

The Quality of Education: Sociology - Purpose and Provision



St Christopher's:
A Church of England Academy

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither-
whatever they do prospers.

Psalms 1:3

The Purpose of Study

The purpose of sociology A-level is to provide all students, despite background or disadvantage with the opportunity to understand, appreciate and enjoy the sociology curriculum and to achieve their full potential.

It offers an introduction to the subject in an engaging, holistic and effective way, providing the skills valued by HE providers, such as critical analysis, independent thinking and research. Students will gain skills of knowledge and understanding, application, analysis and evaluation. Sociology will appeal to a whole range of students, whether they have studied this before or not.

The key features of sociological theories, perspectives and methods and the design of research, including the strengths and limitations, are integral parts of each topic and synoptic links are highlighted throughout the course.

Students also follow two core themes: socialisation, culture and identity and social differentiation, power and stratification and these themes are understood and applied to particular substantive areas of Sociology.

Additionally, students must understand the significance of conflict and consensus, social structure and social action, and the role of norms and values. The central focus of study should be on contemporary British society, as well as understanding British society within its globalised context.

The schemes of work has been carefully planned, designed and sequenced in such a way that its content and coverage is appropriate and ambitious for all learners to cumulatively develop their knowledge and understanding of the study of society and human behaviour. The curriculum's purpose is to flow seamlessly, allowing knowledge and understanding at different transition points to inform the next stage.

Complementing the School Purpose

Foundation Scripture

Sociology is an important subject for understanding the mercurial contemporary world and as a discipline students will learn and appreciate a range of world issues influencing themselves and others. They will become a critical analyst in this process. In addition to this learning, students will gain skills of resilience and confidence and a belief to be aspirational, prosper and achieve their full potential and flourish.

Key Themes

The relationship between students and staff has always been a reciprocal one, built on positive, collaborations throughout the two-year journey together. Students will secure wisdom and understanding during this journey, as they seek to develop in maturity, as an individual and between one another, as they learn how to communicate and live well together. Sociology will challenge existing thinking and enhance an appreciation of alternative perspectives. Students are encouraged to develop a love of learning, trust and respect one another in a safe yet structured environment, gain wisdom, be ambitious, have self-belief and prosper. Due to the contemporary nature of sociology they will understand the importance of the society and the world we all live in and the need to fully understanding the world we all share and the importance of the responsibility we all play with one another. We should seek to develop the relationship with ourselves, as responsible citizens, as we learn about the exploitation and oppression of minority people as highlighted by significant sociological perspectives.

Christian Virtues

Sociological and political perspectives are taught throughout this course, which often challenge a number of students existing worldviews. Despite the different approaches, students are always encouraged every lesson to be respectful of one another's viewpoints. The classroom environment is one built on trust and friendship between one another. The classroom is a conduit for each person to believe different things and be respectful of others differences, sociologically as well as politically. The outcome of which allows students to understand and appreciate the commonality of all of us as human beings in a global world, united by friendship, love and peace.

Curriculum Aims

All pupils will have the chance in every lesson to learn and achieve in a systematic manner. Each sub-topic is linked to the past paper questions to share good practice, with formative and summative assessments on the 6 topic areas built in. Family & Household; Education, Research Methods, Theory, Crime & Deviance & Belief Systems. The subject is taught to accept diverse society and create a moral understanding of the world we live in.

Students will develop a mature and resilient understanding of society and benefit from learning challenging course content, such as understanding different belief systems, economies and ways of life, in preparation for their responsibilities in the adult world.

Complementing the School Provision

Teaching Approaches

The students encounter a two-year journey, during which they are carefully guided by the teacher with a deep level of understanding of sociology, as well as the contemporary aspects of British society and our role in the global world. The lessons are structured, planned and sequenced in a way which builds the knowledge and skills base of each student.

Students receive their own individual work packs, which forms the basis of each lesson. These packs cover all aspects of the course outlined in the first section of this document and form the basis of the scheme of learning. All materials are continually being updated to reflect changes in society. The materials and the lessons are appropriate for all students, as well as offering students to opportunity to access stretch and challenge where possible. Assessments are also built into the materials/lessons enabling students to put theory into practice in preparation for the exam. In addition, for this preparation, one key aspect of sociology is to share good practice with previous students work. Lesson also include past paper analysis & assessments reflect this strategic approach. Students are also encouraged to make connection to the wider synoptic elements of the course, this being another important element of the lessons and preparation beyond the classroom. The 6 key teaching approaches, challenge, explanations, modelling, practice, feedback, questioning naturally become a feature of each lesson and home learning.

Pupil and Student Attitudes

Every lesson is set with a tone of high expectation, with a readiness and willingness to learn. Learning from our mistakes is actively encouraged, in order to build resilience. The students are encouraged to be reflective in their approach to learning, make mistakes and improve, achieved through independent work, group work & formal assessments, such as self-evaluation and individual targets formalised in the assessment feedback sheets and student handbooks.

Going Beyond the Exam Specification

As sociology is constantly changing with new perspectives and theories, as well as new events to theorise, such as the summer riots in 2011, Brexit and the ubiquitous use of social media for example, students have their own designated One Drive folder reflecting live updates. This often allows us to gain valuable AO2 skills and understand the contemporary aspects of the course.

Extra-curricular and Enrichment

Additional reading sources continue to be encouraged such as Sociology Review, British Sociology Association, 'Discover sociology', BBC news app, but additional sources such as tutor 2u & Gojimo.

Additional study support continues for period 6-7 every Thursday evening. Sessions are extremely well attended.

SAMS programme-(the mentor scheme) whereby Student Ambassadors in year 13 assist other in their own year group as well as those struggling in y12.

Individual one-to-one sessions have been effective through the ILP scheme.

A new Higher Education display is present in S3 to raise aspirations to continue the transition process.

Remote access to additional materials, such as articles, revision notes, model answers.

Wider use of video tutorial using Hue Intuition is proving very effective as an alternative source of assessment feedback.

Whole School / Cross-curricular Elements

According to the British Sociological Association and from my own teaching practice sociology complements other subjects, such as English Literature, Politics, Law, Psychology, as well as providing a significant number of skill areas, such as reading, writing, oracy and pupil leadership. This is evidenced during extra-curricular reading, assessments, group work with presentations and questioning throughout lessons.

Meeting the Needs of All Pupils

Irrespective of background or disadvantage, all pupils are treated with an equal amount of respect and are allowed full access to the sociology curriculum. The lessons and materials are highly differentiated to meet the needs of all students. Often student far exceed their expected target grade, as they have the opportunity to flourish in this subject if they choose to embrace it.



Ad Gloriam Dei

To the Glory of God



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