A Level Sociology AQA

Why study Sociology

Sociology is the study of society, explanations of social behaviour and an exploration into individuals' relationship with society. You will gain a greater understanding of issues surrounding the criminal justice system, the education system, families, the mass media, religion, social class, race, and gender. Sociology never stands still; it is a subject which is ever evolving and has direct links to the world we live in.

Academic qualifications in Sociology provide students with valuable analytical and evaluative skills which are highly valued by many universities and employers alike. Sociology is a popular degree course and recent Year 13 cohorts have gone on to study degree courses in Criminology, Law, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Midwifery, Teaching and Social Work. Previous students have also gone into the Police and the Civil Service. Sociology can give students an edge, particularly in interviews, as they can often demonstrate a wider understanding of society, and its impact on people lives

About the course

Paper 1- Education with Theory Methods Education Methods in Context

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology Families and Households Beliefs in Society or Stratification and Differentiation

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

Year 12

In Year 12 you will be introduced to key sociological concepts, theories, and methods. These will be explored in the context of education and families and households.

Year 13

In Year 13 you will develop this sociological understanding and apply your knowledge and skills of critical analysis to crime and issues of stratification in society.

Assessment

You will be formally assessed at the end of your second year, with three 2 hour written exams; all worth 80 marks each (33.3% of A Level). Questions are comprised of both shorter answer questions and extended writing.

Entry criteria

It is not a course requirement that students have taken Sociology at GCSE, but they will need grade 6 in English or a Humanities subject as an entry requirement.

You will also be expected to be able to work independently, have strong literacy skills, read texts, and make notes and engage in discussion and debate. Whilst these skills will be

taught alongside the course content, it is important that you are confident and happy to write in depth and detail. You must be open to thinking critically and independently to develop a critical and informed understanding of the world around you.

Outside the classroom

Sociology is all about the real world. As such, it is essential that you are interested in current affairs, and you will benefit from keeping up to date with the news. Students will have the opportunity to attend sociology conferences, visit university campuses and take part in field work in real life contexts.





