

Sociology Curriculum – Sixth Form

Year 12 Sociology

Paper 1: Education and Methods in Context

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- the role and functions of the education system
- differential educational achievement of social groups by social class,
- relationships and processes within schools
- the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation

Students must be able to apply sociological research methods to the study of education.

Paper 2: Families and Households

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with reference to the economy and to state policies
- changing family patterns e.g. marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- the nature of and changes of childhood
- demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900

Paper 2: Beliefs in Society

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions
- the relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations
- religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, and New Age movements

- the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements
- the significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context, and globalisation and the spread of religions

Year 13 Sociology

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods

The study of the topics in this paper should engage students in theoretical debate while encouraging an active involvement with the research process.

In their study of this topic, students should examine:

- crime, deviance, social order and social control
- the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies
- quantitative and qualitative methods of research
- the distinction between primary and secondary data
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism
- the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations
- consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories
- the argument of whether Sociology can be regarded as scientific
- the relationship between theory and methods
- debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom
- the relationship between Sociology and social policy