

Curriculum Information for Parents

Key Stage 5 Sociology

Learning Leader Contact Information		Phone: 01604 862125	Paul.kennewell@ewsacademy.org.uk
Examination Board	OCR	Specification Code	H580

Subject Content

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. Its subject matter is diverse and investigates many areas of social life in a stimulating way, encouraging students to look critically at society.

Unit 1 Socialisation, culture and identity

Section A: Introducing socialisation, culture and identity

- **The changing nature of culture in society**
- **The impact of different identities** gender, ethnic, national, class and age identity
- **How we learn from society** The socialization process

Section B: The family and relationships

- **Trends in the family:** Changes in family size, marriage, divorce.
- **Theoretical views on the family:** the different ways in which sociologists view the family
- **Family diversity:** Different types of family in today's society and how our culture has changed to accept new family formats
- **Relationships within the family:** How the position of males and females have changed in the family. The nature of childhood in modern society

Unit 2 Researching and understanding social inequalities

Section A: Research methods and researching social inequalities

- The major research methods used by Sociologists
- Their application in different situations and advantages/disadvantages
- Examples of research and how they help us understand modern social life.

Section B: Social inequalities in today's society

- The main patterns and trends in social inequality and difference: Class, gender, ethnicity, age
- The different sociological theories used to explain inequalities

Unit 3 Debates in contemporary society

Section A: Globalisation and the digital social world

The impact of the new digital social world (the internet and social media) on relationships, identity, social conflict and global culture in today's society

Section B: Options Education

- Social Policy and education
- Theories on the role of education
- Explaining differences in educational attainment: Gender, Ethnicity, Class

Assessment Details:

The assessment consists of **three written examinations** externally assessed by OCR. Each Unit has a mixture of shorter answers as well as more extended essays.

Unit	Time	% of A level
Socialisation, culture and identity	1½ hours	30%
Researching and understanding social inequalities	2¼ hours	35%
Debates in contemporary society	2¼ hours	35%

What can I do to support my child at home?

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- Encourage students to carry out wider reading on topics covered in class
- Read through student answers to support their development of writing skills and to review work
- Encourage students to watch/read the news and discuss any Sociological related issues with them
- Use the OCR Sociology website to practice exam questions, utilise mark schemes and examiners report
- Be aware of homework deadlines (Go4schools) and encourage students to meet them to avoid late submission of work
- Encourage students to learn key words and terminology from the course notes
- Keep their work organised in appropriate folders to enable later revision

Recommended resources for the course:

Websites

BBC News – students need to have awareness of contemporary issues
<https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/sociology>

Books

OCR Sociology for A Level Book 1 UK ed. Edition- Hodder
 OCR Sociology for A Level Book 2 UK ed. Edition -Hodder

Teaching Staff Contact Details

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Additional Information:

Sociology can prepare students well for the future

- It gives an academic A level qualification recognised by all universities
- Develops skills of research, analysis and evaluation
- Provides knowledge and insight into society which is relevant to a wide range of careers including the law, police, public services, teaching, journalism, business management, civil service etc
- Provides a qualification that compliments other subjects well.