

EPCHS Sociology Department: Year 12 Programme of Study

The ability to understand contemporary society is vital in the modern world. Sociology gives students an insight into the world around them, awareness of the social issues that are faced by many and encourages tolerance of social diversity. KS5 Sociology also gives students the opportunity to learn how to think critically and independently and understand how to conduct research– all skills valued by Higher Education institutions and employers. Students are constantly encouraged to analyse and evaluate the information they are presented with, looking at different sociological issues from multiple perspectives.

The AQA specification includes the study of multiple aspects of society and looks at these from a range of perspectives. Theories are a key element of sociology and these run synoptically through the course. In year 1 students are introduced to studying society to begin thinking about the core elements, then they will focus on the topics of ‘Education’ and ‘Families and Households’; these are areas they have much experience in and can use to help them understand these core elements of society. Sociology helps students to explain and understand things that affect their lives directly.

In year 2 students study ‘Beliefs in society’ and ‘Crime and Deviance’. The beliefs module helps them to understand the role religion has in society, historically and in contemporary society, and the crime topic allows students to gain an understanding of why people commit crime and how, as a society, we address these issues. In addition, over the course of the two years students will study theory and methods, which develops their skills in critical thinking and furthers their understanding of how to practically conduct sociological research.

Studying Sociology helps students to foster a deep understanding of societal issues and inequality. For example, in education consideration is given to why students from certain backgrounds are more likely to underachieve. We also cover broader themes of racism and sexism and consider the implications of those. Having this understanding allows students to go into the world as more tolerant, respectful and compassionate individuals.

Sociology is a subject which develops multiple skills for the future; it requires students to construct extended pieces of writing, to use evidence effectively to support arguments, to investigate facts, and to think analytically. It is so relevant to the world around them and gives students a solid understanding of societal issues.

Year/Term	Unit of Work	Intent
Autumn (1)	Introduction to Sociology and Society:	Students will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of culture and cultural diversity. • Being aware of the importance of the process of socialisation and the nature/nurture debate. • Social groups and inequality.

<p>Autumn (2)</p>	<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power- forms of social control (formal and informal). • Agencies of socialisation. • Factors which shape identity. <p>Different sociological perspectives: Functionalism, Marxism, Social Action Theory, Feminism, Postmodernism.</p> <p>Students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure • differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society • relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning • the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.
<p>Spring</p>	<p>Complete the education module</p>	<p>Students will complete the education module.</p>

	<p>Begin Research Methods.</p>	<p>They will then study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design • sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics • the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data • the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts' • the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.
<p>Summer</p>	<p>Families and Households</p>	<p>Students will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies • changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures • gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society • the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society • demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

