

Subject: Sociology

Head of Department: Miss Williams

Curriculum Intent:

The Sociology curriculum aims to inspire students to develop a deep understanding of society in the UK today, analysing how society has arrived at its current position and suggesting how it may continue to evolve. The curriculum is academically rigorous, incorporating scientific, mathematic and subject specific content in order to develop students as critical thinkers and evaluative learners. Learning is framed around the students understanding of the world around them and applying new knowledge to real world examples and contemporary affairs. All students will develop key skills such as analysis, discussion and evaluation and apply their knowledge to a variety of scenarios both inside and beyond the classroom to become truly independent learners, regardless of attainment/background.

The Sociology curriculum is meticulously planned to ensure progression is logically sequenced, allowing students to make synoptic links between topics they are studying to be able to develop a holistic view of society over time. The Sociology department uses EWC to enhance academic and life skills by providing an excellent range of opportunities for all students to deepen their understanding of societal behaviour beyond the classroom. All students are given the opportunity to develop their cultural capital by attending seminars and lectures held by Sociologists and visits to curriculum workshops that are offered by external agencies, sampling careers and future studies within Sociology. We pride ourselves on preparing students to apply their knowledge and skills in all aspects of life, guiding them in their future career pathways.

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Course Content

Amongst other topics students study the following:

- Families and households
- Education
- Theories and methods
- Methods in context
- Beliefs in Society
- Crime and deviance
- Research methods

Year 12 Topics

- Autumn Term – Intro to Sociology, Families and households
- Spring Term – Research methods and education
- Summer Term 1 – Methods in context, theories and methods
- Summer Term 2 – theories and methods, revision

Year 13 Topics

- Autumn Term – Crime and deviance
- Spring Term – Beliefs in society, revision

Assessment

Assessment is through three terminal examinations. Each written exam is 2 hours and comprises of 80 marks in total, weighted as 33.3% of overall A-level. Students will be guided towards their target grade by teacher marking and feedback. They will sit three mid-term assessments in year 12 and three in year 13.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>

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SMSC

Modern British values are at the forefront of the Sociology curriculum. The A Level has strong links to British values and SMSC as it teaches traditional British values as a core element of the course and students actively learn about democracy, individual liberty, rule of law and mutual respect within the topics studied. The nature of the subject means students are encouraged to consider multiple viewpoints, for example by studying perspectives in sociology such as Marxism. This allows students to learn and understand about how society has evolved and consider the rights and wrongs of the society we live in. In year 13, students study 'crime and deviance' giving an in depth view into the British legal system. This gives students an insight into the democratic process which includes the rights and responsibilities of people. The overall aim of Sociology is to encourage students to look at the world in a more critical way and question why society functions in the way that it does. These students are the future workforce of our country, and maybe even further afield, therefore it is essential they have an understanding of how they world has been made into what we see today and how even as individuals they can influence positive change in the future.