

Course Structure:

A full A Level in Sociology lasts for two years,.

Year 12

In year 12 you will be learning about different topic areas:

Sociological theories – different perspectives of how society functions, including feminism, Marxism, functionalism and the New Right

Families and Households – changing patterns, family diversity, demography, social policy, childhood and gender roles

Education – the role and function of education, achievements across social groups, gender and ethnicity, processes within schools, pupil identities and subcultures, educational policies and a focus on contemporary policy

Research Methods – quantitative and qualitative methods of research, sources of data – including questionnaires, interviews, observations and experiments; primary and secondary data; positivism, interpretivism and social facts; theoretical, practical and ethical considerations

Methods in context – analysing education using research methods

Entry Requirements: 4 in English/Lit and Maths

Should you, or your son or daughter wish to discuss anything further about Sociology, please do not hesitate to talk to me at school. Alternatively, my email address is

k.mitchell@tgs.starmat.uk

Year 13

In Year 13 you will cover the Year 12 topics but in greater depth, breadth and relevance. Analysis will be deeper and evaluations more thorough. Knowledge of more theoretical perspectives is built, looking at even greater strands of the differing perspectives. Greater emphasis is placed and learnt on the core themes of socialisation, culture, identity, social differentiation, power and stratification.

Also:

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods – crime, deviance, social order, social control, the social distribution of crime, globalisation and crime, crime control, surveillance, prevention, punishment, the media's role, human rights and researching crime using the knowledge and skills built up from the Research Methods modules

New module – beliefs in society, global development, the media or stratification and differentiation.

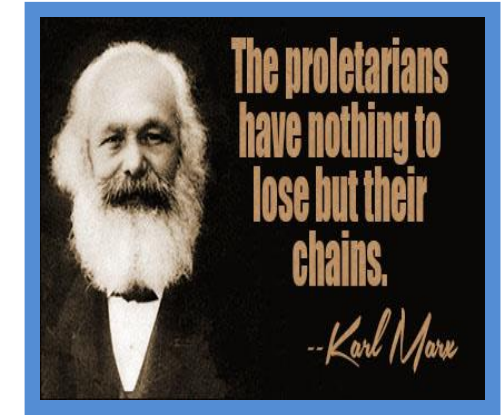
Assessment:

100% exam based on short answer and long answer questions

Paper 1 (Education with Theory and Methods)

Paper 2 (Families and Beliefs/Media)

Paper 3 (Crime with Theory and Methods)



Sociology A-Level

The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden.

– Pierre Bourdieu

Double Quotes
doublequotes.net

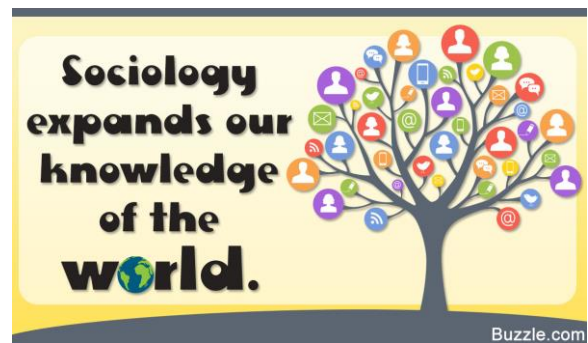
Tadcaster Grammar School

Why choose Sociology?!

If you are fascinated by the behaviour of others and why we act the way we do, then sociology is for you. Sociology seeks to understand all aspects of human social behaviour, including the social dynamics of small groups of people, large organisations, communities, institutions and even entire societies.

Sociologists are typically motivated by their desire to better understand the fundamental principles of social life, believing that an understanding of these principles will help improve people's lives through more enlightened and effective policies. If you choose to study sociology you will discover how to investigate these kinds of questions for yourself and begin to understand more about your own motivations and behaviours, gaining a wide range of very valuable skills that can be applied to almost any career.

By taking a closer look at society and revealing the underlying meanings of emerging patterns of social behaviour, sociologists are able to see the bigger picture.



Feminism – how does it compare to other ideological perspectives?!

Employability!

The skills you learn in sociology are marketable and having it on your CV shows that you understand the world around you.

Sociological theory helps you to become a critical thinker because it exposes you to many different ways of seeing the social world and with so much political and ethnic strife at the moment, having an informed sense as to why this is happening will help you engage with many different kinds of people. Take these skills, together with your insights into the workings of society and it is not surprising that more and more employers see a sociology degree as highly desirable!

You develop:

- Communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Analytical skills
- Statistical analysis skills
- Cross-cultural understanding
- Leadership skills

What sort of things will I learn about?

Examples of A Level content

Functionalism

Talcott Parsons was a key functionalist thinker. He argued that socialisation is the key to understanding human behavior patterns. The role of social institutions, such as the family, education, religion and the media, is to ensure the passing on, or reproduction, of socially acceptable patterns of behavior.

Marxism

Marxism is the ideology of Karl Marx. He believed that we live in a system called **capitalism** that divides everyone up into two basic classes: bosses and workers. Marx called the bosses the **bourgeoisie** or ruling class (because they control society) and the workers he called the **proletariat** or working class. The ruling class benefit in every way from how society operates, whilst the workers get far less than they deserve.

We use differing ideological perspectives like functionalism and Marxism to assess key issues facing society such as:

- What impact do government policies have on family life?
- Why do girls outperform boys at GCSE?
- Why do men still earn more than women?!