



PARKSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL



SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Mrs Wingrove

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of how society is organized and how we experience life. It has been taught in British universities since the very beginning of the twentieth century, first at the London School of Economics and soon after at Liverpool University.



Sociology asks students big questions about the social world.

This is not only as they experience it, but as others do and asks them to consider not only their own beliefs about the social world, but to understand and evaluate others.

Sociology helps students to understand themselves better.

It examines the way in which the social world affects our experiences and life chances.

Sociology students study a range of theoretical perspectives which both challenge and consolidate their own views.

It prepares students for an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

The Sociology curriculum enables students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the way that society operates and the influence that this has on both their own and others' lives.

The Sociology curriculum is inclusive.

Its core concepts of equality, power, diversity and meritocracy are perhaps some of the reasons has high uptake and student satisfaction.

Students are equally enriched and challenged.

It is a subject that demands them to put effort in. Understanding the social world today, the complex quickly changing every day is not taken for granted.

AQA A-level Sociology Specification



Core themes

Students must study the following two core themes:

socialisation, culture and identity

social differentiation, power and stratification.

The themes should be understood and applied to particular substantive areas of Sociology. These themes are to be interpreted broadly as threads running through many areas of social life and should not therefore be regarded as discrete topics.

In addition, students must understand the significance of conflict and consensus, social structure and social action, and the role of values.

Contemporary UK society

The central focus of study in this specification should be on UK society today, with consideration given to comparative dimensions where relevant, including the siting of UK society within its globalised context.

[4.1 Education with Theory and Methods](#)

[4.2 Topics in Sociology](#)

[4.3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods](#)

What do you study?

YEAR 12

Families & Households—study the different sociological perspectives on the purpose and function of the family including demographic change, marriage, childhood and equality within families.

Education with Research Methods—study the structure, role, impact and experience of education including applying sociological research methods to the topic.

YEAR 13

Beliefs in Society—study theories of ideology, science & religion, religious organisations and the significance of religion in the modern world.

Crime & Deviance -study crime, deviance, social order & social control and the reasons why people commit crime.

Sociological Theory— study, analyse & evaluate the key perspectives & their view on society in depth

Questions we ask in year 13....

Is religion in decline?

Why is female crime rising?

Should we publicly name and shame criminals?

Why are young people less religious?

What is green crime?

Why are women more religious than men?

What is institutional racism in the police?

How would new social policies reduce inequality?

Does prison work?

How does globalisation change the nature and scale of crime?



How will you be assessed?

Sociology is a linear subject which is 100% examination.
Examination structure for the full 2-year A Level course:

- 3 examinations taken in the summer term
- Each examination is 2 hours in duration
- Each examination is worth 1/3 of the total A level

A-level

Component	Maximum raw mark	Scaling factor	Maximum scaled mark
Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	80	x1	80
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	80	x1	80
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	80	x1	80
		Total scaled mark:	240





Why do students enjoy and do well in the Sociology department?



Curriculum and assessment plan

Students know what lessons, homework and assessments are coming up when.

Student support

Small groups, 1:1 whole class revision sessions provided. Interactive learning, writing on tables, pair work, group work, discussions, variety of teaching and learning activities.

Independent learning

All students are given advice and a structured plan to ensure that independent learning is manageable and easy to follow. All revision notes are made as we go along. Information is practiced and revised in small manageable chunks. Weekly exam practice is built up over time so students gain confidence.

Feedback.

Work is marked promptly and feedback is specific so you know exactly what you need to do to improve. We use lots of model answers and have writing frames and scaffolded answers to help you get started.

Use of TEAMS to support independence and personalised learning.

There is a HUGE range of resources to help you to understand and make notes and do exam practice.

Enrichment opportunities

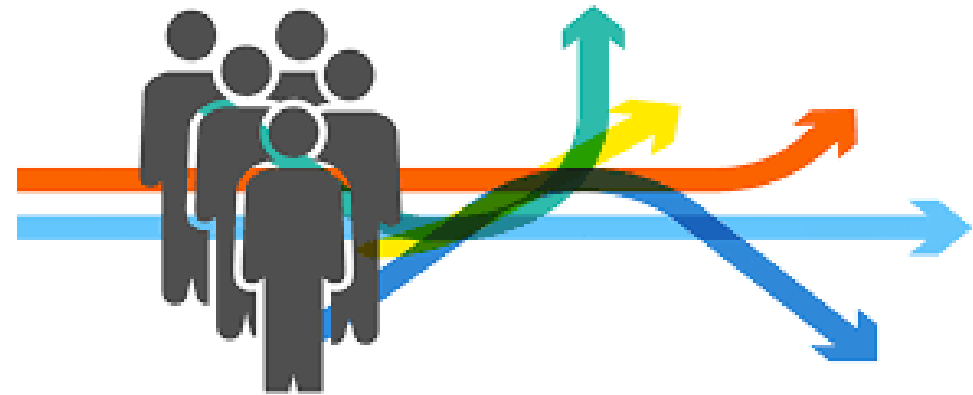
Sociology reps, film and documentary club, debate club, study groups.

CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT, FUN, REWARDS.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS WITH SUPPORT AND CARE

Jobs directly related to your Sociology include:

- Advice worker
- Community development worker
- Further education teacher
- Higher education lecturer
- Housing manager/officer
- Marketing executive
- Police officer
- Policy officer
- Secondary school teacher
- Social researcher
- Youth worker



Jobs where your degree would be useful include:

- Charity officer
- Civil Service administrator
- Family support worker
- Human resources officer
- International aid/development worker
- Newspaper journalist
- Probation officer
- Public relations officer
- Social worker



What subjects does it go well with?

Psychology

Media

History

Geography

Religion and Philosophy

English Literature

Politics

Economics

