SOCIOLOGY

EXAM BOARD: AQA

EXAMS X 3 PAPERS 100%

Why study Sociology?
Sociology gives students a chance to develop their critical and creative thinking. Our teaching staff have outstanding knowledge and understanding of social problems and theoretical approaches integral to Sociology which they skilfully apply to the course, leading to consistently excellent results.

Our lessons are hands-on. One of our specialities is developing your ability to investigate, evaluate and communicate empirical information. We also place strong emphasis on developing motivation and team work skills. These skills are in high demand by universities and employers.

We live in a diverse, dynamic and constantly changing world. Our department is without a doubt the best place to develop your sociological imagination; the special ways of identifying, describing and evaluating the nature of social life and what makes us who we are.

Studying Sociology in our department is truly transformative, once your sociological imagination has been developed, you will never see the world in the same way again.

Subject Specification Outline:

This specification consists of four main topics:

1. Education with Theory and Methods:

- Study differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society.
- Assess the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, policies to achieve greater equality.
- Explore the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.
- Debate the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific.

2. Families and Households:

- The changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course
- The sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society

3. The Media:

- Explore the media, globalisation and popular culture.
- Research media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability.

4. Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods:

- Study the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class
- explore crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencie

Progress Assessment: as well as ongoing formal half term assessments, you will be regularly set a variety of practice exam questions. Teacher, self and peer-assessment will be used throughout by means of exam board mark schemes coupled with the expertise of teaching staff.

Final Exam Format: you will sit three Exam Papers (two hours each) at the end of Year 13.

Self Study Requirements: for every hour spent in the classroom, you will be expected to spend the equivalent amount of time outside the classroom completing learning tasks set by teaching staff.

Progression Pathways: A-Level Sociology can lead to a host of exciting future prospects. Many of our students go on to study Sociology at university either as a standalone subject or it can be combined with various other subjects including Law, Politics, Anthropology and Criminology. Job opportunities include: Social Worker, Lawyer, Prison Officer, Police Officer, Welfare Officer, Counsellor, Politician, Youth & Community Worker and even Business & Management.

Our students, beyond Stratford: our 2026 Sociology students have gone onto study Sociology, Criminology with Sociology, Criminology & Law, Marketing, Fashion Business & Management, Finance, Politics, International Relations, Politics & International Relations, English Language & Linguistics, Sport & Exercise Psychology, Politics & International Relations, Psychology and Law with Business at the universities of Warwick, Southampton, Liverpool, Lincoln, Leeds, Exeter, Birmingham, Sheffield Hallam, Royal Holloway, Oxford Brookes, Manchester Met and Aston as well as an apprenticehip in Civil Engineering.

