

A-Level Sociology

Mrs Mcloughlin - Curriculum Leader for Social Sciences

Ms Kingscott – Teacher of Sociology

Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issue and culture, identity religion, crime families and social power.

More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question 'why has society developed like this, with poverty, ignorance crime and justice?'



Course Content

A-level Sociology lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year.

First year of A-level	Second year of A-level
Education	Crime and Deviance
Research Methods	Beliefs in Society
Methods in Context	Theory and Methods
Families and Households	

How the course is assessed

For the A level course there are 3 written papers.

The three written papers last 2 hours each and cover topics all of Year 12 and all of Year 13 content

- Each paper is marked out of 80 . Total point score is 240
- Paper 1 and Paper 3 are synoptic papers and draw on knowledge covered whilst studying sociology over 2 years. They both have a mixture of short and longer answer question including a 30 mark essay question

What can be expected from lessons in sociology

- Engaging lessons that stretch and challenge.
- Sociology consists of a lot of theory so there are learning check and application tasks.
- Regular assessment in addition to required PPE's
- 5 hours of lessons a week.
- 3 hours minimum additional reading and tasks outside of lesson.
- Study room sessions to support you further.

Things that we are doing in sociology to support learning

- Setting homework that encourages recall and additional research.
- Assessing student progress through in class activities, exam question assessments and exam question homework.
- Identifying gaps in understanding and filling those gaps so that success is in every students' grasp.

Course Information

The exam board: AQA Sociology

The units on offer:

Education and Research Methods: Students will learn about how the education system works and the impact it has on different social class and ethnic groups. It will also consider the impact that gender has on both attainment and subject choice. Throughout students will consider the different research methods that have been used to study these aspects of education and explore different sociological views on the impact that education has on both society and the individual.

Families and Households and Beliefs in Society: Students will learn about the different types of families and households that exists today and consider the impact that they have on both individuals and society today. They will move onto consider a range of beliefs that are used in society to help us construct our identity and shape our behaviour. There will be a particular focus on religious beliefs. Sociological theory will be an integral part of both topics.

Crime and Deviance: Students will learn about all aspects of the criminal justice system and the impact it has on individuals within society. They will also explore a range of possible theories that might help to explain both criminal and deviant behaviour, as well as solutions to reduce crime. The research methods used by sociologists will be considered, and as in the other two papers, sociological theory will be a theme that runs through the whole topic.

How the course is assessed: 3 exam papers. 2 hours each. 80 marks each.

Extra-curricular opportunities attached to this course: Old Bailey Central Criminal Court, Criminology conference led by eminent sociologists and psychologists, revision seminars run by Tutor2U at Westfield, talks from journalists and politicians relating to sociological issues e.g. Seven Up BBC Documentary, visit the Office of National Statistics, experience days allowing students to 'be a sociologist for a day'

Where can sociology take you?

Sociology major jobs include careers in human services administration, counseling, journalism, public office, law enforcement, probation work , social work or education. A sociology degree is also a great starting point for an advanced degree in sociology, psychology, or public research

Why study sociology at Ruislip High School Sixth Form?

You will take away from Sociology a completely different way of thinking about the world and you will begin to question things you have always taken for granted. You will be taught by very experienced specialist sociologists, who have been examiners for AQA (the exam board you will take) for many years, and who have an impressive track record of results.

Students are passionate about the subject and many go on to study sociology and or criminology at university. Students will have the opportunity to attend a variety of courses and conferences during their two years on this course. We use a wide variety of teaching methods – lectures, discussions, student presentations, role-play, video material and study packs. You will study an A level subject that is interesting and relevant to your life.

Past Student Success



Khadra Mohamed
A*

Went on to read
Social Sciences at
University College
London



Missy Goodchild
A*

Went on to read
Media at university



Sahib Rahman
A

Went on to read
Media at university



Alex Meredith
A

Went on to read
Politics at the
University of York

Associated Trips and Activities

Sample Agenda for the Criminology Conference and visit to The Metropolitan Police Headquarters (2019); sociology students visit this as part of the course

A Rusty Gun: Facing Up To a Life of Crime: *Noel 'Razor' Smith*

Hear an extraordinarily vivid account of how a tearaway kid from South London became a professional bank robber.

The psychology of lie detection: *Dr. Zoe Walkington*

Take a look at the criminal investigations and the pressures and issues affecting both suspects and police investigators. Consider some of the key areas where psychologists have studied investigative processes; students will 'have a go' at certain elements of an investigation, for example, finding out how good they are at detecting deception in others.



The Old Bailey, Central Criminal Court

Visit London's Old Bailey (officially called the Central Criminal Court) to see for yourselves how the justice system works. Watching a trial unfold or come to a conclusion at the Old Bailey will allow you the opportunity to see the justice system in action. Students will experience the public gallery and watch the jury work within the setting of the courtroom. Sociology students have been present at trials for fraud, theft and murder including the famous 'phone hacking trial' and other high profile cases.

