, two hour exam papers will be sat at the end of the student's second year.

There is an effective and comprehensive revision programme given on all topics before each examination.

## Who's it for?

Although GCSE Sociology does provide a sound base and therefore can be an advantage, it is not essential. Provided the student has a grade 5 or above in English Language they already possess the necessary skills for this course. We will supply textbooks, guidance, encouragement etc with the opportunity for visits, speakers, discussions and debates. Students are encouraged to make use of the Media, to keep up to date with current affairs and wherever possible make use of the Internet. Sociology encourages a questioning approach, the development of an enquiring mind and the ability to think for oneself.

## Progression

Sociology can be classified by universities in a variety of ways. It may be regarded as a "pure science" leading to a BSc. degree, or be applied to social welfare and policy issues where it often appears as a B. A. degree. Sociology A level is very flexible, allowing entry into both these category of degree courses. Sociology degrees may be combined with other subjects and refined in a number of ways e.g. Women's Studies, Social Work Degrees, Development Studies and Urban Development courses, each offering interesting possibilities for study and leading on to higher degrees and research opportunities.

As a Department we have established links with a number of Universities.

Sociology A level is flexible as it is useful for most careers which involve working with people. It sits comfortably with any combination of A level subjects, and leads onto careers in Social Work, the Probation Service, Welfare Rights, Personnel, the Law, Medicine, Nursing, Teaching, the Police, Media, Journalism, Accountancy, Pharmacy, Optometry and research in higher education.

If there are any further questions please come and talk to Miss Illston, Mrs Ismail or Mrs Hopkins who will be happy to tell you more.

