



GCSE Sociology

GCSE Sociology 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 are encouraged to develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting sociological 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

Sociology is an exciting, illuminating and highly relevant field of study that analyses and explains important matters in our personal lives, our communities, and the world. Pupils are ignited and enthused by the subject because it's relevant to them – they are living it!

Extra-curricular activities and visits

Sociology is a relatively new addition to our Key Stage 4 curriculum and to date there has been an educational visit to the Preston Law Court, however, it is uncertain as to whether this trip will continue to run. However, plans are in place to ensure that an educational visit will be embedded into the course. There is an opportunity for pupils to visit Runshaw College for stretch and challenge activities in Year 11.

Facilities:

Sociology is taught in a designated classroom based around the Humanities corridor. We enjoy the most up to date version of the GCSE textbooks, as well as computers when required.

Assessment:

Students are assessed in four specific topic areas: families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification, along with their understanding of the research methods underpinning each. Continuous assessment using previous exam questions and papers, is used to track pupils throughout the course.

Year 10 and 11 Course

Students will sit **all** their exams at the end of the course. There is no coursework element to this course. It is to be noted that the Sociology GCSE is a 'content heavy' course which requires lots of writing throughout both the duration of the course and in the exam. It is also important to note that whilst it may cover some of the same issues that pupils may have discussed in PSHCEE lessons, the format of the lesson is very different and requires lots of analytical thought.

Subject content

- The sociological approach
 - Social structures, social processes and social issues
 - Sociological research methods
 - Families
 - Education
 - Crime and deviance
 - Social stratification
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Assessments

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
- Relevant areas of research methods

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: 1.45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A has a range of range of short responses followed by two essays.
- Section B has a range of range of short responses followed by two essays per topic, totalling to four for the entirety of Paper 1.

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
- Relevant areas of research methods

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 a range of range of short responses followed by two essays.
 - Section B has a range of range of short responses followed by two essays per topic, totalling to four for the entirety of Paper 1.
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