**A-Level Sociology**

**Sociology is** the study of society, large groups of people and individuals. It studies why people behave in the way that they do and how SOCIETY and the INSTITUTIONS such as the Government and education influence the way the way that you are.

A major part of gaining success in Sociology is by learning the main ideas, concepts and terms used – the language of the subject – and then being able to use this language when you are discussing the topics and issues relevant to the study of society.

### Sociology trains you to answer the ‘what’, ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions about human societies, giving you a competitive edge in the job market. Some jobs that sociology might be useful for include - administration, business, welfare sector, education, journalism, public relations, police, research, victim support, law sector.

**How is the course organised?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 12** | **Year 13** |
| Brief Introduction to sociology  Families and Households  Education  Research methods and basic sociological theory | Mass Media  Crime, deviance  Theories and methods |

This is a two-year course which ends with **three** two-hour papers each carrying an equal weighting towards your final A-level grade (A\*-E), there is NO coursework.

Look at the specification for more detail: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF>

**Whilst there will be some specific ‘bridging work’ set on the school website before the end of term, developing an understanding of the following prior to this would be useful:**

1. **What is Sociology?**

Watch the following video and make notes, summarising what you believe Sociology to be.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK5J0-cM-HE>

1. **Social Change**

*The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is - society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes – through decades, centuries; and across countries and societies.* **Answer the following questions:**

1. **Identify 3 different** ways society has changed over the last 100yrs – think about the different areas of social life and work.
2. **Why** has society changed? Why are societies different?
3. **Research the 3** main political parties – Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat: What are their main ideas? How are they different?
4. If you were in power, what would your first four items be on your agenda? What would you hope to do?
5. **Find the definitions for the following key sociological terms, (**<http://higheredbcs.wiley.com/legacy/college/browne/0745691307/glossary/student-resources-glossary_a1.html>)

* Primary Socialisation
* Secondary Socialisation
* Norms
* Values
* Discrimination
* Culture
* Social Class
* Gender
* Ethnicity

**Save your work in a portfolio that can be incorporated into your subject folder if/once you decide to commence this course.**