



Course Requirements

Sixth Form Entry Requirement
plus
GCSE English Language - Grade 5

Syllabus

AQA

Who to Contact

Mrs S Smith
Course Leader

Overview

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges your everyday experiences.

It is the study of the relationship between the individual and society. Have you ever wondered why people exhibit certain behaviour? How do we become the people that we are?

Sociology provides an opportunity to develop a better understanding of the social world, by examining social influences, such as, families, schools, friends, and the media. Consideration of how and why such groups and institutions function enables students to explore how individuals both create society and are created by it.

This demanding and fun course aims to develop valuable academic and social skills. It is highly valued and prepares students for a variety of courses in Higher Education which include Law, Politics, Criminology, Social Policy, Nursing and Journalism to name but a few. In fact, any career that involves the interaction of people is one that would benefit from sociological insight! Critical awareness, political literacy and informed opinion are encouraged with the ultimate aim of developing the whole person.

Structure

Year 12

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?

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?

Year 12 cont./

Culture and Identity

We explore different conceptions of culture including, folk culture and mass culture, high and low culture and popular culture and global culture. We examine the socialisation process and the role of the agencies of socialisation in our development of identity and the "self" concept. We also look at the relationship of identity and culture to age, disability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality and social class in contemporary society.

Year 13

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.

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?

The Media

We look at the impact of globalisation on the role of the mass media and global popular culture and the effect of mass media ownership on the media content we consume. We study the way in which the news is socially constructed and how different social groups are represented in the media. We examine the impact of these representations on audiences' understanding of the social world and different groups' experiences within it. We also look at the effect of media content on audiences including the potential harm caused by violent media content. Finally, we look at the role of new media technology in contemporary society.