



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. 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 of socialisation, culture, and identity. This focuses on how we are socialised, types of culture and main aspects of our identity, such as class, age, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality. Students explore how aspects of our identity are changing and whether they are still important.

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. It introduces and reinforces key themes and theories, giving you distinct advantage in later topics.

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. There is a specific focus on explaining trends and sociological perspective views on class, gender, age and ethnic 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. You will investigate the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender, and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime.

Expectations

We expect students interested in the course to attend the induction sessions at the end of the year and complete the task you are set over the summer. Once you start the course in September you will need to purchase a copy of the course textbook. You will also be expected to undertake wider reading around the course and will be provided with a list of recommended readings.

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 Requirement: There are no additional entry requirements to those mentioned in the Sixth Form Prospectus.