



A Level Sociology – U6

Curriculum Intent

Our ambition is to instil a love of Sociology in our students encouraging self confidence and high aspirations. We will make them challenge their understanding of the world and develop a critical and reflective approach to understanding contemporary society that reflects the mission statement of the school. Our students will ask big questions about social issues and in doing so they will develop their sociological imagination, challenging taken for granted assumptions. Our curriculum is diverse covering attractive and engaging topic options that inspire students to learn. Students progress from the the study of research methods used by sociologists and theories developed into synoptic analysis of key social institutions: Education; Families and Households; The Media and Crime and Deviance. These topics promote understanding of culture and socialisation and stratification in society as well as awareness of social inequalities, prejudice and discrimination.

“Sociology was born of the modern ardor to improve society” **Albion Woodbury Small**

Students will learn:

Sociology is the study of society and individuals. It is suitable for students who have open, enquiring minds and enjoy debating contemporary issues. Theoretical and political perspectives are applied to the study of topics listed across.

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Term 4-5:

- The Media
- Crime and Deviance.

These topics examine Mass Media which looks at how news is selected and presented and how the media portrays age, social class, sexuality, ethnicity and disability. The Crime and Deviance module examines theories of crime, deviance and social control including trends in social groups. It also explores crime control and the role of the criminal justice system.

How will we assess impact?

Our teaching will encourage the development and refinement of key evaluative and analytical skills; acquiring knowledge, developing an argument, extended writing, evaluating sources and recognition of how, where and why opinions about sociological issues differ.

These skills will provide the foundation for all future learning and continued interest in the political world.

They will be assessed predominately through timed essay based assessments, linear knowledge tests, classroom discussion and end of year PPEs.

Key Concepts and skills:

Sociological theories and perspectives.

Sociological methods, the design of the research used to obtain the data under consideration, including its strengths and limitations.

- Socialisation
- Culture and identity
- Social differentiation
- Power and stratification.
- Education
- Families and Households
- The Media
- Crime and Deviance

Students will develop key skills such as:

- Refining skills of critical analysis.
- Strengthening independent thinking
- An astute awareness of political issues.
- Showing confidence in the skills required to research successfully.



How can learning be enriched at home?

Students are encouraged to explore the wide variety of online resources listed that complement the course.

www.revisesociology.com

<https://theconversation.com/uk>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/aboutus/>

<https://www.theweek.co.uk/>

<https://baumaninstitute.leeds.ac.uk/this-is-not-an-obituary/>

www.s-cool.com

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05>

<https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=sociology>

What does excellence look like?

The ability to interpret and explain multi-faceted contemporary issues along with their implications for different social groups and societal institutions. Identity and evaluate social problems. Challenge taken for granted assumptions about society and social life. Question the impact and equity of social policy.

Course specific:

Students are introduced to and develop sociological skills and knowledge enabling them to critically analyse and evaluate theories and methods in relation to the integral topics of stratification, power and differentiation as well as culture and socialisation.

Students become reflective thinkers able to recognise and explain social patterns within society, particularly social inequalities, policies and power relationships.

Students know how to conduct sociological research using the most appropriate methods for the research context.

International Opportunities

Internationalism

- Community lectures on international themes
- International Day across the school
- Primary research using student cultural diversity

Diversity within the curriculum

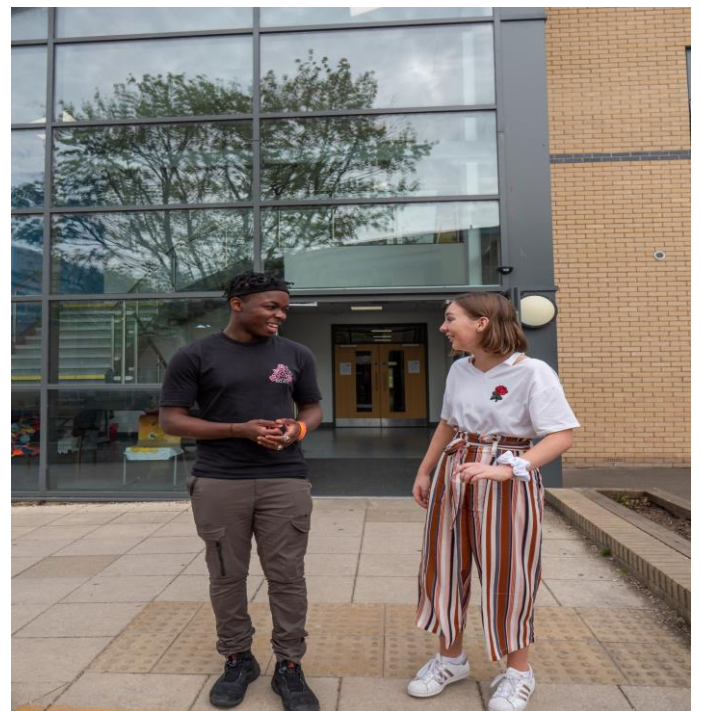
- International comparison of childhood
- Immigration
- Human Rights
- Globalisation and western media imperialism

Wider Impact

Students will recognise the social inequalities around them. They will be compelled to look at power relationships within families, romantic and peer relationships as well as how family life continues to change and diversify.

Students will be driven to question the media as a source of information and consider who constructs their perception of reality and whether this construction is objective. This is particularly relevant in terms of "new" social media. They will be made to question taken for granted assumptions and stereotypes that have become entrenched in our media saturated society.

Students will need to examine the criminal justice system and the validity of crime statistics presented in the media and government documents alongside government policies to prevent crime. They will identify trends in offending behaviour and the social causes and explanations on the basis of class, gender and ethnicity



"Modern sociology is virtually an attempt to take up the larger program of social analysis and interpretation which was implicit in Adam Smith's moral philosophy, but which was suppressed for a century by prevailing interest in the technique of the production of wealth."

Albion W. Small