AQA A Level Sociology

Sociology Curriculum Intent - Our sociology curriculum impassions students to foster a critical awareness of contemporary social processes, change and justice. We will take our students on a learning journey to develop and challenge their own perceptions on the lives, experiences and opportunities of our diverse communities. Thus, inspiring and empowering our sociologists to become the next generation of leaders; confident, creative, compassionate and committed in advocating for what they believe is right.

Sociology develops deep and critical thinking about social structures, institutions, and inequalities. Students develop skills in research methods, analysis and detailed evaluation.

Why study Sociology at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?

- This qualification offers an engaging and effective insight in to Sociology
- The A level Sociology course allows you the opportunity to learn about a variety of fascinating topics including Education, Families and Households, Beliefs in Society, and Crime and Deviance.
- Students at Ridgewood have enjoyed studying this selection of topics from the variety that the AQA course offers
- Sociology allows you to apply real world issues in the here and now to the theory you are taught in lessons – Sociology is everywhere!
- You will enjoy each and every lesson in Sociology because the team is committed to making sure lessons are not only geared to your needs but are engaging and challenging too
- Particular strengths of A level Sociology at Ridgewood are the wealth of resources, as well as the subject knowledge and enthusiasm that your teachers hold for the subject

What topics will I study in this subject?

Topic	What this means
Education	You will study the role and function of the education system from different sociological perspectives, as well as the differences in attainment across social groups in society such as different ethnicities, genders and social classes.
Families and Households	You will explore the changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, demography, the notion of childhood, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.
Theory and Methods	You will look at the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing the choice of topic, choice of methods to be used in sociology research and how to conduct research effectively.
Crime and Deviance	You will explore the distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class. Also included is a look at green crime, state crime, crime prevention theories and victimology.
Beliefs in Society	You will study religious organisations, including cults, sects, New Age movements and religious fundamentalism. We will evaluate the idea of secularisation - discussing the ideas of 'believing without belonging', 'spiritual shopping' and online religion.

What skills will I need in this subject?

Skill	What this skill involves in this subject
AO1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding	You need to show that you can learn about and retain knowledge of sociological theories, concepts and evidence, as well as sociological research methods.
AO2 Application	Apply sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods to a range of issues.
AO3 Analyse and evaluate	Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods in order to present arguments, make judgements and draw conclusions.

What will my lessons involve?

- For exam-based lessons you will learn a range of theories using textbooks and information provided by the teacher, as well as a number of online activities specifically designed around course content.
- Learn about and evaluate a number of case studies in sociological research as well as those reported by the media.
- Use your own knowledge and discussions with peers to construct short and long answers to questions about the topics and cases you have researched.
- There will be a requirement for you to complete much of your work outside of lessons both before, in preparation for lessons and after, as follow-up consolidation of academic work.

What will my independent study involve?

- Flipped learning (reading materials in preparation for your lesson)
- Essay plans and revision resources
- Preparing individual and group presentations on specific areas of study
- Exam questions (self-marked using mark-schemes to familiarise yourself with examiner requirements)

How will I be assessed?

Percentage exam assessment: 100%	Percentage coursework assessment: 0%

Assessment	Details of assessment
Paper 1: Education with methods in context	Assessment is a two hour written exam worth 80 marks. Questions include: • Education: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks. • Methods in Context: extended writing, 20 marks. • Theory and Methods: extended writing, 10 marks.
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	Assessment is a two hour written exam worth 80 marks. Questions include: • Section A: extended writing, 40 marks. • Section B: extended writing, 40 marks.
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	Assessment is a two hour written exam worth 80 marks. Questions include: • Crime and Deviance: short answer and extended writing, 50 marks. • Theory and Methods: extended writing, 30 marks.

How do I know this is the right course for me?

- You will be required to spend a minimum of six hours per week studying outside of lessons to be successful in completing the Sociology course.
- This course will suit students who are well organised, enjoy reading, and are proficient in essay writing skills.
- If you are looking for a career working to identify and improve a whole range of social issues relevant to the twenty first century and want to make a difference to people's lives, then this is the course for you.
- This course works well with other qualifications including Psychology, Criminology, Law, Politics and English, Health and Social Care and Religious Education.