



## QUALIFICATION: A-LEVEL

### **Awarding Body:**

AQA

### **Length of Course:**

2 Years

Sociology is the study of society and is an extremely popular subject at A level both at St. Anthony's & St Aidan's Sixth form and also across the country. It is an academic subject which looks at how people live, behave and work together in groups. It is a dynamic subject which encourages students to consider the wider world and relative social and political issues. Many of its theories offer an enduring analysis of the society in which we live today.

Throughout the two year course, the core themes of socialisation, culture and identity, social differentiation, power and stratification are considered as an integral part of all modules. All modules are tested by examination.

### **Year 12**

#### **AS**

**Unit 1: Education with Methods in Context/Theory and Methods**

### **Year 13**

#### **A2**

**Unit 2: Topics in Sociology Beliefs in society**

In this unit we examine the role and purpose of education in our society, study different educational achievements of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity, look at relationships and processes within schools, with particular references to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil subculture and the hidden curriculum and also focus on the significance of state policies on education.

We also study the range of research methods used by sociologists to understand processes in Education, and the theories which underpin

### **Unit 2: topics in Sociology, Families and Households/Research Methods**

This unit covers theories on the role of the family in modern society, changes to the family and household structure, changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, divorce and child-bearing, the diversity of contemporary families and changes within the family e.g. gender roles, domestic labour and status of children and childhood.

We also study the range of research methods used by sociologists to understand social life, including qualitative and quantitative methods.

Religion: looking at the relationship between religion and social change, study and classify religious organisations including Churches, Sects, Cults, New Age movements and try to answer the question, 'Is the world becoming more secular?'

Students will also look at the rise of fundamentalism and discuss the issue of the clash of civilisations.

### **Unit 3: Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods**

This is a very popular module. Students will examine different explanations of crime, look at the distribution of crime

and deviance

by age, class, ethnicity and gender, consider societal reactions to crime and deviance, including the role of the mass media.

Students also study the relatively new area of Globalisation and crime including analysis of state crime and green crime. Students also focus on sociological studies of suicide, crime control, prevention and punishment as well as examining victims and the role of the CJS (e.g. Stephen Lawrence).

We also study the range of research methods used by sociologists to understand crime and deviance, and the theories which underpin them.

### **Assessment**

Sociology is assessed at the end of A2 in three separate papers. Paper 1 covers Education, Methods in Context and Theory and Methods. Paper 2 covers Families and Households and Beliefs in Society and Paper 3 will cover Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods. Each of these exams is two hours in length. Each exam is typically a mixture of 'short answer' essay questions and extended writing.

Students will be expected to work individually, in pairs and in groups and also to present ideas and theories and participate in debates where relevant. A significant amount of independent study and dedication to wider reading is required. The department has a stock of DVDs and students are also expected to watch quality news programmes on a regular basis, read broadsheets occasionally and contribute to weekly starter tasks on 'Sociology in the News' where issues which are relevant to the subject and can effectively be used in essay answers are discussed. No prior knowledge of Sociology is required to study the subject at this level.

Sociology prepares students well for a career in education, social work, the legal system, the police, marketing, the media and many other areas. Sociologists are highly employable e.g. 3 years after graduation, the proportion of social sciences graduates in employment is higher than those graduates of STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths).

A higher proportion are in managerial or senior official roles than STEM or arts-humanities graduates.

## RELEVANCE TO FURTHER STUDIES AND CAREERS

Sociology combines well with both Arts and Science subjects and the course content appeals to a very wide variety of students from very diverse academic backgrounds. It is readily accepted by virtually all University departments for entry onto a wide variety of degree courses - many of which require the development of interpersonal skills. In the past, students have moved on to diverse destinations and several students each year will continue their study of Sociology at university. The focus on improving essay writing across the two years of this course are an excellent preparation further academic work.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is not necessary for pupils to have studied GCSE Sociology course in order to begin the A-Level course. However as the subject is based heavily around reading and essay writing, students are required to usually have a 5 in English at GCSE

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