Sociology

COURSE OVERVIEW

Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour. In particular, Sociologists look at how the key institutions, such as the family, school or media shape our beliefs and values.

Topics covered in this course include:

- **The Sociology of Families and Households**
- **The Sociology of Education**
- **The Sociology of Crime and Deviance**
- **The Sociology of Beliefs**
- **Research Methods and Sociological Theory**

As with any academic essay writing subject, you need to have good writing skills and the ability to grasp key concepts and theories. Independent learning skills, such as being prepared to read about the topic areas and take notes are also favourable.

Students often combine Sociology with humanities subjects, English or Psychology, but it is a suitable subject for anyone interested in people and society.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

Knowledge and Understanding

Sociology A-level equips students with a knowledge and understanding about how society works from a number of theoretical viewpoints, such as Marxism or Postmodernism. Students will learn to use a range sociological concepts to explain human behaviour. The central themes of social inequality, socialisation and globalisation will be studied.

Evaluation skills:

Sociology involves challenging some of the assumptions we make about our daily interactions. Students will learn to ***develop a critical mind*** and their analytical skills by debating and criticising theories about social interaction.

Interpretation skills:

Students will learn to interpret written evidence to support their arguments.

Written communication skills:

Sociology is a discursive subject and students are required to formulate ***a structured written argument*** which acknowledges theoretical viewpoints and uses specialist conceptual language to support their arguments. Students will become proficient at writing clearly, logically and persuasively.

Qualification: **A-Level**

Awarding Body: **AQA**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Sociology A-level is assessed through three exams of extended essay writing at the end of Year 13. There is no coursework. Each exam is two hours long and worth 80 marks each.

The exam topics are as follows:

Paper 1 – Sociology of Education and Theory and Methods.

Paper 2 – Sociology of Families and Households and Sociology of Beliefs.

Paper 3 – Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Studying A-level Sociology provides students with ***several transferable skills*** that are valued by higher education institutions and employers. The subject matter is particularly apt to career paths involving dealing with people and social issues. Career paths may include:

- ✓ Journalism and the media
- ✓ Policing and the probation services
- ✓ Criminology
- ✓ Social and market research
- ✓ Teaching
- ✓ Personnel
- ✓ Administration
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Charities and counselling
- ✓ Local and central government

"Sociology allows you to think on a deeper and more analytical level about the interactions in society. You gain evaluation skills and learn to question things around you."

"Sociology has taught me the 'ins and outs' of society. Now I can see society in many different ways. It has brought a lot to light"