A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?
For this subject you will be expected to attain at least a Grade 6 in a Humanities subject if Sociology has not been studied at GCSE. If Sociology has been studied at GCSE you will be required to have achieved a minimum Grade 6. You will also need Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and a minimum Grade 4 in Mathematics. Essay writing and the examination of research scenarios are common themes in Sociology. It is not necessary to have experience of GCSE Sociology to start this A Level.

What will I study in Sociology?
Have you ever wondered why things are the way they are? Why are some people more likely to commit crime than others? Why girls do better than boys at school? Why once poor you may always be poor? What impact has religion had on society?

In simple terms, Sociology is concerned with society and the individuals within it. The subject matter deals with a range of different perspectives and the views they have on a wide range of social issues, structures in society and ways in which we can research them.

In the first year you will study "Education with Theory and Methods" and "Families and Households".

In the second year you will study "Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods" and "Beliefs in Society".

How will I be assessed?
There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course.

It has been said that the examination questions do not change from year to year but the answers do! To some extent this is true, because society does change over time and this is reflected in the examination.

The external examination papers consist of a mixture of opportunities for extended writing with essay questions alongside data response as well as research methods in context questions.

Literacy
Sociology includes a wide range of subject specific terms that you will be expected to learn and use in both written assessment and oral work. You will therefore need to develop a glossary of key terms to use in your written work throughout the course. A successful Sociology student is a student with highly developed literacy skills.

How will I study?
Lessons will vary in style depending on the topic being studied and will involve class discussion, making notes, supported self-study, working in groups and detailed examination preparation. Homework will reflect the wide range of learning opportunities set on a regular basis and is used, in addition to tests, to monitor your progress.

You will be expected to make full use of your non-contact time. The Library has a well-stocked reference section, subscriptions to several specialist journals and a wide range of other materials. Audio-visual, computer software and web-sites are used to enhance learning strategies.

You cannot expect to do well in Sociology unless you are prepared to undertake extensive wider reading around the subject into perspectives and research undertaken by Sociologists.

What does the subject combine well with?
Most obviously with other Social Science subjects, but also with History, Geography and Religious Studies. It can also be studied alongside English Literature, English Language and Drama.

Many students have gone on to study Sociology at University. Some have even become teachers of Sociology!