



Overview:

The Sociologist's aim is to understand and explain how societies work and why they change. Sociology is the study of human societies and of human behaviour in social settings. It uses social categories (such as class, gender, age, or ethnicity), and various social institutions (such as family, the media, education, politics, or crime) to look at how humans interact with each other. The A Level course aims to develop skills such as critical thinking, analysis, and essay writing.

Topics you will study are:

Introducing socialisation, culture and identity

Essentially, this topic is designed to introduce the subject of sociology and allow you to explore the aspects of your identity and immediate cultural and historical origins. This component introduces learners to the key themes of socialisation, culture, and identity and develops these themes through the context of one of three options: Families and Relationships, Youth Subcultures, and Media. These options develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society, and develop a lifelong interest in social issues.

Youth subcultures

This topic allows you to delve deeper in to exploring your identity by studying a key aspect – youth. The option focuses on youth as an important period in the socialisation process when individuals are developing a sense of identity within their peer groups. It allows learners to explore different types of youth subcultures and the roles they may play in society. The option is also incredibly useful preparation for crime and deviance. It introduces and reinforces key themes and theories, giving you distinct advantage in later topics.

Research methods and researching social inequalities

Almost all sociological thought and theory is founded on rigorous and scientific research in the human behaviour and identity. In this section, learners are introduced to a range of methods and sources of data as well as the factors influencing the design of sociological research and the relationship between theory and methods. Learners are encouraged to consider the practical, ethical, and theoretical issues arising in sociological research and to apply knowledge of research methods to the particular context of social inequalities.

Crime and deviance

In this popular topic, you will study the idea that crime is actually beneficial for society, and that deviance is a social construct. You will explore a range of theories on the causes of crime and criminal behaviour and identity. You will investigate the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender, and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime.

Expectations:

We expect students interested in the course to attend the induction sessions at the end of the year and complete the task you are set over the summer. Once you start the course in September you will need to purchase a copy of the course textbook - these are available through the school or from a wide variety of retailers. You will also be expected to undertake wider reading around the course and will be provided with a list of recommended readings.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

Opportunities to stretch and challenge students are available. There may be opportunities to attend a variety of external visits such as a trip to the Old Bailey, Criminology conference and various student grade booster workshops.

Career Pathways:

Sociology is an extremely useful subject for a wide range of career opportunities, some of the most popular include: Community Worker, Housing Manager, Health Care Worker, International Development Worker, Journalist, Lecturer, Market Researcher, Personnel Manager, Police Constable, Prison Governor, Probation Officer, Public Sector Administrator, Social Researcher, Social Worker, Teacher, Welfare Advice Worker.

Good combinations of other subjects to study with Sociology: History, English, Psychology, Religious Studies, Geography, Politics.

Student Testimonials:

"I loved Sociology and found it really useful in understanding the society around me and what's going on in the world. I'm even considering doing it at Uni next year!" "The teachers are really great and present it within a fun learning environment." "Sociology is all about personal opinions; focusing on how society works and should be studied; however, the key issues raised relate to everyday life and therefore provoke personal interpretations from everyone." "I would highly recommend Sociology as an A Level choice at Prince William School. The lessons are interactive and engaging with plenty of opportunity to debate, which is what most appealed to me."