



South  
Nottinghamshire  
Academy

## A-Level Sociology

### Why Sociology?

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. You may wonder why positions of power in UK are taken up by a very small demographic of people, or you may wonder why there are gendered patterns of subject choices in school, these are just some of many questions that Sociology attempts to explain. Since all human behaviour is sociological there isn't a field of study that can't be linked to Sociology, the subject matters of sociology range from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports. Therefore, Sociology has applications in most walks of life but at its most noble addresses the most challenging issues of our time, informs policy makers who attempt to understand and improve society.

### What can I expect?

The Sociology topics of the A level course are accessible because students themselves live in the social world. However, Sociology relies heavily on social research (*not* anecdotal experience) and students will learn to use published research and sometimes theory to make sense of the social world. This forms the basis of assessments and students will explore a range of sociological perspectives that *may* have conflicting views of society. Students should expect to discuss, to debate and to make arguments. Students will think critically about the ideas they encounter, establishing proof, explore alternative ideas and evaluate the integrity of sociological explanations.

### What do I need?

Normal entry requirements for Sixth Form will be a prerequisite. Sociology relies heavily on extended writing and expression of ideas, so a strong background at GCSE in English or History will be of an advantage. In addition, students should be able to explore abstract ideas and a more than cursory interest in the world around them.

### What about the future?

Students who study Sociology will find that the skills they learn are essential for higher education and beyond; critical thinking, extended writing, evidence-based arguments and explaining the social world - there could not be a more important subject! The list of potential careers is endless because Sociology permeates all areas of human behaviour. More specifically though, students of Sociology often find themselves in career pathways such as; policing, administration, human resources, education, healthcare, policy making, marketing and sales.