



Head of subject: **Ms Midwinter**

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and a Grade 6 in a GCSE Humanities subject

Sociology

What will you study?

Sociology is the systematic study of groups of people in society. You will study the world in which you live and begin to understand how societies differ. We look at why people behave the way they do and how socialisation (experiences) into a culture impacts on their identity. We will look at the impact that institutions and agencies such as the Government, Education, Media and the Criminal Justice System have on us. We will look at the changing structure of British families today, and the growth of lone parents and single sex families. We will look at explanations for rises in particular crimes over the past 50 years, especially crime relating to knife and drug gangs. We will look at patterns of offending amongst certain groups differentiated by age, gender, ethnicity or social class. You will learn about sociological research on a variety of social issues such as: why some children succeed in the education system and some do not, and racial discrimination in the police force.

What will you study in Year 12?

During the first year, you will be introduced to Sociology Theory and Research Methods. The two key topic elements are Families and Households, and the Education system.

What will you study in Year 13?

During the second year, we will look in greater depth at theoretical debates in Sociology and make links to our society today. The two key topics throughout the second year are Crime & Deviance and Mass Media. We will consider the news as a social construction and look for evidence of bias in news reports. We will look at how new technologies have led to a more active media audience, and consider whether this will lead to a more democratic society. We will study all aspects of Crime and Deviance, for instance the reasons for the 2011 London Riots and who should be held responsible for the Grenfell Tower Fire.

How will you be assessed?

Over the two years, formative and summative assessment will be used to prepare for the A Level examinations.

At the end of the second year of A level you will be examined on:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	2hrs
Paper 2: Families and Households and Mass Media (2 separate topics)	2hrs
Paper 3: Crime & Deviance with Theory and Methods	2hrs

Where will this course lead?

There are numerous career choices with a Sociology Degree, these include: Journalism, Criminology, Civil Servant, Teaching, Nursing, Social Work, Human Resources or any career where there is a high level of involvement with other people. Sociology A level complements and supports a variety of degrees at university.

Enrichment

As part of the school enrichment programme, you will have the opportunity to carry out research of your own, on a topic of your choice. You may arrange visits to observe areas such as the courts, nurseries or schools. We have a wide collection of books in our sociology library as well as quarterly copies of the Sociology Review magazine.

Extra-curricular

A range of extra-curricular activities are offered; in previous years we have visited the Royal Courts of Justice, attended the A Level Criminology Conference in London and benefitted from visiting speakers, such as BBC journalist Ben Ando and the Essex probation Service.

Further information

Examinations from 2015 AQA Syllabus

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>