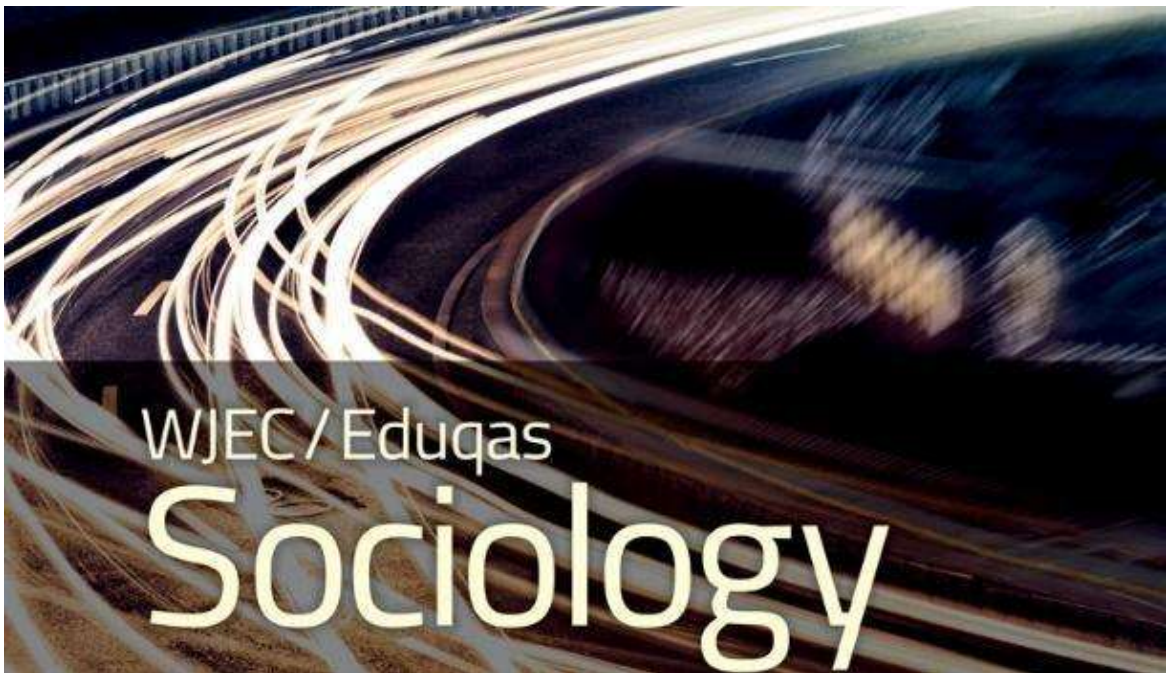




Hartismere
College



WJEC / Eduqas

Sociology



Welcome to the Sociology department. Sociology is an increasingly popular course in the UK. It's the perfect subject for those keen to further understand how societies work. Sociology is a fascinating subject and the course is stimulating, challenging and fun. It can provide either a stand-alone qualification or form part of a structured foundation for further study. It will certainly encourage you to become more independent and analytical in the way you think.

The aim of this booklet is to provide you with the information you need about studying Sociology in the Sixth form. Should you wish to ask any other questions or clarify any detail you should speak to the current course teachers, Mr Miller, Mrs Allen or Mrs King.

Why study Sociology?

Society is in a constant state of flux. Studying Sociology will help you not only to understand what is going on, but it will also assist you in adapting or coping with societal change. Sociology allows you to gain a greater understanding of humans and their societies. By studying societal behaviour, you'll be able to make comparisons, attempt to solve issues and have a rational perception of some of society's more frustrating habits. During the course you will improve your critical faculties and become better at making rational and measured decisions.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The course will help you develop an awareness of the importance of social structure and social action in explaining social issues. As you progress through the course you'll be encouraged to develop your own sociological awareness. Therefore, the most important qualities you'll need to study Sociology are an enquiring mind and a genuine interest in social issues. You'll also need an ability to communicate your ideas effectively both orally and in writing. Sociology is not a subject that anyone at Hartismere studies at GCSE but in order to join the AS course a minimum grade 5 in English is required.

How is the course structured and what topics are taught?

AS is short for Advanced Subsidiary. This is a stand-alone qualification studied for one year. All Hartismere students will sit AS exams so that they can have as much choice as possible about the subjects they continue with in year 13. All work in year 12 is preparation for the full A-level qualification which is taken at the end of year 13.

Although the content for the AS-level and the first year of the A-level is identical, the AS and A levels are distinct qualifications.

Students taking the AS-level will study two components and both will be assessed in the same exam series at the end of one year of study. The components are:

- Component 1: Socialisation and Culture
- Component 2: Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Students who sit these exams will be awarded an AS-level Qualification. The student's AS mark/grade will not contribute to the award of an A-level qualification should the student continue to study the subject at that level.

Students taking the A-level will study three components and all three will be assessed in the same exam series at the end of two years of study. The components are:

- Component 1: Socialisation, Culture and Identity
- Component 2: Methods of Sociological Enquiry
- Component 3: Power and Stratification

Students who sit these examinations will be awarded an A-level qualification.

AS-level topics and examinations

In Year 12 you will study and be examined on two components:

Component 1 - Socialisation and Culture covering:

The social construction of culture

- Definition of culture as a way of life and terms such as norms, values, beliefs, roles, status.
- Aspects of culture such as dress, language, food, music.
- Meaning of the social construction of culture such as feral children, social change and the nature/nurture debate.
- Cultural diversity and sub-culture/s

The process and agencies of socialisation

- The process of primary and secondary socialisation through role models, imitation, sanction and processes linked to specific agencies of socialisation.
- The process of cultural transmission through primary socialisation – families.
- The process of cultural transmission through secondary socialisation – peers, education, religion, the media and work.
- Formal/informal social control

Examples of the influence of socialisation on identity

- Identity: personal and social
- Gender
- Class
- Ethnicity
- Nationality

Youth Cultures

- Factors influencing the formation of youth cultures including the media, economic factors, globalisation and the impact of: class, gender and ethnicity.
- The changing nature of youth culture and the growth of neo tribes Youth subcultures, deviance with reference to: delinquency, crime, education and media.
- Theoretical perspectives of youth cultures with reference to functionalist, Marxist, feminist, postmodernist, interactionist Education
- The role and function of education in contemporary society
- Patterns and trends of differential attainment and participation with reference to: social class, gender and ethnicity

- Contemporary social policy with regard to education in society
- The influence of material factors, cultural factors, processes such as labelling within the education system and on patterns and trends in educational attainment
- Theoretical perspectives of education with reference to functionalist, Marxist, interactionist, feminist, New Right, postmodernist

Examination:

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
 70% of qualification
 120 marks

Questions:

Section A - 15 marks. One structured question on the theme of socialisation, culture and identity.

Section B - 50 marks. Youth cultures. A compulsory question and a choice between two essay questions.

Section C - 55 marks. Education. A compulsory question and a choice between two further questions.

Component 2 - Methods of Sociological Enquiry

This component focuses on methods of sociological enquiry. You will be required to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of methods and sources of data.
- demonstrate your ability to apply your knowledge and understanding of research methods to a specific scenario.
- use examples from contemporary sociological research to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant sociological concepts and key methodological issues.

Examination:

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
 30% of qualification
 50 marks

Questions:

One compulsory question. This will be based on stimulus material which will be a synopsis of a piece of sociological research.

A-level topics and examinations

In Year 13 you will study and be examined/assessed on three components.

Component 1: Socialisation and Culture

Examination:

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
40% of qualification
120 marks

Questions:

Section A - 20 marks

One structured question on the key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, socialisation and the acquisition of identity.

Section B - 50 marks

This section offers a choice between two options: families and households or youth cultures. Each option includes a compulsory question and a choice between two essay questions.

Section C - 50 marks

This section offers a choice between three options: education or media or religion. Each option includes a compulsory question and a choice between two essay questions.

Component 2: Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Examination:

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
20% of qualification
60 marks

Questions:

Two compulsory questions. One question will be based on stimulus material which will be a synopsis of a piece of sociological research.

The questions will include extended writing and one question will require you to design, justify and evaluate a piece of sociological research.

Component 3: Power and Stratification

This component focuses on the theme of social differentiation, power and stratification.

Section A

- evidence and examples of areas of inequality related to social class, gender, ethnicity and age in the contemporary UK; evidence and examples may be drawn from across the specification
- changing patterns of inequality including the distribution of income, wealth and social mobility in the contemporary UK
- theories and explanations for inequality and stratification related to social class, gender, ethnicity, age, for example functionalist, New Right, Marxist, neo-Marxist, Weberian, neo-Weberian, feminist, postmodernist and theories of racism.

Section B

This section focuses on the theme of power, issues of social order and social control studied through one of the following:

- crime and deviance
- health and disability
- politics
- world sociology

Examination:

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

40% of qualification

120 marks

Questions:

Section A - 60 marks One question on the theme of social differentiation and stratification. This will include a compulsory question and a choice between two essay questions.

Section B - 60 marks The questions in this section are on the theme of power. There is a choice between four options: crime and deviance, health and disability, politics, world sociology. Each option includes a compulsory question and a choice between two essay questions.

How can I develop my full range of skills by doing this course?

As well as covering advanced level study of sociology, this course will enable you to develop some key skills which will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards. The key skills you can develop during this course are:

- communication;
- information technology;
- problem solving;
- working with others;
- improving own learning and performance.

Sociology A level offers you plenty of opportunities to acquire key skills. Opportunities will arise naturally during lessons. They might include presenting your ideas to the rest of your group, taking part in discussion, using a computer for research or working in a small group to investigate a sociological concept.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students who study AS or Advanced GCE Sociology have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. By the end of your course you will have learned a variety of transferable skills including how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate complex ideas effectively. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value. Sociology combines well with a range of science, social science and humanities subjects to create an attractive portfolio of qualifications, enabling you to move on to university courses in such areas as business, economics, law, media, philosophy, languages and, of course, sociology. Students who choose not to go on to higher studies will have well developed transferable skills that will allow them to explore a wide range of employment opportunities.

What work will I be expected to do?

In lessons you will be expected to take part in a wide range of activities which include the following:

- research
- note taking
- discussion
- group and individual presentations.

Outside lessons you will be expected to undertake at least 5 hours private study a week at home or in school. This may increase towards the end of both the year 12 and 13 programme of study when you will be preparing for exams.

What do I do if I feel as though the course is too hard or I am getting behind with my work?

The monitoring system in the sixth form is very efficient and difficulties should be identified quickly by teaching staff and the sixth form team. There will be individual tutorial sessions for all sixth form students to deal with precisely these kinds of issues. However you must be prepared to communicate – talk to your teachers. It is much better to tackle a problem early when a relatively simple solution is possible rather than let it grow into a large problem that is more difficult to deal with. Your teachers will prefer it if you are open and up front about your difficulties and will respond in a helpful way, provided you have given the sufficient warning e.g. don't wait until the day before a deadline to announce that you cannot make it. Plan ahead of time and ask for help or an appropriate extension if necessary.

Summary

Sociology is:

- interesting, challenging and fun;
- easily mixed with a variety of other subjects;
- recognised as a subject that promotes transferable skills and valued by employers and institutions of higher education.

The Department is:

- well organised and resourced;
- enthusiastic;
- committed to making sure your results are the best you can achieve.

Contact

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