

Key Stage: 5

Subject: Sociology

Aims of the subject:

Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life. Do you wonder what fuels our apparent fixation with celebrity? Is it just gossip in a modern form? Is it that it provides endless, easily obtained content for our multiplying TV channels, newspaper pages and magazines? Could it be both? Or even something much more profound about the class system of modern Britain? You may be already thinking 'But class doesn't mean anything anymore'. Are you sure? Why is the number of years you can expect to live still associated with your occupation? What about the way that your gender, religion, and ethnic background open up or close down opportunities in your life? What kinds of spiritual faith do people have in Britain today? And how far do the media affect how personal lifestyle choices are viewed by wider society? These are vital questions. If you become a sociology student you will not be provided with quick answers. What you will discover is how to think about these issues for yourself: what are the questions behind the questions? Generations of students have found that sociology makes them look at the world in new ways and this is why so many of us who teach it feel passionately about it - and why it is still pioneering after more than a hundred years.

What will I study?

Year 1

Education - Theoretical perspectives on education and the role it plays in society. What is the social distribution of achievement? Do all social groups do equally as well at school? What influence do teacher/student relationships have on performance? What government policies influence educational provision?

Work, Poverty and Welfare - We seek to understand the nature, existence and persistence of poverty in contemporary society. Which social groups experience poverty? Which social groups experience affluence? The significance of work and worklessness for people's lives and life chances

Introduction to Research Methods – We investigate how Sociologists do their social research. Do they use quantitative or qualitative methods? What sources of data do they use? What practical, ethical and theoretical issues do researchers have to consider?

Year 2

Crime and Deviance - Theoretical perspectives on crime and deviance, including punishment and control. Who commits crime and why do they do it? What impact does globalisation have on the nature and extent of crime?

Global Development - What are the differences and divisions in the world? Why does global inequality exist and how should humanity deal with it?

Pure Social Theory - We explore all the big social theories that seek to understand and explain human behaviour; consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories.

Examination Board: AQA

Assessed with 3 final end of course exams in Y13

7192/1 – Education with Theory and Methods

7192/2 – Topics Paper, Work Poverty Welfare and Global Development

7192/3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Suggestions for wider reading

For a wide variety of research on poverty, work and welfare see the Joseph Rowntree website

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/>

'Getting By' by Lisa Mckenzie

'Chavs' by Owen Jones

For insight into crime in your area, look at the government website police.co.uk and put in your postcode

'Gang Leader for a Day' – Sudhir Venkatesh