

# Sociology

## Pathway 2

### Course description:

Sociology is the third most popular subject chosen at A Level across the UK. You will acquire knowledge of contemporary British society and look at social changes over the last 50 years. You will be encouraged to develop your own social awareness through active engagement with modern British society.

### Qualifications required:

- In line with the entry requirements for a Pathway 2 subject.
- Grade 5 and 6 in a Humanities subject and English Language. This combination of grades can be either way round.

### Aims of the A Level course:

- Develop an understanding of how the family experience affects our lives and our life chances.
- Develop an understanding of how the education experience impacts on our lives and our futures.

### Future prospects:

- You can progress to study Sociology at university which can lead to a diverse range of careers including teaching, legal professions, the social services and the media.

### Student feedback:

"Sociology is relevant, engaging and provides answers to questions about our society."

"Sociology makes a lot of sense!"

### Subject Teachers:

Miss Shearer, Miss Woolford, Miss Bishop (Head of Sociology)

### Features of the course:

- Families and households
- Education with methods in context
- Theory and methods
- Media and Society
- Crime and Deviance

# Sociology

## A2 Level Units

### 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, child-bearing and the life course, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.

**The** nature and extent of changes within the family, with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships.

**The** nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society.

Demographic trends in the UK since 1900; reasons for changes in birth rates, death rates and family size.

### Media

**Theories** of media and the relationship with society.

**The underrepresentation of** different groups: class, status and power; ethnicity, age and disability.

**The** social construction of the media.

**Changes** from traditional to new media.

**The** nature, extent and significance of the media in society.

### Education

**The** role and purpose of education, including vocational education and training, in contemporary society.

**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 subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning.

**The** significance of educational policies, including selection, comprehensivisation and marketisation, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of education.

**The** application of sociological research methods to the study of education.

### Crime and Deviance

**Theories** of 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.

**Methods** of crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

## Methods of Assessment:

**2 hour exams worth 33.3% of the overall A Level**

### Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods

- Education, 50 marks, short answer and extended writing
- Methods in Context, 20 marks, extended writing
- Theory and Methods, 10 marks, extended writing

### Paper 2 – Topics in Sociology

- Section A – Family and Households, 40 marks, extended writing
- Section B – Media, 40, marks extended writing

### Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

- Crime and Deviance, 50 marks, short answer and extended writing
- Theory and Methods, 30 marks, extended writing