
SOCIOLOGY

Anthony Giddens (“Sociology”, 1989) provides the following general definition: “Sociology is the study of human social life, groups and societies. It is a dazzling and compelling enterprise, having as its subject matter our own behaviour as social beings. The scope of sociology is extremely wide, ranging from the analysis of passing encounters between individuals in the street up to the investigation of world-wide social processes”. The course follows the AQA specification.

Examining Board
AQA

Specification
Sociology 7192

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE A LEVEL COURSE.

Please see the Sixth Form Admissions Policy for the entry requirements to this course.

Unit 1: Education with theory and methods

In this unit students will examine:

- Education and research methods in the context of education.
- The role and purpose of education. Differential educational achievement of social groups. Relationships and processes within schools. The significance of educational policies and the application of sociological research methods to the study of education.
- The different ways in which sociologists study society.

Unit 2: Topics in sociology

- Families and Households
- Beliefs in society
- The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change. Family diversity. The nature and extent of changes within the family with reference to gender roles, domestic labour, power relationships and the nature of childhood. Demographic trends in the UK since 1900.
- Beliefs in society-different theories of ideology, science and religion. The study of religious organisations. The relationship between different social groups and religion. The significance of religion in the contemporary world.

Unit 3: Crime and deviance with theory and method

- Crime and deviance, research methods in the context of crime and deviance-different theories of crime and deviance.
- The social distribution of crime. Globalisation and crime in contemporary society-the mass media and crime, green crime; human rights and state crime. Crime control. The sociological study of suicide. The connections between sociological theory and methods to the study of crime and deviance.
- Sociological theory and methods. This section engages students in theoretical debate while encouraging an active involvement with the research process. Students will foster a critical awareness of contemporary social processes and draw together knowledge, understanding and skills learnt in different aspects of the course.

STUDENT VIEWPOINT

Students generally find that the subject challenges their existing views on society. Students require a disciplined approach to the subject as it involves extended essay writing. They are expected to be able think critically about the society in which we live. They will discuss subjects in depth and reflect on their own social experiences. Above all they are expected to participate and interact in a mature manner.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

As this is the study of society and social groups it complements most subjects. It particularly works well with Geography, Media, History, Politics, English and Philosophy & Ethics.

CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

Students of Sociology have a wide range of occupations open to them. It is especially useful for law, medicine, careers in journalism and media, teaching, social work, social policy and research, probation work and prison work.