

Curriculum Overview:

Sociology is the study of societies and looks at how people live, behave and work together in groups

In year 11 students will study the second year of the GCSE course in Sociology. They will complete in-depth study of the three following units:

Crime and Deviance;

In this unit students will look at some of the following: crime and deviance look at how people are encouraged to conform to social rules both formal and informal. Students will examine crime by class, age, gender, ethnicity and locality. They will outline different sociological explanations of criminal and deviant behaviour, such as sub-cultural theories, labelling theory and relative deprivation. Students will assess, the usefulness of official crime figures, and self-report and victim studies, Students will look at the ways in which criminal and deviant behaviour has generated public debates in recent years.

Social inequality ; In this unit students will study some of the following topics: describe and explain the nature of stratification as involving the unequal distribution of wealth, income, status and power, analysis of stratification, including class, status and life chances. Identify and describe forms of stratification based on class, gender, ethnicity, age and religion. Look at life chances and describe and explain the relationship between such inequalities and social factors such as class, gender and ethnicity. They will look at different sociological explanations of poverty, be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of such explanations, for example, the cycle of poverty, the culture of poverty, structural explanations, welfare dependency, long-term unemployment and exclusion. Students should be aware of continuities in the recent pattern of inequality.

Mass Media; Some of the topics studied in this unit will be: the relationship between the mass media and audience and how this may be affected by new technologies, the significance of the mass media within the socialisation process and be able to describe, other agents of socialisation, in the development of people's political and social identities and views. Explain the exercise of this power through, for example, agenda setting, the creation and dissemination of positive/negative images of particular groups/ organisations, e.g. environmentalists, animal rights activists and lone parents. Explore the potential significance for the distribution of power of technological developments, such as the internet. Debate the ways in which the media may encourage stereotyping, and be able to describe the process of deviancy amplification, whether media exposure encourages violence.

Homework & Assessments Overview:

Each week students will complete short exam questions and essays for practice.

They will also be given a homework booklet which they complete throughout the year on both the year 10 and 11 course, to prepare for the two linear exams at the end of the two academic years.

Useful Websites:

- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/specification-4190>
- <http://www.onlineclassroom.tv/sociology>
- <http://www.sociologyexchange.co.uk>
- <http://www.tutor2u.net/>

Practical tips / activities for parents to support learning at home:

- Revise all topics regularly using homework booklets
- Developing oral and literacy skills by reading broadsheet newspapers and watching the news regularly.
- Encouraging discussion about different lifestyle choices, family diversity, inequalities in education and government policies.
- Reading and reviewing class work at home after each lesson.
- Using ICT creatively and for independent research.
- Visit the childhood museum, visit relevant places of sociological interest such as the House of Commons and the House of Lords.