Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form
KS5 Curriculum



A Level
Sociology

Course Title:
Sociology

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE English

Examination Board
AQA

Assessment:
Sociology is assessed by three 2 hour examinations at the end of year 2.
The exams include a range of short answer questions 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.

A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

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.

The Media
Including new media; ownership and control of the media; media representations (gender & sexuality, ethnicity, social class, disability, age and social class); globalisation and the media as a form of social control.

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 bett er 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.

Examples of university courses and grades required:

- Plymouth University: Bsc (Hons)Psychology andSociology: BBB
- University ofBirmingham: BA (Hons)SociologyandChildhood Studies: ABB
- Coventry University: BA (Hons) Sociology and Criminology: BBC
- Royal Holloway: LLB Law and Sociology: AAB

Further Information Contact:
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