



Sociology

Advanced General Certificate of Education

Why Sociology?

Sociology can be defined as the systematic study of human action and interaction from a social or group perspective. It can include the study of social structures both big and small. For example, a sociologist could study the ways in which individual teachers engage with individual pupils in the classroom as well as the social policies which lie behind the creation of our current education system.

Sociology is a lively, interesting and often exciting subject to study. It can give you a much greater appreciation of society, and the different groups of people who comprise society. Furthermore, Sociology helps you develop your historical and political understanding of society when considering how and why society might, or might not, change in the future.

The course is very student centred. There is an emphasis upon class discussion, debate and argument. As students are often new to the subject you will be guided on how to become critical thinkers in the field of Sociology. Sociology is a natural complement to many subject areas including the sciences. Indeed Sociologists uncover 'social facts' in the same way that Biologists, Chemists and Physicists uncover 'facts of nature'. It is a subject then that is compatible with all other academic disciplines.

In giving you a greater understanding of the broad social structures that shape human action and interaction, Sociology can lead to a wide variety of careers including areas such as advertising, journalism, the public health sector, law, teaching, police and criminal justice system and the public sector.

Course details:

Awarding body: AQA 2015 specification (7192)

Content:

You will study two core units in each year.

Year 1 Units

Unit 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Unit 2: Families and Households (Topics in Sociology)

Year 2 Units

Unit 1: Beliefs in Society (Topics in Sociology)



Unit 2: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

What you will need to succeed

With all subjects we expect all students to demonstrate a high level of motivation and have the capacity for hard work. However, the most important thing that you need is an interest in why we behave in the way that we do. For most sociologists, behaviour is not natural; it is learned. We are socialised in certain ways and so if you are interested in the processes that shape our sense of self, this subject is for you. You must therefore be prepared to engage in the world around you whether this is through wider reading on a regular basis or watching the news. Students succeed if they understand Sociology at work in the world.

Enrichment Opportunities

Key stage 5 students take advantage of opportunities provided by the school by our wide range of partners. There may be opportunities to hear external speakers and attend master classes at university. We also endeavour to take students on curriculum appropriate trip such as visiting the Birmingham Law Courts or exam board revision days.

Assessment overview

External examinations will take place at the end of year 2 and will consist of three written papers each worth 33.3% of the final examination and lasting 2 hours.

- Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods
- Paper 2: Topics in Sociology
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Specific Entry Requirements:

5 GCSEs (Grades 9-4) including grade 6 in sociology (if taken), grade 5 in English language and grade 4 in mathematics

For further information

Contact Mrs Pape

