

A-Level Sociology

Why Sociology?

Sociology is a subject unlike any that have been previously studied at school, although it does borrow from English and History, as well as connecting with the fields of Government and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. Higher Education relies on people being able to formalize a balanced argument and critically analyze a range of information - both of these are skills that are practiced and improved through Sociological study. Sociology is based on making sense of the patterns and processes that happen in society; Who has power and why? Why do boys seem to underachieve at school? Why are ethnic minorities over-represented in the prison population? These are a small sample of the questions sociology tries to answer.

What can I expect?

You will study a range of different topics that will focus on questioning the very society that we live in. In the first year we will critically examine the role of the family in the modern world and assess the concepts of gender roles, employment and childhood. We will also explore the concept of education to examine what it's role is, who benefits from it and why certain social groups consistently do better or worse in terms of attainment. This will be framed by reviewing published research and finding out how to do our own sociological research.

The second year's units of study are 'Beliefs in Society' and 'Crime & Deviance'. These units allow student to combine their wider sociological knowledge and understanding making links with other elements of the course

What do I need?

In addition to the general entry requirement for the Sixth Form, the minimum requirement for the course is a GCSE Grade 5 in English due to the written nature of the examination. This is due to the heavy focus on written examinations. In general a fascination with the wider world and a strong grasp of topical and contemporary issues in society are essential.

What about the future?

Sociology plays a key role in the Higher Education study of many different fields including Politics, Education, Nursing, Business, Geography, History, Personal Relations and Law. Any future careers that involve working directly with people will benefit from a Sociological background.

Ultimately Sociology is the study of power. Who has it? Who needs it? How is it used? How is it abused? How easy is it to get? To understand power is to understand the world that we live in and to move forwards with an open mind.