

YEAR 10 & YEAR 11 SOCIOLOGY LEARNING JOURNEY

From September 2024

Sociology is the study of society. In this subject, pupils learn about different factors that affect people's behaviour and how society influences our opinions and beliefs. Pupils learn about different social structures such as schools, families and the criminal justice system, they examine how these structures are beneficial to society as well as looking at some of the difficulties they can cause.

Many pupils continue to study sociology at A level. As well as being an excellent starting point for this, sociology GCSE also gives pupils important skills and knowledge such as the ability to understand a range of different viewpoints, the ability to read and interpret information from a range of sources and the knowledge of how people from different cultures and with different values live.

This first component introduces pupils to key sociological ideas of culture and identity and teaches them how society shapes the type of people we are. This is formally examined at the end of year 11 in Paper 1 of pupils' final GCSE.

This unit introduces key sociological ideas and focuses on the themes of socialisation, identity and culture. Pupils study the key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, including socialisation and the acquisition of identity, and develop these through detailed study of families and education. Pupils begin to learn about sociological research methods and how social scientists find out about society.

Pupils learn about different types of families, how and why families have changed over the past 50 years and how these changes have affected individuals and society. Pupils look at the functions of families from different sociological perspectives, looking at how families help individuals as well as some of the difficulties linked to families.

Pupils learn about different types of schools, the advantages and disadvantages of these. They examine the functions of schools / education from both Marxist and functionalist perspectives and look at how schools help individuals and society. They learn about factors that affect achievement in schools, and why some groups are more or less likely to achieve in school.



Component 1: Understanding Social Processes Unit 1: Key Concepts & Social Processes Unit 2:

Unit 3:

The focus in this component is on social differentiation, power and stratification. This includes the theme of power, issues of social order and social control, studied through crime and deviance. Pupils also study applied methods of sociological enquiry, their knowledge and understanding of sociological research methods studied in Component 1 will be reinforced by considering the research methods used to gather evidence for the theories studied in Component 2. This is formally examined at the end of year 11 in GCSE paper 2.

Each lesson begins with a basic recall grid in which pupils complete short tasks testing their recall of basic information from previous lessons. They are introduced to the structure of exam questions in the first half term and are supported to answer these in lessons throughout the year. Pupils are tested on their knowledge and understanding of what they have learned in regular, short knowledge quizzes. Each unit ends with a formal assessment using one section of a GCSE past paper. There is an end of year exam which comprises a full GCSE past paper

© Component 2: Understanding Social Structures



Assessment in Year 10

Pupils learn the difference between criminal and deviant behaviour and can give examples of these. They learn some of the reasons that sociologists believe people commit crimes and examine some of the factors that make some groups more likely to commit crimes than others. Pupils also learn about formal and informal social control, they will know what the criminal justice system is and how we try to prevent crimes.

In this unit, pupils learn how society is divided into different groups (social class, gender, ethnicity) examine how different sociological perspectives view these divisions. They learn how divisions in society affect people's life chances and why functionalist sociologists see stratification as good for society, while feminists and Marxists see it as unfair. Pupils look at different explanations for the existence of poverty and learn about some of the ways that society has created laws and policies to create more equality.

Unit 4:

Crime and Deviance

Unit 5:

Social differentiation and stratification

Pupils continue to have recall grids at the start of each lesson and knowledge quizzes throughout year 11. Each topic is assessed with an end of unit assessment (again one section of a GCSE paper). There are two trial exams; paper one is assessed in the Autumn term, paper 2 is assessed in the spring term. There are 2 final GCSE papers in May / June of year 11, each making up 50% of a pupils' grade

In this final unit, pupils develop their knowledge of social research learning more abut the research process, and how to interpret graphs, diagrams, charts and tables in order to discern patterns and trends.



Assessment Year 11

Unit 6: Applied methods of sociological enquiry