

SOCIOLOGY

A LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTION

In terms of the history of life on Earth, it's only yesterday that mankind was living in the caves, and the day before when we were swinging from branch to branch with the other creatures. In the blink of an eye we have developed into a complex society with a plethora of accompanying social problems but with also a wealth of opportunities which are open to us. It's these factors which affect how our species, and the groups within it, work on a day to day basis.

Over a fascinating two year period you'll cover a spectrum of subjects which will help you make sense of the society and the culture you live in. Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture and identity, youth culture, crime and social inequality. More than once during the course you're bound to ask yourself the question, "does the world have to be like this? Poverty, ignorance, crime, injustice ... shouldn't these be a thing of the past?"

On the course you will study many topics, including;

Unit 1: Socialisation, culture and identity.

Unit 2: Researching and understanding social inequalities.

Unit 3: Debates in contemporary society.

Progression

Many of our students go on to read Sociology at University and then pursue a career within the discipline. These can include working within the criminal justice system, advertising, marketing, helping those with substance abuse and rehabilitation, research, journalism, health planning, teaching, governmental planning and the civil service. Last year our students went on to study a variety of degrees that required a high grade in Sociology. These included Criminology, Social Policy, Politics, Sociology, Social Science, Teaching, Theology, International Relations, Child Nursing, Retail Management, Law, Sports Science and History. Sociology also helps to develop skills that will be useful in almost any job- especially jobs where you have close contact with other people.



“Sociology develops a number of transferable skills such as problem solving, communication, critical and creative thinking and data analysis skills.”



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is not essential that you have GCSE Sociology, but if you have we require you to have at least a grade 6 to proceed to AS. A very good standard of literacy must be reflected in GCSE grades, with a grade 6 or above in English Language and or Literature. You should have an interest in current social, political and economic events and be prepared to read the 'quality' press (such as "The Guardian") and magazines such as "Sociology Review" as well as watching the News and social documentary programmes. These activities will help you to start thinking like a sociologist!

ASSESSMENT

There is no coursework element for Sociology, and students are therefore assessed solely on their examination performance. There are three exams encompassing three main Assessment Objectives.

The skill of written communication is central to success in Sociology and essays are present in every exam. We very much emphasise the importance of acquiring essay writing skills early in the course.

Assessment takes place formally and informally in class and the nature of the subject lends itself extremely well to group work and presentations which are assessed by both the teacher and other members of the group. Alongside the main exams, there are regular class assessments, mock papers and formal and informal tests. Formal assessments are tracked against a student's target grade to ensure that every student reaches their full potential.

DEPARTMENTAL ENRICHMENT AND STUDENT SUPPORT

As a department we are committed to providing the support which you, as an individual, needs in order to reach your potential. One of the department was formerly a senior examiner for the exam board and so we can provide you with training in the subject specific examination skills which you must have in order to be successful in both the AS and A2 exams. Students are given opportunities to attend additional lessons in the form of study support, both with their own teacher or with another member of the team in the run up to the exam season and we encourage all Advanced Level Students to be proactive in seeking help with any aspect of the course that they feel they need further support with.

Revision sessions are held during holiday breaks from Easter onwards, and these are extremely well attended.

Teaching and learning materials are available online.

Once a year we conduct a student survey, followed by a focus group interview. We use the results to improve our teaching and learning practice. We believe firmly in the power of democracy!

As Sociology is a discipline that has its roots in the real world, we encourage our students to take part in several enrichment activities throughout the year, such as visiting the Crown Court and attending student conferences in London.

Routes for Success - Humanities

The Routes to Success Programme is designed for ALL students in Year 12 at St Angela's Ursuline 6th Form. The HUMANITIES programme aims to offer students opportunities to work with both industry and universities, opportunities will include links with; The Houses of Parliament, Black Lawyers

Directory, Debate Mate, Trowers and Hamlin, St Mary's and Leicester University. Summer school opportunities will include links with; UCL History, SOAS and London Met.

Please note- All Year 12 students will select one main 'Route for Success' from these in order to experience a specialist enrichment and learning support programme. It will, of course, be possible to select a subject/subjects from another route on your timetable. We base our Routes to Success Programme on the university curriculum structure and university links are not exclusive to one route, so can be accessed by all students.

