Hayesfield GIRLS' SCHOOL | MIXED SIXTH

Sociology
Curriculum Booklet
2026-2027

Head of Subject: Laura Blower

Subject Curriculum Intent:

'The function of Sociology...is to reveal that which is hidden'

Pierre Bourdieu

Sociology is invaluable in expanding our understanding of both ourselves and others. Our Sociology course challenges students to develop their understanding of human societies. It is current, pertinent, and relevant to our constantly changing and confusing world.

Sociology is a subject offered to all students as part of the GCSE options process in Year 9. It is ideally suited to Hayesfield's comprehensive intake and students of all abilities can make good progress.

Sociology allows students to transcend Bath's traditional demographics. As a school that is predominantly white British, Sociology ensures that our students have a knowledge of societies different to their own. It is a safe place to engage and challenge prejudice and stereotypes.

As a proud girls' school, our Sociology course has a strong focus on gender and feminism. It is a subject that enables girls to study the role of women and to celebrate progression.

Our curriculum intents for Sociology:

- To allow students to study people; both within their own societies and in societies very different to those of the Southwest.
- To inform students on how individuals organise their societies, the patterns they create and their group behaviour.
- To deepen the experience of learners enabling them to explore behaviour across a spectrum of groups.
- To produce open minded, independent thinkers prepared to take on the challenges of a constantly changing modern world.
- To encourage a deep understanding of the research process and to get students to approach academic questions with the rigor and integrity that both Higher Education providers and employers' value.
- To provide a safe space open for all to explore the intricacies of human experience.
- To inspire an understanding of the changing position of the woman within society.
- To inspire our girls to achieve their ambitions.
- To facilitate a love of the Social Sciences which moves towards further study or careers working with people.

The Sociology GCSE course enables students to gain a flavour for this topic at A Level. Hayesfield Mixed Sixth Form offers both Sociology and Psychology A Level courses, which are both very popular choices. Having ignited an interest at GCSE, many of our students go on to study some form of social science in further education.

Subject Curriculum Implementation:

Students learn through the opportunity to think critically, debate, problem solve and note take. The course builds on prior knowledge increasing in difficulty as the course continues. The introductory 'Studying Society' section develops the theoretical knowledge required to tackle the subsequent topics and the practical understanding required to analyse the subsequent studies. It also provides an overview of the methods that are used throughout Sociology. The course then moves onto exploring the family and education which leads to Year 11's focus on Stratification and Crime.

Sociology is designed to meet the specific needs of learners at Hayesfield students. All students have the opportunity to succeed. We support low prior attainers by developing activities that unlock the course content whilst ensuring that the highest attainers are challenged by discussing abstract theoretical concepts alongside both macro and micro theories.

All sociology courses start with a unit introducing the building blocks of the subject. Students explore the central theories of Marxism, Feminism, Functionalism and interactionism. They will discover several of the founders of the discipline; Durkheim, Weber and Marx. Alongside methods learners investigate the methodology used in Sociology. The family and education units are studied in Year 10 as they provide an opportunity for the girls to test their new skills in arenas that are familiar to them (education and the family).

In the family unit, students discuss the different forms of families, conjugal roles, how families have changed in a modern capitalist world and the criticisms of the family. They understand the role of the education and how education functions in a modern, capitalist world. The reasons for the difference in achievement in education of different sex, ethnicity and class groups is analysed.

Year 11 opens a new challenge in far more unfamiliar topic areas. Students will use the skills they have developed in Year 10 to evaluate, outline and explain both crime and stratification. Functionalism unlocks Merton's understanding of crime, Becker builds and expands students' thoughts on methodology. Stratification also builds on and expands many of the topics completed in the initial studying society unit.

The final assessment of the course is via external examinations held in the early summer of Year 11 but much assessment during the year will be completed by low stakes assessments such as knowledge tests. When exam technique is discussed, a focus is on discussion, assessment and evaluation rather than teaching to the exam.

Sociology encourages debate and discussion of social issues to enable students to challenge common sense thinking. Whilst providing the transferable skills needed to empower students in many lessons Key Stage 4 Sociology provides an ideal grounding in the social sciences leading to further study of Sociology, Psychology or Criminology.

Allocated Curriculum Time:

	Year 10	Year 11

Fortnightly lesson allocation	5	5

Year 10

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: Sociology 8192

Term	Curriculum Foci Areas	Assessment Tasks
1	**Studying Society (Teacher 1)** ● Functionalism, Feminism and Marxism ● The key Sociologists Durkheim, Marx and Weber ● Social Structures, Social Processes, Social Issues **Research Methods (Teacher 2)** ● Strengths and Weaknesses of Research Methods	**Assessment** Research Methods Knowledge Quiz 40 mins
2	**Family (Teacher 1)** ● Views of families ● Family Forms ● Marxist, functionalist and feminist analysis of family role **Education (Teacher 2)** ● Role and Function of Education	**Assessment** To what extent do sociologists agree that the family is a place of exploitation? Knowledge Questions mins
3	**Family (Teacher 1)** ● Conjugal roles ● Changes to families **Education (Teacher 2)** ● Education within Capitalism ● Processes within and outside the school	
4	**Family (Teacher 1)** ● Divorce ● Criticism of the family **Education (Teacher 2)** ● Gender and achievement ● Class and achievement ● Ethnicity and achievement	**Assessment** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that families are the main agent of socialization. Knowledge Questions 60 mins
5	**Family (Teacher 1)** ● Applying methods to family **Education (Teacher 2)** ● Applying methods to Education ● Questionnaires used to explore attitudes to Education ● Interviews to explore views of education ● Participant and non-participant observation to understand education	**Assessment** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that a student's social class is the main factor affecting their educational achievement. Knowledge Questions 60 mins
6	**Crime (Teacher 1)** ● Introduction to Crime and Deviance **Stratification (Teacher 2)** ● Introduction to Stratification	**Assessment** Research presentation

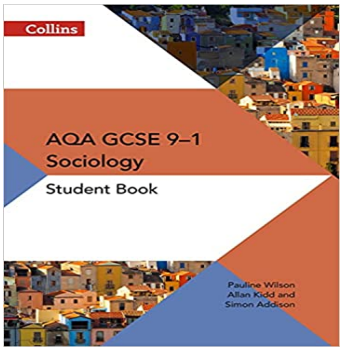
Year 11

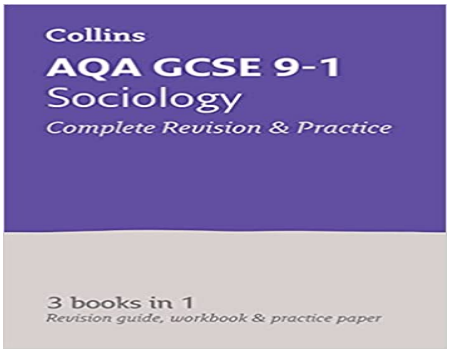
Term	Curriculum Foci Areas	Assessment Tasks
1	**Crime and Deviance (Teacher 1)** ● Merton and strain theory ● Becker and labelling **Stratification (Teacher 2)** ● Functionalism ● Marxism and Class	**Assessment** Discuss how far sociologists agree that official statistics of crime do not accurately reflect the true level of middle-class criminal behaviour. Knowledge questions 1 hour
2	**Crime and Deviance (Teacher 1)** ● Formal forms of control ● Informal forms of control ● Hedonism and Feminism **Stratification (Teacher 2)** ● How gender, ethnicity and age affect the individuals' experience and, ultimately, their life chances	**Formal external assessment details** Discuss how far sociologists agree that social class rather than gender or ethnicity is the most important division in British society. Knowledge questions 1 hour
3	**Crime and Deviance (Teacher 1)** ● Criminal and Deviant behaviour ● Official statistics, victim surveys, criminal surveys ● Exploration of what extent we can trust the data that is put forward on crime ● How crime rate is socially constructed **Stratification (Teacher 2)** ● The effect of poverty - exploring how poverty is linked to age, gender and ethnicity ● Functionalist, Marxist and feminist explanations of poverty ● New Right approach to poverty ● Power, Gender and Authority	**Assessment** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that institutional racism remains an issue in the criminal justice system. Knowledge questions 1 hour
4	**Crime and Deviance (Teacher 1)** ● Applying methods to Crime and Deviance (same methods applied as Education module) **Stratification (Teacher 2)** ● Applying methods to Stratification	**Assessment** Discuss how far sociologists would agree that the welfare state has helped to create a culture of dependency amongst some groups in Britain. Knowledge questions 1 hour
5	**Revision and Exams**	

Revision and Support:

Sociology is focused on understanding contemporary society and applying different theories to it. The best way to support your daughter is to provide her with an environment of discussion and debates. You can do this by the following:

- Ensure she has access to a quality broadsheet newspaper
- Discuss current events
- Allow her to teach you sociological theory. Discuss whether you agree with it!
- An excellent revision guide is the Collins AQA GCSE 1-9 Revision Guide ISBN-10 0008227454
- The best text book is AQA GCSE Sociology 1-9 Sociology Student Book ISBN-10000822014X





- https://revisesociology.com/ is an excellent revision website

Final Assessment Structure:

Component	Weighting	Content	Proposed Date of Examination
Sociology of Families and Education	50%	1 hour and 45 minutes 50% Family 50% Education 100 marks in total including 4x12 mark mini essays	May/June 2022
Crime and Deviance/Social Stratification	50%	1 hour and 45 minutes 50% Stratification 50% Crime 100 marks in total including 4x12 mark mini essays	May/June 2022

Please see exam board websites for up to date information:
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192