

Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form

KS5 CURRICULUM

Course Title: **A Level Sociology**

Examination Board: AQA



Entry Requirements: Please see Entry Requirements in the Application Form.

Assessment: Sociology is assessed by three 2 hour examinations at the end of year 2. The exams include a range of short answer question and stimulus material along with questions requiring extended, essay writing skills.

Is This Course Right For Me?

Sociology is the study of individuals and groups and the way in which they act together in society. It is an excellent option choice because it is about you, me and the world in which we all live! If you have an interest in people and the different influences on our behaviour, then this is the course for you! We look at issues such as how our families and friends influence our behaviour, and we also study the most effective ways for researching human behaviour.

Example of university courses and grades required

- **Plymouth university:** Bsc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology: BBB
- **University of Birmingham:** BA (Hons) Sociology and Childhood Studies: ABB
- **Coventry university:** BA (Hons) Sociology and Criminology: BBC
- **Royal Holloway:** LLB Law and Sociology: AAB

Unit Contents:

PAPER 1 (2 hrs, 33.3%)

Education

Including the role and purpose of education in contemporary society; differential educational achievement of groups by social class, gender and ethnicity; relationships and processes in schools, e.g. pupil subcultures; educational policy.

Research Methods

Understanding the research procedure used in sociological research (design, procedure, analysis and evaluation) within the context of education.

PAPER 2 (2 hrs, 33.3%)

Families and Households

Including changing patterns of marriage, divorce, and childbearing; contemporary family structures; changes of gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships; the nature of childhood; demographic trends in the UK.

Beliefs

Including perspectives of religion; functions of religion (consensus / conflict, as a source of stability / change); social groups and religiosity; religion in the contemporary world; the nature and extent of secularisation.

PAPER 3 (2 hrs, 33.3%)

Crime and Deviance

Including perspectives of crime; social groups and patterns of criminal behaviour; media representation of crime; globalisation, state and green crime; punishment and victims.

Theory and Methods

Sociological perspectives of society; the relationship between sociology and science; sociology, objectivity and value freedom; and sociology and social policy.

The course is designed to allow you to develop a fairly in depth understanding of six key areas of sociology – Education, Research Methods, Families and Households, Beliefs, Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods. We study both historical and contemporary evidence which helps to further our understanding of how these groups influence our behaviour.

Progression:

Because 'society' is such a broad field of study, a Sociology qualification supports lots of different higher education choices, in addition to supporting many career areas.

Some people may enter into careers in social work, foreign aid, or child welfare. Some sociologists focus on crime and deviance and conduct studies of juvenile delinquents, female criminals, or other subgroups of offenders which could prepare people for careers in law or the police force. Many people study sociology because they want to develop better ways of educating young people and therefore may enter into teaching or lecturing. Other possible areas include journalism and business management, where it is essential to have a good understanding of the behaviour of individuals and groups in society.

Further Information Contact:

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