

SUBJECT GUIDE:

Exam Board - AQA
2 years - A Level

WHY CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is 'the scientific study of human social life, groups and societies'. (Giddens, 2006) It explores the behaviour of human beings and examines the influential motivational and social forces involved. Considering the diverse opinions proposed by various theorists encourages greater objectivity which makes Sociology a fascinating subject, providing insight into our own behaviour. Sociological research includes identifying and explaining past and current social trends, particularly in relation to social policy and class structure. We are all part of the wider social world around us and therefore this subject is relevant to all individuals who will each have their own unique experience of the society in which we live.

HOW WE STUDY SOCIOLOGY

Sociology involves considering numerous perspectives and approaches and comparisons are made between modern and classical theorists. Critique is one of the most important aspects of this subject and students will be encouraged to evaluate the various views in order to develop their own opinions and draw conclusions. We will explore current issues, debates, evaluate, examine and carry out research to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology employed. Students will participate in class-based research projects to facilitate a first-hand understanding of the practical considerations involved in current

Issues and debates. This will also help students to gain the in-depth knowledge required to succeed in this subject.

LEARNING SKILLS REQUIRED

Sociology is an essay-based subject and therefore a good standard of written English is required. Students will be expected to be aware of relevant topics arising in the news in order to comprehend how their theoretical knowledge relates to real-world applications. In addition, they will also research information via the internet, newspapers and television news programmes and will therefore need adequate computer skills.

WHAT WE STUDY: A-LEVEL (1ST YEAR) – CO-TEACHABLE WITH AS

Paper 1 - Education with Methods in Context

Exam weighting: 50% of the total AS marks.

Unit content: Role and functions of the education system. Differential educational achievement by class, gender and ethnicity. Relationships and processes within schools. Education policy and the impact of globalisation.

Paper 2 – Research Methods and Topics in Sociology (Families and Households)

Exam weighting: 50% of the total AS marks.

Unit content: Qualitative and quantitative research methods. Practical, ethical and theoretical considerations influencing choice of method. Families and Households: Relationship of the family to the social structure including social policy. Changing patterns of marriage, including Sociology of personal life and diversity. Childhood. Demography including globalisation.

WHAT WE STUDY: A-LEVEL (2ND YEAR)

Topics in Sociology (Beliefs in Society)

Unit content: Theories of ideology, science and religion; the relationship between religious beliefs and social stability and change; religious organisations including NRMs and NAMs; secularisation; the relationship between different social groups and religious organisations.

Core unit: Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods

Theories of crime, deviance, social order and control; Social distribution of crime and deviance across various categories, including patterns and trends; Control, prevention and punishment and the role of the Criminal Justice System and other agencies; Quantitative and qualitative research methods and the various theoretical approaches.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Paper 1 = 33.3% of the total GCE marks, 2h written paper, 80 marks

Paper 2 = 33.3% of the total GCE marks, 2h written paper, 80 marks

Paper 3 = 33.3% of the total GCE marks, 2h written paper, 80 marks

COURSE READING LIST:

AQA A Level Sociology: Book One (Napier Press), Rob Webb, Hal Westergaard, Keith Trobe, Annie Townend (2015)

AQA A2 Sociology: Book Two (Napier Press), Rob Webb, Hal Westergaard, Keith Trobe, Annie Townend (2015)

EXTERNAL TRIPS

Students will attend revision classes run by the examination board and will take trips to listen to external lecturers. We may also take students to the cinema to watch films relating to specific areas of study.

PROGRESS PATHS

The majority of students taking A level Sociology will progress to study related topics at university. These may include subjects such as Sociology, Criminology and Social Policy. Sociology combines well with both social sciences and arts and provides insight into human behaviour which is an asset for many potential occupations. Graduates may pursue careers in numerous fields including law enforcement, social work, the criminal justice system and various governmental agencies.

THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Miss Sadyah Fazal, BA(Hons)

Miss Fazal joined Regent in September 2015. Previous to this she spent over three years teaching Sociology at London Brookes College as well as having spent time mentoring students at GCSE and A-Level in the past.