

GCSE Sociology



Exam Board:

AQA

Course Outline:

Sociology at GCSE involves the study of Modern Britain. Pupils discuss issues focusing on society's institutions and examining the effects they have on people's lives. Pupils are encouraged to be critical and to test their ideas by using sociological evidence and methods. The course involves studying the ways people live their lives and the reasons for the choices they make. Pupils on the course enjoy discussing and debating topical issues, read widely around the subjects and enjoy essay writing to communicate the debate.

The following topics are studied:

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education (50% of GCSE)

- **The sociology of families**- What does 'family' mean in contemporary Britain? What are the family's functions? Is the family unit changing?
- **The sociology of education**- What are the roles and functions of education? What is the relationship between education and capitalism? Which factors affect educational achievement?
- **Social theory and methodology**- What are the debates in sociology? How have sociological knowledge and ideas changed over time? What are the different sociological structures, social processes and social issues? How is sociological research methods used?

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification (50%) of GCSE

- **The sociology of crime and deviance**- What are the different forms of social control? What factors affect criminal and deviant behaviour? How useful are the main sources of data on crime?
- **The sociology of social stratification**- What are the different views on factors affecting life chances? Why is there poverty? Who has power in society?
- **Areas of social theory and methodology**- What are the debates in sociology? How have sociological knowledge and ideas changed over time? What are the different sociological structures, social processes and social issues? How is sociological research methods used?

Method of assessment:

2 x 1 hour 45 minutes exam papers.

Both exams take place at the end of year 11.

Exam: 100%

Controlled Assessment: None

Post 16 Progression:

The study of Sociology at GCSE provides an excellent basis for going on to study the subject at AS and A level in the Sixth Form. It will be useful for any career where you are dealing with people and need to

understand their behaviour - for example; retailing, business, management, social work, police, local and central government.

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