**The department follows the AQA A level Sociology specification**

A Level Sociology

**A Level Paper 1: Education with methods in context and theory and methods**

In this unit you will look at the following issues;

• Why we have an education system in society

• Why girls do better in education than boys

• The relationship and processes between students and teachers

• The reasons why sociologists research different subjects

• The different ways that sociologists carry out research including questionnaires,

 interviews, observation in relation to the education system

• The different theories that exist within Sociology

**Structure of paper 1 exam**

The exam is for 2 hours.

It will be worth 33.3% of your final A level grade

There will be 4 questions about education and you will have to answer them all. The first few questions will only be worth 4,6 and 10 marks. However, the last question will be a 30 mark essay question. There will be a 20 mark methods in context question and a 10 mark theory and methods question.

**A Level Paper 2: Topics in Sociology-Beliefs in Society and Families and Households**

In this unit you will look at the following issues in beliefs in society;

• Different theories of religion

• The role of religion as a conservative force and an initiator of social change

• The key features of cults, sects, denominations and churches

• Explanations of the relationship between religious belief, religious organisations and social groups

• Definitions and explanations of the nature and extent of secularization

In this unit you will look at the following issues in families and households;

• How childhood has changed over time

• What has happened to family size over the last 100 years

• What the patterns of marriage and divorce are in our society

• How the Government has an impact on the family

• Power relationships within the family

**Structure of paper 2 exam**

The exam is for 2 hours.

It will be worth 33.3% of your overall A Level

For beliefs in society and families and households you will have to answer two 10 mark questions and a 20 mark essay

**A Level Paper 3- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**

In this unit you will look at the following issues;

• Different theories of crime, deviance, social order and social control.

• The social distribution of crime and deviance by age, ethnicity, gender, locality and social class including recent patterns and trends in crime.

• Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the mass media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes.

• Crime control, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal

 justice system and other agencies.

• Conflict, consensus, social action, feminist and post-modern theories

• Sociology and science, value-freedom and social policy

**Structure of Paper 3 exam**

The exam is for 2 hours

It will be worth 33.3% of your overall A Level

You will answer a 4, 6 and 10 mark question and then a 30 mark essay question on crime and deviance. You will then answer a 10 mark question and a 20 mark essay on theory and methods.

In year one, you will study families and households, education and research methods.

In year two, you will study crime and deviance, beliefs in society and theory and methods.

**Expectations of the course**

Attendance and punctuality

Excellent attendance and punctuality is crucial for your success in Sociology. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to catch up with notes and activities that were completed in the lesson. You must also see your teacher if you do not understand the work due to your absence. It is also your responsibility to find out if there was any homework that was given when you were absent as we will still expect it to be handed in.

**Deadlines**

It is essential that you meet all deadlines that are set. You will receive regular homework in the form of question and answers, note-taking, research or essay questions and they must be handed in on time. Failure to do this will result in gaps in your knowledge and understanding of the topic and also detentions/phone calls home etc. from your teachers.

**Watching TV programmes and reading newspapers**

Examiners like to see that students can write about up to date issues in their exams, therefore it is important to watch any documentaries that are relevant to the family (child of our time), education (educating the east end) and sociological methods (Big Brother). There will be many relevant ones throughout the year and I will highlight these as and when they are on. It is also important to buy a newspaper occasionally as there are always articles about the family and education. You could occasionally buy the Times Educational Supplement that is published every Friday. This is all

about education and is £1.90 (buy it and share the cost with someone else in the class) or use their website to find articles. Finally, subscribe to Sociology Review, a sociology magazine that offers current research, exam tips and more.

**Wider reading**

For you to have a broad understanding of sociology it is vital for you to do some wider reading outside of lesson time. You need to read articles from Sociology

Review which will be available in the classroom and it is important to read chapters/topics of textbooks that are not used in class e.g. Haralambos and Holborn. Wider reading will naturally help you to understand the work that is done in class more easily and will add depth to your exam answers.