

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. Sociology is a subject which develops critical thinking along with analytical and evaluative writing skills.

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 family structures, educational experiences, interaction with the media and criminal activity affects our lives and life chances. Also to consider and evaluate differences in experiences between Social class, Age, Gender and Ethnicity within society.
- In addition, students will apply key sociological theory such as Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, New Right and Interactionism in order to understand key debates within society.

Future prospects:

- You can progress to study Sociology at university which can lead to a diverse range of careers including Teaching, legal professions and wider careers within the Criminal Justice System. Psychology or Social Services as well as careers within the Media industry. Sociology aims to give students a broad understanding of society and therefore suits anyone going into a career working with the public.

Student feedback:

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

“Sociology makes a lot of sense!”

Subject Teachers:

Miss A Williams - Head of Sociology

Ms N Shearer – Teacher of Sociology

Features of the course:

- Families and households
- Education with methods in context
- 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