



Sociology

Overview

The Sociologist's aim is to understand and explain how societies work and why they change. Sociology is the study of human societies and of human behaviour in social settings. It uses social categories (such as class, gender, age, or ethnicity), and various social institutions to look at how humans interact with each other. The A Level course aims to develop skills such as critical thinking, analysis, and essay writing.

Students will follow the OCR Sociology A level course (code H580)

There are three topic areas that you will study as well as studying research methods:

Introducing socialisation, culture, and identity

An introduction to the key themes. Students will develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles, and responsibilities within society, and to develop a lifelong interest in social issues.

Youth subcultures

This focuses on youth as an important period in the socialisation process when individuals are developing a sense of identity within their peer groups. It allows students to explore different types of youth subcultures and the roles they may play in society.

Research methods and researching social inequalities

An introduction to a range of methods and sources of data as well as the factors influencing the design of sociological research and the relationship between theory and methods. Students consider the practical, ethical, and theoretical issues and apply them to the context of social inequalities.

Crime and deviance

In this popular topic you will study the idea that crime is beneficial for society, and that deviance is a social construct. You will explore a range of theories on the causes of crime and criminal behaviour and identity.

Expectations

Students will be expected to purchase core texts that will cover their study, but additional reading and research is also expected. Students can expect to engage in whole class discussions and should be prepared to have their view challenged as well as challenging the viewpoints of others. Daily reading of current affairs is essential as well as keeping up to date with latest developments in society and policy.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities

Opportunities to stretch and challenge students are available. There may be opportunities to attend a variety of external visits such as a trip to the Old Bailey, criminology conference and various student grade-booster workshops.

Entry Requirements

5 subjects or ore at grade 5 and above (including a 5 in Sociology if taken at GCSE).