

Curriculum Overview: AQA Sociology A Level (Social Science Department)

Overall Rationale:

- The Social Science department delivers the AQA Sociology specification (linear qualification). The AS specification is designed to be taken over one year with all assessments taken at the end of the course. The A-level specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course.
- The course itself offers an engaging and effective introduction to Sociology and therefore students do not require formal prior learning. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by higher education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. The integral elements of the course includes a focus on sociological theories, perspectives and methods, the design of the research used to obtain the data under consideration, including its strengths and limitations. Students will develop skills that will enable them to draw out the links between each of the topic areas studied on the course (synoptic skills). Students on the course will study the following two core themes:
- socialisation, culture and identity
- social differentiation, power and stratification.
- These themes are taught via application to particular substantive areas of Sociology, in particular through both **compulsory** and **option** topics of **Education, Families and Households, Beliefs in Society, Crime and Deviance** and **Theory and Research Methods**. The option topics have been chosen due to the challenge it offers to our students (Beliefs in Society) and for its potential to be applied to relevant real world application (Families and Households). In addition, students will learn about the significance of conflict and consensus, social structure and social action, and the role of values. The central focus of study is on UK society today, with consideration given to comparative dimensions where relevant, including the siting of UK society within its globalised context. (AQA Specification)

Term / Length of Unit	Outline	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Knowledge/Skills End Points	Reading / Literacy
Overall A-Level covered over two Years	Overall this course enables students to focus on contemporary society and will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity. The course allows students to achieve an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues. Throughout the course students are encouraged to develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with	Overall, the course offers a range of skills which will be assessed e.g. • AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: sociological theories, concepts and evidence and sociological research methods • AO2: Apply sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods to a range of issues • AO3: Analyse and evaluate sociological	Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions. Wider reading To be set by individual class teacher	Full schemes of learning with associated resources on Staff Resources – Social Science Sociology SOL – Year 12 and Year 13	Overall the course will encourage students to: • acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes • appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate • understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided reading tasks • Independent reading tasks • Text book support and guidance AQA • Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts • Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions • Key concept definitions • Understanding of command words • Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles

	the contemporary social world (real world application).	theories, concepts, evidence and research methods in order to: • present arguments • make judgements • draw conclusions.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society • develop a lifelong interest in social issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)
Year 12 Autumn 1	<p>Paper 1: Education (4.1.1)</p> <p>Paper 2: Topics in Sociology - Families and Households (4.2.2)</p> <p>(Taught by two teachers)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (2 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10 mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20 mark Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<p><u>Knowledge:</u></p> <p>Paper 1: Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociological Perspectives of the role of education • Educational policy and inequality • Class differences in achievement (Internal and external factors) <p>Paper 2: Families and Households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociological perspectives of the role of the family • Couples • Childhood <p><u>Sociological skills developed:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided reading tasks • Independent reading tasks • Text book support and guidance AQA • Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts • Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions • Key concept definitions • Understanding of command words • Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles • BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

					AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding AO2 – Interpretation and Application AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis Synoptic links	
Year 12 Autumn 2	Paper 1: Education (4.1.1) Paper 2: Topics in Sociology - Families and Households (4.2.2) (Taught by two teachers)	In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule. Students complete small mark Questions (2 and 6) Students complete 10 mark Questions Students complete 20 mark Questions End of Topic Assessments	Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions. Wider reading	SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.	<u>Knowledge:</u> Paper 1: Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnic differences in achievement (external and internal factors) Gender differences in education (external and internal factors) Paper 2: Families and Households <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing family patterns and diversity Demographic changes <u>Sociological skills developed:</u> AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding AO2 – Interpretation and Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions Key concept definitions Understanding of command words Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

					AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis Synoptic links	
Year 12 Spring 1	<p>Paper 1: Education (4.1.1) and Methods in Context (4.1.2 and 4.1.3)</p> <p>Paper 2: Topics in Sociology - Families and Households (4.2.2)</p> <p>Paper 1 and Paper 2: Research Methods (4.1.2 and 4.1.3)</p> <p>(Taught by two teachers)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (2 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10 mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20 mark Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<p><u>Knowledge:</u></p> <p>Paper 1: Education and Methods in Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender differences in education (internal factors) Application of research methods to an issue within an educational context. (Experiments, questionnaires and interviews) <p>Paper 2: Families and Households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic changes Families and Social Policy <p>Paper 1 and Paper 2: Research Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiments Questionnaires Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions Key concept definitions Understanding of command words Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

					<u>Sociological skills developed:</u> AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding AO2 – Interpretation and Application AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis Synoptic links	
Year 12 Spring 2	<p>Paper 1: Education (4.1.1) and Methods in Context (4.1.2 and 4.1.3)</p> <p>Paper 1 and Paper 2: Research Methods (4.1.2 and 4.1.3)</p> <p>(Taught by two teachers)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (2 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10 mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20 mark Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<u>Knowledge:</u> Paper 1: Methods in Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of research methods to an issue within an educational context (observations, official statistics, documents and content analysis) Paper 1 and Paper 2: Research Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observations Official Statistics Documents Content analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions Key concept definitions Understanding of command words Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

					<u>Sociological skills developed:</u> AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding AO2 – Interpretation and Application AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis Synoptic links	
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YEAR 13 (Year 2) AQA Sociology A Level

Term / Length of Unit	Outline	Assessment	Home Learning	Resources	Knowledge/Skills End Points	Reading / Literacy
Overall A-Level covered over two Years Year 12 material (year 1) revisited at the end of the Spring Term	Overall this course enables students to focus on contemporary society and will foster the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity. The course allows students to achieve an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues. Throughout the course students are encouraged to develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with	Overall, the course offers a range of skills which will be assessed e.g. • AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: sociological theories, concepts and evidence and sociological research methods • AO2: Apply sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods to a range of issues • AO3: Analyse and evaluate sociological	Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions. Wider reading To be set by individual class teacher	Full schemes of learning with associated resources on Staff Resources – Social Science Sociology SOL – Year 12 and Year 13	Overall the course will encourage students to: • acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes • appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate • understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions Key concept definitions Understanding of command words Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles

	the contemporary social world (real world application).	theories, concepts, evidence and research methods in order to: • present arguments • make judgements • draw conclusions.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society • develop a lifelong interest in social issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)
Year 13 Autumn 1	<p>Paper 2: Topics in Sociology Beliefs in Society (4.2.5)</p> <p>Paper 3: - Crime and Deviance (4.3.1)</p> <p>(Taught by two teachers)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (4 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10 mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20 and 30 marks Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff</p> <p>Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<p><u>Knowledge:</u></p> <p>Paper 2: Beliefs in Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociological theories and perspectives of religion and beliefs • Beliefs and Social Change <p>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociological Perspectives Crime and Deviance (functionalism, Interactionism, Labelling theory, Marxism) • Class power and Crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided reading tasks • Independent reading tasks • Text book support and guidance AQA • Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts • Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions • Key concept definitions • Understanding of command words • Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles • BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

					<u>Sociological skills developed:</u> AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding AO2 – Interpretation and Application AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis Synoptic links	
Year 13 Autumn 2	Paper 2: Topics in Sociology Beliefs in Society (4.2.5) Paper 3: - Crime and Deviance (4.3.1) (Taught by two teachers)	In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule. Students complete small mark Questions (4 and 6) Students complete 10 mark Questions Students complete 20 and 30 marks Questions End of Topic Assessments	Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions. Wider reading	SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.	<u>Knowledge:</u> Paper 2: Beliefs in Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguments for and against secularisation Religion, Renewal and Choice Religion in a Global Context Paper 3: Crime and Deviance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realist theories of crime Gender, crime and Justice Ethnicity, Crime and Justice <u>Sociological skills developed:</u> AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding AO2 – Interpretation and Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions Key concept definitions Understanding of command words Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

					AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis Synoptic links	
Year 13 Spring 1	<p>Paper 2: Topics in Sociology Beliefs in Society (4.2.5)</p> <p>Paper 3: - Crime and Deviance (4.3.1)</p> <p>Paper 1 and Paper 3: Theory and Research Methods (4.1.2 and 4.1.3)</p> <p>(Taught by two teachers)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (4 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10 mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20 and 30 marks Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<p><u>Knowledge:</u> Paper 2: Beliefs in Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion in a Global Context • Ideology and Science <p>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnicity, Crime and Justice • Crime and the Media • Globalisation, Green Crime, Human Rights and State Crime <p>Paper 1 and Paper 3: Theory and Research Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative Research Methods • Qualitative Research Methods • Sociology and Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided reading tasks • Independent reading tasks • Text book support and guidance AQA • Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts • Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions • Key concept definitions • Understanding of command words • Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles • BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectivity and Values in Sociology <p><u>Sociological skills developed:</u></p> <p>AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>AO2 – Interpretation and Application</p> <p>AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis</p> <p>Synoptic links</p>	
Year 13 Spring 2	<p>Paper 1: Education (4.1.1) Consolidation and Methods in Context Consolidation (4.1.2 and 4.1.3)</p> <p>Paper 1 and Paper 3: Research Methods Consolidation (4.1.2 and 4.1.3)</p> <p>Paper 2 Families and Households (4.2.2) and Beliefs in Society (4.2.5) Consolidation</p> <p>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance Consolidation (4.3.1)</p>	<p>In class exam questions. HL exam questions. PPE as per whole school exam schedule.</p> <p>Students complete small mark Questions (4 and 6)</p> <p>Students complete 10 mark Questions</p> <p>Students complete 20 and 30 marks Questions</p> <p>End of Topic Assessments</p>	<p>Writing task/research/review/revision and retrieval of content</p> <p>Exam practice and technique tasks – planning, constructing, reviewing exam questions.</p> <p>Wider reading</p>	<p>SOL PPT's for each lesson developed by class teacher – Staff Resources. A wide variety of books to support extra reading. Suggested websites and podcasts.</p>	<p><u>Knowledge:</u></p> <p>Paper 3: Crime and Deviance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control, Punishment and Victims <p>Paper 1 and Paper 3: Theory and Research Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories of Sociology (functionalism, Marxism, Feminist Theories, Action Theories) Globalisation, Modernity and Postmodernity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided reading tasks Independent reading tasks Text book support and guidance AQA Extracts taken directly from Sociological research texts Focus on interpretations of Items and Sources used in questions Key concept definitions Understanding of command words Further reading: policies, Sociology Review Magazine and current articles BSA Journals (Stretch and Challenge)

	(Taught by two teachers)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sociology and Social Policy <p>Consolidation of Year 1 and year 2 material/content</p> <p><u>Sociological skills developed:</u></p> <p>AO1 – Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>AO2 – Interpretation and Application</p> <p>AO3 – Evaluation and Analysis</p> <p>Synoptic links</p>	
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