



Sociology (AQA)

Sociology A Level (AQA)

Sociology is a challenging and exciting discipline, and its aim is to understand how societies work. It investigates the structures and cultures of different societies throughout the world and throughout history. You'll be looking at culture, education, religion and crime, and you'll probe beneath the surface of society to find out what is actually going on. At the centre of the course is the search for how our identities formed, and how aspects of our identities such as class, gender and ethnicity affect our lives.

Content and Assessment

Module1:Family and Households and Research Methods

Students will examine the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and state policies. They will study the changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation and divorce and the consequences of family diversity on society. The nature and extent of changes in gender roles will be examined focusing on the domestic division of labour and power relationships within the family. The research methods unit looks at the different ways in which sociologists can study society including observations, experiments, questionnaires, interviews and secondary sources such as official statistics.

Module2:Education and Methods Into Context

Students will examine the role and purpose of education including vocational education and training in contemporary society. They will consider differential achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity. Issues to examine also include the relationships and processes within school and the significance of state policies, including selection, comprehensivisation and marketisation, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of education. Students will also look at the application of sociological methods to the study of education including observations, questionnaires, interviews and their relevant advantages and disadvantages.

Module3 Beliefs in Society

Students will examine ideology, science and religion including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions. The relationship between social change and social stability and religious beliefs, practices and organisations. Also identifying religious organisations, including sects and cults and New Age Movements and the relationships that these organisations have with different social groups and religious / spiritual movements. Students consider the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context, and globalisation and the spread of religions.

Module 4- Crime and Deviance.

Theory and Methods Students look at different theories of crime and deviance, social order and social control. The social distribution of crime and deviance, social order and social control-

also identifying patterns across gender, class and ethnicity. Students also look at the impact of globalisation, including state and green crime, human rights and the media. The role of the criminal justice system is also examined as well as surveillance, prevention and punishment. Students re-cap on the research methods they covered in the AS modules and then build on this further and focus on the key theories functionalism, Marxism, feminism, interactionism, postmodernism, social policy and objectivity and values, also questioning whether sociology is a science.

Teaching

You will be taught by two teachers during the Sociology AS course. There will be a range of different methods of teaching from teacher led, group work, pair work, independent research and presentations. Your teachers are passionate about their subject and will do their utmost to engage and enthuse you. Sociology is an academic subject – you will be both challenged and well supported throughout the course.

The Future

Sociology is an interesting academic subject in its own right. It provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of degree and vocational courses. As such an A level in Sociology provides an excellent background for careers in journalism, the caring professions, teaching, management and the police.



Independent Learning

Independent learning tasks in Sociology

1. To make condensed notes from your booklets - this will embed your learning of the subject	
2. To access the stretch and challenge material on bloodle - this material is for those aspiring for an A*/A (which you all should be!!). It contains relevant up to date contemporary sociological examples and studies.	
3. To visit the library and access the Sociology Reviews which are on reference. This contains contemporary and up to date research in sociology which you can impress the examiner by using.	
4. You should watch relevant documentaries such as Dispatches, Panorama, A Child of Our Time. These documentaries often link with the key topic areas you are studying such as Family, Education, Crime and Religion.	
5. Reading broadsheet newspapers and Society sections in these newspapers which again will provide you with up to date key information on the topics you are studying.	
6. Visit relevant sociological / news websites. In particular pay attention to how sociological research is impacting on Social and Government Policy. 7. Follow us on Twitter @BCOldhamSoc Sites to visit include: www.statistics.gov.uk (an excellent website for the latest statistics on crime, education, family structures etc)) http://www.socresonline.org.uk (the most up to date sociological research from universities). http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/social-trends (contains the latest social trends in UK society)	