



## Sociology Curriculum Overview

### **What are the aims of the Sociology curriculum?**

Our sociology curriculum provides learners with knowledge and understanding of key social structures and processes through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. At Key Stage 4 our students will develop their analytical and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues and will be able to make judgements on the key ideas of sociologists: Durkheim, Marx and Weber. By Key Stage 5 our students of sociology should foster a critical awareness of contemporary social processes; the sociology curriculum will enable students to conduct and become confident in both quantitative and qualitative methods of research. Our sociology curriculum enables our learners to question, with evidence to support, the structures in society that we take for granted.

### **How does the Sociology curriculum support the Seaton Valley Federation's curriculum vision and intent?**

Our sociology curriculum provides students with a challenging and engaging overview of society and social structures. Students use their literacy skills to discuss sociological concepts concerned with social structures, processes and social issues, whilst at all times independently being asked to question and investigate facts and make deductions to better understand the social world.

The sociology curriculum is constantly evolving and changing with popular culture and global culture adapting constantly. The very nature of the sociology curriculum demands that students keep up to date with sociological research and data analysis; evaluating how changes in society affect individuals and their lives as our global landscape shifts.

### **How is the Sociology curriculum sequenced to support pupils to make effective progress.**

In Year 10 students are introduced to the ideas and concepts behind sociological study; these ideas regarding social structures, social processes and social issues underpin the theory behind sociology and are needed before students study individual components. Students are also introduced to sociological research methods so that they have the skills to interpret data and statistics. Towards the end of Year 10 and into Year 11 students study substantive sociological topics: families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification, using the theoretical study they have gained in Year 10.

The Key Stage 5 curriculum builds on the skills and topics taught at Key Stage 4, with students focusing on the core themes of: socialisation, culture and identity and social differentiation, power and stratification. Substantive areas of sociology are covered over the two year course, with a greater focus on the use and interrogation of data and research methods.



**How is assessment and feedback used to aid progress? How is moderation and standardisation achieved within Sociology?**

Students are assessed orally within lessons as many of the units are discussion based, requiring developed thoughts and opinions from the students.

Over the two year GCSE curriculum and within each unit of the course, students are formally assessed on a topic by topic basis using past exam questions with targets and written teacher feedback. Students sit trial exams in line with ACHS exams timetable for the academic year.

At Key Stage 5 at the end of Year 12, students are entered for the AS Level exam as a progress point for students before moving onto Year 13 and the remainder of the full A Level course.

**How is staffing organised within the sociology curriculum?**

GCSE Sociology:  
Louise Power

A Level Sociology:

Adam Ironside

Units taught: Families and households; Education and methods (various topics within the units)

Richard Goodman

Units taught: Families and households; Education and methods (various topics within the units)

**Examined courses – exam board and course code (exams and controlled assessment elements)**

**AQA GCSE Sociology (8192)**

Paper1 : The sociology of families; The sociology of education; Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance; the sociology of social stratification; Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

**AQA AS Level Sociology (7191)**

**AQA A Level Sociology (7192)**