

# **Sociology**

## **A Level**

**Head of Department:**

Sarah Harvey

**Exam Board:** AQA



### **What is the course about?**

Sociology is the study of social behaviour or society, including its origins, development, organization, networks, and institutions. Sociology looks at how influences from society shape the behaviour of people, their experiences and their interpretations of the world around them. This is studied critically, helping to understand social problems and social changes. In a typical week students will analyse how different sociologists have interpreted social phenomena, identifying strengths and weaknesses and evaluating conclusions. They will apply their understanding to current situations and analyse newspaper articles and television programmes which look at social issues. Students also carry out their own pieces of research to further develop their understanding.

### **What will I study in the first year?**

In the first year students study three areas: work, poverty and welfare, the sociology of education and sociological methods.

### **What will I study in the second year?**

In the second year students study the sociology of crime and deviance, beliefs in society and sociological theories and methods

### **How is the course assessed?**

Assessment is 100% exam, with a mixture of short and long answer questions spread across three papers.

### **What skills will I develop in this course?**

By the end of the course students develop a range of skills that are highly transferrable such as the use of evidence to support arguments, how to investigate facts and use deduction, critical thinking, making reasoned arguments, developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues and the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues.

### **What does this subject offer for higher education and future careers?**

This subject is considered a useful one in terms of university entrance. The study of sociology is useful for those interested in a career in any of the caring services, as well as those interested in business or marketing, politics or economics, journalism or psychology.