

Overview

“Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both.” (C Wright Mills)

Sociology can be described as the scientific study of society. It is about the social relationships that people share with each other; in their families, in their schools and in work. Sociology teaches that there are no right or wrong answers when it comes to studying the way that people live together. What is important for a sociologist is the ability to evaluate evidence and choose between possible explanations.

Awarding Organisation:
AQA

Minimum course requirements:
GCSE Grade 4+ in English

More information:
Mr K Prior

Curriculum and assessment

YEAR 12

During this year students begin by studying ‘An introduction to Sociology’. In this part of the course they are introduced to some of the major sociological theories and concepts that frequently occur throughout the course. They then study ‘Families and Households’, as well as ‘Education’ and ‘Theory and Methods’.

ASSESSMENT – Students will have three 2 hour written examinations on:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology – Families and Households – Beliefs in Society

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

YEAR 13

During this year students study ‘Beliefs in Society’. Finally they undertake the study of ‘Crime and Deviance’, together with ‘Theory and Methods’.

Skills that will be developed

- How to research and evaluate complex arguments
- How to use evidence to support your arguments, both orally and in written work
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view fluently
- How to use, interpret and evaluate a wide range of research techniques
- How to work as a team to achieve results
- How to take responsibility for your own learning
- How to organise your work and meet deadlines

Post 18 opportunities

Many students of Sociology go on to study not only Sociology at university, but also a range of other courses such as law, journalism, and social policy. The subject helps develop a range of excellent academic skills, from independent research to detailed analysis of evidence, that will prepare you for many university courses and careers.

Expenses

Students are expected to purchase the following key textbooks:

AQA A Level Sociology: Book One and Book Two by Webb, Westergaard, Trobe and Townend (Napier Press)