

## **GCE A Level Sociology**

Students at Harrogate High School may choose to study for a one year AS level qualification in Sociology or a two year programme leading to the full A level in Sociology. In order to study Sociology, students need to meet the general entry requirement for A level courses and have achieved A\* - C grade pass in English. No prior learning is necessary for candidates to undertake a course of study based on this specification.

### **Course Content:**

Sociology is the study of society. This course is suitable for anyone who is interested in people's lives. Sociologists collect information about society and try to explain why things happen in the world we live in. Areas that sociologists have studied are numerous and include wealth and poverty, media violence, racism, marriage and divorce, crime and health. Typical questions sociologists may try and answer are:

- Is crime on the increase, and if so why?
- Why are some groups of children within society more likely to fail at school?
- How does your gender affect your chances in life?

The aims of this course are for students to acquire knowledge, an understanding of how society works, develop views to debate upon a range of social issues, understand and evaluate theories about society, and a range of research methods through active involvement in the research; to think about personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society and to develop a lifelong interest in social issues. *If you enjoy debate, reading newspapers and watching documentaries then Sociology is a good course for you!*

The course is designed so that candidates will acquire the essential knowledge and understanding of central aspects of sociological thought and methods, together with the application of a range of skills. There are 3 units of study, all of which are assessed by examination. In both years of the course you will be given the opportunity to explore methods of investigation and data analysis used by sociologists alongside the major theories of social change put forward by sociologists.

### **AS Sociology**

The course focuses on the study of families and households and an analysis of the role of education in society. Typical activities involve looking at trends within family relationships such as marriage or divorce rates, exploring the dark side of the family and analysing how their own background affects their educational achievement.

### **A level Sociology**

Students will study the AS units and additionally will explore a range of topics within the areas of the mass media and crime. They will consider if the world is getting smaller. How does the mass media shape the view we view people? Who really holds the power in our society? Is it the people or the politicians? They will investigate crime rates and see if it leads to any understanding of why some people commit crimes, when others do not.

### **Method of Assessment:**

This qualification is assessed by external examination only.

### **Special Features:**

The demands of the course require students to write effective essays, evaluate research and analyse data. Students will need a variety of skills, including a good command of English and a systematic and scientific approach to data collection.

### **Career Opportunities**

A-Level Sociology is useful for gaining acceptance onto many higher education courses. This subject is particularly well suited to combine with subjects like Psychology, History, Geography, and for students wishing to study science/social science-based courses. Careers specific to sociology include: social work and services, teaching and education, governmental and regional planning departments, journalism, research firms, law enforcement, training and human development. Sociology also has application to many other careers including management, advertising, personnel and careers in the legal system.

For more information visit:- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>