

Course title: Sociology

Exam board: AQA

Course description:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods

Education - In this first compulsory unit students explore the role and functions of the education system, differential educational achievement of social groups. Relationships and processes within schools and the significance of educational policies.

Methods in context - Students must be able to apply sociological research methods to the study of education

Theory and Methods - This element looks at the following theory and methods and analyses them in relation to education: methods of research; research design, sources of data, primary and secondary data, quantitative and qualitative data, positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts', the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations, consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories, modernity and post-modernity, Sociology as scientific, relationship between theory and methods, subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom, social policy.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology

Culture and Identity - Students explore conceptions of culture, the socialisation process and the role of the agencies of socialisation. The self, identity and difference as both socially caused and socially constructed. The relationship of identity to age, disability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, sexuality and social class in contemporary society. The relationship of identity to production, consumption and globalisation

The Media - Students study the new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society. The relationship between ownership and control of the media, globalisation and popular culture. The processes of selection and presentation of the content of the news, media representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability. The relationship between the media, their content, presentation and audiences.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Method

Crime and Deviance - In the second compulsory unit students study crime, deviance, social order and social control. The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime. Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes, crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

Theory and Method - as above in Education

Assessment:

Examination: AQA Sociology

Admissions requirements: Grade 5 in English, Grade 5 in Mathematics, Grade 6 in a humanity or related subject (Geography, History, Citizenship, RS, Economics).

Additional information:

You will enjoy this course if you have an interest in the world around you and you are open to exploring different perspectives. If you are a critical thinker who likes to question assumptions, analyse information, debate and discuss then you can flourish at A Level Sociology. A Level Sociology will help equip you with critical thinking, analytical, and research skills by exploring societal structures and issues. It develops the ability to evaluate evidence, construct arguments, and communicate effectively, which are transferable to various disciplines and careers. Sociology serves as a strong foundation for degrees in Sociology, Criminology, Social Work, Law, and Politics, while also complementing related fields like Psychology and Anthropology. These skills and knowledge open diverse career opportunities in social services, education, public policy, media, marketing, law, and criminal justice, making Sociology an excellent choice for students interested in understanding and addressing social challenges.