



Willingdon

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM BOOKLET

Sociology

Our School Curriculum Vision

To provide a curriculum fit for their future, building on the successes of their past. (Ready for post 16 and life) which allows our students to be safe, happy, well informed global citizens who have experienced a 5 - year progressive and dynamic curriculum where students have the opportunity to aspire and achieve and who embody the school's values of 'Personal Excellence' through a broad and balanced curriculum which is inclusive and reflective of our local needs.

Subject Vision

Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life. Sociologists conduct research, look for patterns and trends and seek to think through issues for themselves.

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways.

The course helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world.

The skills developed through the study of Sociology encompass all the traits that employers most value; working independently, thinking through problems, finding and analysing evidence, teamwork, analytical thinking and the ability to accurately and persuasively articulate their points.

Key Concepts in Sociology

Sociology has something for everyone and encourages discussion of opinions, thoughts and ideas supported with evidence-based research and resources.

Students will be expected to...

- draw on information and evidence from different sources and demonstrate the ability to synthesise them
- analyse and evaluate different research methods used in sociological investigations and assess, critically, the appropriateness of their use
- analyse and evaluate information and evidence presented in different written, visual and numerical forms
 - apply their understanding to explore and debate the current sociological issues outlined in each of the topic areas
- use sociological theories and evidence to compare and contrast social issues, construct reasoned arguments and debates, make substantiated judgements and draw conclusions
- draw connections between the different topic areas studied.

Mastering the concepts in sociology links to three key assessment objectives at GCSE level...

Assessment Objectives

AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.

AO2 Apply knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.

AO3 Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods to construct arguments, make judgements and draw conclusions.

Programme of Study

Key Stage 4

The GCSE course is separated into four units, throughout which, sociological perspectives, theory and methodology are the recurring themes. Students can expect to also cover a range of sociological research methods in both primary and secondary data collection and analysis.

Year 10 students will cover...

Family & Education

Unit One – Family

- Functions of families
- Family forms
- Conjugal role relationships
- Changing relationships within families
- Criticisms of families
- Divorce

Unit Two – Education

- Roles and functions of education
- The relationship between education and capitalism
- Educational achievement
- Processes within schools

Year 11 students will cover...

Unit Three - Crime and deviance

- The social construction of crime and deviance
- Social control
- Criminal and deviant behaviour
- Data on crime

Unit Four- Social stratification

- Functionalist theory of stratification
- Socio-economic class
- Life chances
- Poverty as a social issue
- Power and authority
- Power relationships

They will also look at sociological research methods:

- Research design
- Qualitative and quantitative methods
- Different types of data
- Primary and secondary sources
- Interpretation of data
- Practical issues
- Ethical issues

Options Booklet Entry

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

What's assessed

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE Questions

Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses. Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

What's assessed

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE Questions

Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses. Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Assessment Plan for Key Stage 4

The course is organised into units, which follow the AQA exam board scheme of work.

Throughout their GCSE students will be supported to learn the appropriate knowledge, skills and terminology which will allow them to be successful in their final examinations.

In order to fully prepare students, teachers will regularly set exam style questions in class and for homework. At the end of each unit the students' progress will be assessed with an end of unit test.

Following unit tests, detailed feedback is given to students in order that they can make improvements.

In year, 10 students will complete unit tests on:

- Unit One - Family
- Unit Two – Education

Towards the end of Year 10 students complete mock exams. These will take the format of the GCSE examinations.

In Year 11 the programme of study is:

- Unit Three – Crime & Deviance
- Unit Four – Social stratification

There are further mock exams around Christmas, which help us to determine the revision support plans for each student, each year.

Literacy in Sociology

As an academic subject, students taking sociology GCSE must be highly literate.

Retention of key words is critical to successfully understanding and articulating the issues being discussed.

We follow a simple structure to help students sequence their writing, so that over time they can create meticulous single and multiple paragraph answers.

We encourage reading through non-fiction subject texts and newspapers to support the learning of vocabulary and relevant contemporary developments in society.

Numeracy in Sociology

Statistical analysis is a fundamental part of understanding patterns and trends within social issues. Students will build confidence in using a variety of data presentation techniques to evidence their opinions and writing. Students will analyse multiple data types in order to understand how to execute reliable and impactful research.

Such numeracy skills are highly valued at A level and university. This also supports students in their core subject study of Maths and Science, where data manipulation, finding and explaining data and reporting is a requirement.

Raising aspirations in Sociology

We always have the highest expectations of our students and endeavour to support them from their first lesson onwards. We do this in a number of ways.

- Designing the curriculum to involve a variety of learning techniques in lessons.
- Differentiating work so that all students can access the learning and feel challenged in their work.
- Offering homework support
- Bespoke intervention programmes to help guide them through their revision.

Broadening horizons in Sociology

Many students' study sociology for the personal enrichment it brings them, broadening their minds and enabling them to see their world in new and interesting ways.

GCSE sociology students gain a variety of very valuable skills as well as insights into the workings of society. Therefore, it is not surprising that a wide range of employers see a Sociology qualification as being highly relevant.

UCAS cites "Whether you're looking for a graduate position, or planning on going straight into work, employer surveys continue to emphasise the need to have good key skills, transferable skills, the ability to network, and above all, the right attitude."

An understanding of these aptitudes is intrinsic to the study of GCSE sociology.



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