

GCSE Sociology

Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Introduction

Sociology is the study of society! Sociology enables students to think critically about how we affect society and how society affects us. Sociology opens the doors to many different careers. The course will help students to gain a critical understanding of the society in which we live.

Sociology is taught using a variety of methods including group work, lecturing and personal research. The type of person who will enjoy Sociology will be someone who enjoys being challenged by new ideas and who likes discussion work, even though discussion only forms part of the subject. There is a lot of reading, writing and individual research to do and for anyone who is interested in the world about us, there is much that is exciting to be discovered.

Course Content

Students study 2 units which include the following topics:

Unit 1:

- Studying Society – An introduction to the GCSE
- The Family: What is the relationship between families and individuals? How are family structures changing?
- Education: What is the role of education? Which groups in society achieve best and why?

Unit 2:

- Crime and Deviance: What is Crime? How and why are certain groups labelled as criminals?
- Mass Media – How important is the mass media in society? Is the mass media a source of power?
- The Sociology of Power – What is power? Who has power to make decisions in our society?
- Social Inequality – How is wealth, status and power shared? Does class affect our life chances?

Assessment

There is no coursework. The GCSE is awarded on the basis of 2 written examination papers (1 ½ hrs each). Unit One will be taken in Year 10 and Unit 2 in Year 11.

Why study Sociology? Opportunities for further study and career pathways:

The Sociology course offers variety, is up-to-date and relevant, giving you a good sense of what Sociology is about and providing a sound basis for progression to further and higher education or to employment. The qualification will enable you to move on to further study and is particularly useful if you want to carry on studying AS/A Level Sociology and related subjects in the Humanities e.g. Law, Media Studies etc. Sociology is a good general subject for students because many professional careers, including medicine, law, teaching and business require students to have some knowledge of Sociology and social theory.

For further information contact: Monique Bertrand, Head of Social Sciences.