

Sociology

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Curriculum Intent

At Forge Valley, our sociology curriculum fosters a love of learning through engaging and challenging experiences. Students develop as independent, resilient and inquisitive thinkers, gaining a strong understanding of society, others and themselves. They are encouraged to question assumptions, think critically and build cultural awareness, preparing them for higher education or the workplace.

In Year 12, students learn core sociological concepts (e.g. norms, values, socialisation) and key theories such as functionalism, Marxism, feminism, interactionism and postmodernism. They apply these to topics including culture and identity and education. In Year 13, students build on this foundation, studying crime and deviance and the media, while deepening their understanding of research methods and theory. Over the two-year course, students develop as critical thinkers who can evaluate real-world issues. The curriculum promotes equality, diversity and global awareness, helping students become respectful and confident citizens.

Students' cultural capital is enriched through wider reading, research, documentaries and external speakers. Those interested in further study are supported with university-level materials. Overall, the course equips students with the knowledge and skills to succeed and make a positive contribution to society.

	Core Knowledge	Procedural Knowledge
Year 12	Sociology Theories Education Families Sociological Methods	- Applying theories and concepts to questions or real-life examples - Analysing and evaluating arguments (e.g. strengths and weaknesses of perspectives like Marxism or feminism) - Interpreting data (graphs, statistics, research findings) - Using evidence effectively to support points - Writing structured exam answers (e.g. 10- or 20-mark essays with clear arguments and evaluation) - Understanding and evaluating research methods (e.g. experiments, interviews, validity, reliability)
Year 13	Crime & Deviance Media Sociological theories	

Homework

Students are expected to complete 5 hours of independent learning outside of the classroom, inclusive of revision/recall.

Homework is set weekly to reinforce learning, develop exam skills and deepen students' understanding of real-world sociology.

- Regular exam style questions
- Retrieval practice using knowledge organisers
- Independent reading of sociological articles and current affairs
- Use of online platforms and applied case studies
- Past paper practice across Papers 1, 2 and 3
- Synoptic essay writing to develop evaluation skills

Assessment

Formal Assessment = 3 exams at the end of Y13.

Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods

Paper 2 Families and Households and The Media

Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

All students complete synoptic assessments throughout the 2 years where they practice their knowledge recall and essay writing skills.

Links to Personal Development

AQA Sociology contributes significantly to personal development by building a range of important skills and understandings. It supports intellectual development by encouraging critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation, as students learn to question social structures and assess different sociological perspectives. It also strengthens communication skills, as students must write clearly, construct arguments, and use evidence effectively in essays and discussions. In addition, sociology promotes social and moral development by exploring issues such as inequality, crime, and diversity, helping students develop empathy, tolerance, and a strong sense of fairness. It further enhances cultural awareness by examining a variety of cultures, norms, and values, which supports a broader understanding of society and contributes to spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. Moreover, sociology aids personal identity development by helping individuals understand how factors like socialisation and institutions shape their beliefs, behaviours, and sense of self. Finally, it prepares students for future life by equipping them with transferable skills and knowledge useful for careers and active citizenship, enabling them to engage more thoughtfully and responsibly within society.

How is my knowledge further developed in Year 13? (next academic year)

In year 12 students build their knowledge of Education, Theory, and Families before exploring sociological methods and applying them to educational contexts. Whilst building their knowledge students will expand and develop their essay writing and critical thinking, giving them the ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate theories and data confidently.

In year 13 students will continue to develop these skills whilst building their knowledge of crime and deviance and the media. Finally, students will explore more sociological theories and overlap with sociology, philosophy and science.

Post 18: Students are better equipped to express their views, present balanced arguments and have an analytical, evaluative mind. Other students who have pursued a career at 18 have gone to work in Insurance, Law, Admin, Police, etc.