Sociology

Course Objectives	This qualification aims to introduce students to key concepts and core themes of Sociology and to encourage them to develop their understanding and sociological awareness by engaging with contemporary issues
Main qualifications	A Level
Awarding Body	AQA
Duration / Lessons per week	2 years x10 lessons per fortnight
Entry requirements	Minimum Grade 5 English Language
Progression opportunities	This qualification is suitable for anyone who has an interest in society and social policy. The course reflects on social issues and attempts to explain social inequalities in relation to social class, gender, age and ethnicity. Students studying topics of Education, Crime and Deviance, Families and Households and Social Stratification; analysing and assessing a wide range of sociological perspectives. Students study how societal trends are shaping human behaviour and are encouraged to think deeply and analytically. Students undertake studying of the research methods that underpin Sociological theory, and can practically undertake and assess the usefulness of these in a variety of topics. This qualification is an excellent foundation for the study of Sociology or Criminology in higher education, or for those intending to pursue a career in any of the social sciences. Sociology has links to careers within Journalism, public services,

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education Business and Marketing and Human resource management. and There are strong crosscurricular links with a range of subjects including; Psychology, Politics, Business and Criminology.

Course Content

The A level course comprises three units.

Unit 1; Education with Theory and Methods
In this unit students study:

- Sociological explanations for the role and purpose of education
- Sociological views on patterns of achievement in education
- Relationships and processes in school
- The impact of educational policies on school and education
- The application of research methods to the topic of education
- Primary and secondary research methods and Sociological theory
- Practical, ethical and theoretical considerations in undertaking research

Unit 2; Topics in Sociology

In this unit students study:
Families and Households

- The relationship of the family to the social structure and society
- Changing patterns of family life and social trends
- Gender roles, power relationships and the nature of childhood
- Demographic trends and patterns; exploring data and assessing sociological explanations

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Social Stratification

- Stratification and differentiation by class, gender, ethnicity, age and disability
- Problems of defining dimensions of identity and the changing nature of identity
- The impact of globalisation on changing social stratification
- The extent to which there is social mobility within society

Unit 3; Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

In this unit students study:

- Causes and effects of crime, deviance and sociological explanations
- The patterns and distributions of crime by class, gender, ethnicity, age and location
- Analysis of patterns of crime through official crime statistics, media and studying the role of the police and judiciary
- The impact of globalisation on patterns of crime - Assessing policies and approaches designed to reduce and police crime
- The relationship between theory and methods
- The extent to which Sociology is scientific, value free and objective
- How social policies are developed

Assessment

Students are assessed through three externally assessed examinations;

Unit 1 - Education with theory and methods - 80 marks 2 hours
Unit 2 - Topics in Sociology - 80 marks 2 hours
Unit 3 - Crime and Deviance with theory and methods - 80 marks 2 hours

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Costs	None
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