Sociology A Level

Course Description:

AQA A Level Sociology (Specification Code: 7192)
The AQA A Level Sociology course offers students a stimulating and comprehensive introduction to the study of society. Designed by subject experts in collaboration with teachers and the British Sociological Association, the course encourages critical thinking, independent research, and analytical skills that are highly valued in higher education and employment.

The course supports progression to university-level study in sociology and related disciplines. It builds transferable skills in research, argumentation, and data interpretation, making it suitable for students from both humanities and science backgrounds.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 or above in both English Language and English Literature are preferred.

Aims of the Course:

The **aims of the AQA A Level Sociology course** as outlined in the specification [aqa.org.uk]:

1. **Develop sociological knowledge and understanding** of contemporary social processes and changes.
2. **Foster critical and reflective thinking**, encouraging respect for social diversity.
3. **Promote awareness of social structure and social action** in explaining social issues.
4. **Encourage active engagement** with the contemporary social world to build sociological awareness.
5. **Appreciate theoretical and conceptual issues** in sociological debate.
6. **Understand and evaluate sociological methodology**, including a range of research methods through practical involvement.
7. **Support personal development**, helping students reflect on identity, roles, and responsibilities within society.
8. **Inspire a lifelong interest in social issues**, cultivating curiosity and informed citizenship.

These aims are intended to prepare students not only for further academic study but also for thoughtful participation in society.

Future Prospects:

A Level Sociology provides a strong foundation for university courses such as Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Social Anthropology, Law, International Relations Cultural Studies, and many more.

It complements subjects in both the humanities and social sciences, making it a versatile choice for interdisciplinary study. Sociology equips students with analytical, research and communication skills that are highly valued across a range of careers, including community development fields, social research, human resources, education, journalism, police and probation, diversity and inclusion; it is a facilitating subject that evidence strong inter-disciplinary skills including critical thinking and research design and interpretation.

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Features of the Course:

- **Exploration of social structures and interactions** through both theoretical and empirical lenses.
- **Consideration of how social contexts, institutions, and cultural norms** influence individual and group behaviour.
- **Application of sociological theories and research methods** to investigate a wide range of social issues.
- **Analysis and interpretation of sociological data sets**, including patterns and trends in society.
- **Critical engagement with cultural values and assumptions**, with a focus on topics such as gender, power, crime, education, and media.
- **Opportunities for students to develop and reflect on their own sociological understanding**, including through extended writing and independent research.

A Level Units

The course is divided into three main components:

1. **Education with Theory and Methods – Year 12**
    - Explores the role and function of education in society.
    - Includes research methods and theoretical perspectives.
2. **Topics in Sociology** (students study one topic from each group):
    - **Option 1**: Culture and Identity, Families and Households, Health, Work, Poverty and Welfare. – Year 12
    - **Option 2**: Beliefs in Society, Global Development, The Media, Stratification and Differentiation. – Year 13
3. **Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – Year 13**
    - Investigates sociological explanations of crime and deviance.
    - Includes advanced theoretical and methodological analysis.

Methods of Assessment:

Students are assessed through three written exams, each lasting 2 hours and contributing 33.3% to the final A-level grade. Exams include a mix of short answer and extended essay questions, with a focus on:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Application of sociological theories
- Analysis and evaluation
- Research methods in context

Please see Mrs Bubbra or Ms Vallance for further information about the Sociology A Level course.