

Strategic Overview of Curriculum

Sociology

Curriculum Intent

GCSE Sociology enables students to explore how society shapes people's lives and how individuals can influence the society around them. Students investigate key social institutions such as families, education and the criminal justice system, while developing an understanding of inequality, power and social change. Through the study of different sociological perspectives and research methods, students learn to question assumptions, analyse evidence and evaluate competing viewpoints.

The curriculum encourages students to become informed, reflective and critical thinkers who can engage with contemporary social issues in Britain and the wider world. Students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to construct reasoned arguments, interpret data, evaluate evidence and communicate informed judgements.

Through the study of Families, Education, Crime and Deviance, Social Stratification and Research Methods, students gain a deeper understanding of social structures, social processes and social inequalities. They learn how sociologists investigate society and how evidence can be used to explain patterns of behaviour, challenge stereotypes and understand social change.

The curriculum provides strong preparation for further study at A Level Sociology and equips students with transferable skills valued across a wide range of careers, including communication, analysis, research, evaluation and problem-solving.

Sociology Year 11

Career Links

-  Policing & Criminal Justice
-  Law
-  Teaching & Education
-  Journalism & Media
-  Social Work
-  Research & Data Analysis
-  Health & Community Services

GCSE Sociology Skills

-  Interpret evidence and statistics
-  Analyse trends and patterns
-  Apply sociological theories
-  Evaluate different viewpoints
-  Construct arguments and debates
-  Write extended GCSE answers

4. Power

Big Question: Who holds the power in society?

3. Life Chances

Big Question: Do we all have the same opportunities in life?

1. Social Stratification

Big Question: Is society fair?

2. Social Class and Inequality

Big Question: Does social class still matter today?

Character Strengths

-  Respect - understanding the experiences of different groups in society.
-  Integrity - exploring honesty, responsibility and moral choices.
-  Confidence - discussing and debating controversial issues respectfully.
-  Curiosity - investigating why crime occurs and how society responds.

3. Criminal and Deviant Behaviour

Big Question: Who is most likely to commit crime and why?

1. The Social Construction of Crime and Deviance

Big Question: Who decides what is criminal or deviant?

STRATIFICATION

4. Data on Crime

Big Question: Can we trust crime statistics?

2. Social Control

Big Question: How does society encourage people to follow the rules?

CRIME



Subject Intent	Year 11 Sociology develops students into confident and independent thinkers who can explain and evaluate key sociological ideas about modern British society. Building on the knowledge gained in Year 10, students study Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification while revisiting Family and Education throughout the year. Students learn to analyse evidence, compare different sociological perspectives, use subject-specific vocabulary and construct well-supported arguments.				
Rationale	The Year 11 curriculum consolidates and extends students' understanding of the AQA GCSE Sociology specification through a carefully sequenced programme of study. The curriculum develops students' ability to apply sociological theories, analyse evidence and evaluate different perspectives with increasing confidence. A consistent focus on disciplinary literacy, exam technique and extended writing ensures students are well prepared for GCSE success and progression to A Level Sociology and other social science pathways.				
	WHAT? Students study Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification while revisiting Family and Education in relation to these topics. They explore how society is organised, why inequalities exist, how crime is explained and controlled, and how sociologists investigate social issues. HOW? Students learn through case studies, current affairs, discussion, independent enquiry, retrieval practice, exam-style questions, data analysis and extended writing. Regular practice of 4-, 8- and 12-mark questions develops confidence in applying knowledge, analysing evidence and evaluating different sociological perspectives. WHY? Studying Sociology helps students understand the society they live in and the factors that shape people's lives, opportunities and experiences. It develops critical thinking, communication, research and evaluation skills that prepare students for GCSE success, A Level Sociology and a wide range of future careers.				
Topics					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Crime and Deviance - cause	Crime and Deviance - data	Stratification –social class	Stratification -poverty	Revision	Revision and Exam
Assessment					
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
4,6,12 mark questions	End of unit paper	4,6,12 mark questions	End of unit paper	Practice papers	Exam
Homework					
Students will use a range of resources including past exam questions, SENECA and Tutor2u resources to complete their homework					

Sociology References

Key Stage 2 Kent Agreed Syllabus -

The Kent Agreed Syllabus develops pupils' understanding of religions and worldviews through enquiry, discussion and reflection, encouraging them to ask significant questions, explore different perspectives and communicate informed responses. These skills provide a strong foundation for GCSE Sociology. Students build on their understanding of identity, diversity, values and communities as they investigate how families, education, crime and inequality shape people's lives. The enquiry, analysis and evaluation skills developed through the Kent Agreed Syllabus transfer directly to Sociology, where students use evidence to explain, interpret and evaluate social issues

Key Stage 3 Kent Agreed Syllabus

The Key Stage 3 Religion and Worldviews curriculum builds on the Kent Agreed Syllabus by developing students' understanding of identity, beliefs, values and the diverse society in which they live. Through the study of morality, prejudice, discrimination, conflict, human rights, relationships and social justice, students explore how beliefs, culture and society influence individuals and communities. Alongside this knowledge, they develop the disciplinary skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation, comparison and evaluation, learning to consider different viewpoints and support their ideas with evidence. These skills transfer directly to GCSE Sociology, where students investigate families, education, crime, social inequality and the ways in which society shapes people's lives.

KS4 GCSE : AQA Sociology

GCSE Sociology prepares students for the increased challenge of A Level Sociology by developing both subject knowledge and disciplinary skills. Students build a secure understanding of key sociological theories, research methods and contemporary social issues whilst becoming increasingly confident in analysing evidence, evaluating different explanations and constructing balanced arguments. This progression enables students to study society in greater depth and prepares them for the demands of Key Stage 5.

KS5 A' level : AQA Sociology

GCSE Sociology provides the foundation for the greater depth and independence required at A Level. Students move from understanding key sociological concepts and applying different perspectives to analysing complex social issues using a wider range of evidence and theory. They develop increasingly sophisticated skills in interpretation, analysis, evaluation and extended writing, learning to construct balanced arguments supported by sociological evidence. By the end of Key Stage 4, students are equipped to think critically about society, question assumptions and engage confidently with the more demanding theoretical and research-based study of Sociology at Key Stage 5.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-level/sociology-7191/specification>

Further reading and national bodies/ homework log in's

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/students/gcse/aqa-gcse-sociology>