

Sociology

Why choose Sociology: If you are interested in people, society, politics and current affairs than the content of the course will interest you. If you enjoy debating, considering different points of view and questioning what happens in society than you will enjoy the subject. Sociology compliments other subjects including Psychology, Law, History, Economics, Geography, Health and Social Care, Government and Politics, Anthropology and Business Studies.

Future Prospects: Sociology is useful for a range of careers and it prepares students who wish to continue studying academic subjects further. It is useful for many careers in journalism, social research, the law, politics, education, business and the health industry. The course also develops core skills required to support students who choose to enter higher education which include academic writing, constructing arguments, evaluating different perspectives and independent study.

Enrichment Opportunities: Sociology students will be given the chance to visit a private school and attend a Sociology conference.

Entry Requirements: Six GCSEs at grade C or above including Maths and a grade B in English Language.

'Sociology has opened my eyes about what society is like. I had no idea how different life could be for different people'



Department of

Sociology

"The fascination of sociology lies in the fact that its perspective makes us see in a new light the very world in which we have lived all our lives."

Peter Berger, *Invitation to Sociology*

What I will learn on this course:

AS Level Sociology (AQA)

Unit 1: Education and Research Methods in Context

Assessed: An hour and a half exam

Topics:

- Differences in educational achievement and experience based on social class, gender and ethnicity
- Different perspectives on the role and purpose of education

Unit 2: The Family and Research Methods

Assessed: An hour and a half exam

Topics:

- Different sociological perspectives on the emergence, role and function of the family
- The sociology of childhood, couples and family structure
- Sociological research methods

If you choose to continue onto A Level, you will explore the AS level topics in greater depth and learn new content including the sociology of crime and deviance and the sociology of the media.

A Level Sociology (AQA)

Unit 1: Education and Research Methods in Context

Assessed: Two hour exam

Topics:

- The topics listed in the AS Level, in greater depth
- The role the education system plays in shaping individuals and society

A Level Sociology (AQA)

Unit 1: Topics in Sociology

Assessed: Two hour exam

Topics:

- The topics listed in the AS Level on the family, in greater depth
- The power and influence of the media on individuals
- Globalisation, power and social

Why choose Sociology at Highbury Grove: Students who choose to study Sociology at Highbury Grove are provided with a their own textbook and course materials. Assignment sheets are given to students to support time management skills and the amount of work required for each term. Specialists teach each individual unit, meaning the most up-to-date research is used on the course. Students are also given access to a website with resources and articles available to support learning outside of the classroom.

Course outline: Sociology is the study of contemporary society. It explores the reasons behind patterns and trends in society, and seeks to understand a range of different ways these trends can be interpreted. The main theoretical perspectives you will examine in this course are Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Social Action theory, the New Right and Post Modernism.

Throughout the course there is a strong focus on social research methods. There is also a heavy emphasis on developing critical thinking skills, evaluation of evidence, and constructing a well reasoned argument.

