



**A level Sociology focuses upon the function and relationships of society within contemporary society. The four distinct units (education, families households, beliefs in society, and crime & deviance) act as different foci for learners, whilst still focusing upon the common themes of identify, socialisation, culture, and the stratification of society. Other common threads that run through the course are the theoretical views of differing groups such as Marxist, functionalist new right and feminist. Together, this forms a cohesive and comprehensive study of the role and function both of society as a whole – and the individuals within it.**

		Year 12	Year 13
Implementation	Knowledge	We begin the course with an overview of the common themes and theoretical perspectives. The study then splits into the 2 themes – Education and Families & Household. Education considers the likelihood of achievement based upon different issues ~ (gender, age, ethnicity, social class), the history of education policy and the differing roles within education of both the explicit and hidden curriculum. Families and Households considers the changing shape, status and importance of family within current society, and differing views of this by both the public and the government/politicians. Within both are regular references and tasks linking to the research methods used within this subject and their explicit application within the context.	Learners study two distinct themes during the year – Beliefs in society focuses upon the role and influence of religion within society, both established, new and alternatives. Crime and deviance considers the likelihood of offenders/victims dependent upon their class/gender/age/ethnicity. It also explores the role of the CJS and differing views of crime prevention. Both units also focus upon the examination skills needed with a range of exam question stems and regular practice. Revision of year one is also inter-leaven into teaching to ensure learners can also make wider connections between topics and answer synoptic questions considering a range of topics.
	Recurring skills/themes	Core themes that run throughout the course: culture, socialisation, identity, social differentiation/status, stratification Specific sociological perspectives - Marxism, Functionalism, New Right, Feminism and Postmodernism Influence of government and impact of social policy upon society in past 75 years Specific research methods – Interviews, questionnaires, social experiments, laboratory experiments, observations and focus groups. Key topics under consideration when conducting research – PRACTICAL, ETHICAL and THEORETICAL.	
	Personal Development	A key speaker from University of Gloucestershire talking about criminology. Visit to court to observe process and develop knowledge. Wider reading available through both books and subscription to 'sociology review'. Regular catch-up/revision workshops offered.	
	Assessment	Mock in autumn and spring/summer. Regular exam style questions in each discreet unit to develop knowledge, skills and feedback for all question stems.	

**Learners having studied Sociology at A level will have a good understanding of current issues in UK society and around the world. They will have developed essay skills and research skills. They will approach current events with a critical mind and be well grounded in social science skills to take on HE courses including sociology, psychology, criminology and anthropology.**