Integrity
Curiosity
Respect

DIXONS SIXTH FORM ACADEMY
DOUGLAS MILL,
BOWLING OLD LN,
BRADFORD
BD5 7JR

01274 089770
WWW.DIXONS6A.COM
@DIXONSSIXTH
INFO@DIXONS6A.COM



A LEVEL

Sociology

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions. Sociology is an exciting area of study that analyses and explains important matters in our personal lives, our communities, and the world.

At the personal level, Sociology investigates the social causes and consequences of such things as racial and gender identity, family conflict and ageing.

At the societal level, Sociology examines and explains matters like crime and law, poverty and wealth.

At the global level, Sociology studies such phenomena as population growth and migration, expansion of business, and climate change.

Focus is placed upon analysis, evaluation and critical interpretation of sociological theories and research methods.

WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE THIS COURSE

Sociology is an ideal choice for students who have an interest in understanding human behaviour and social trends. It is a subject for students who are inquisitive and enjoy learning theories and content that enhance their understanding of everyday life.

Sociology A level compliments other Social Sciences and Humanities subjects like Psychology, History, Geography, RS, Law and Health and Social Care.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO WITH THIS COURSE

Sociology can be studied at degree level across a wide range of universities, including Russell Group, and can be combined with a range of other degrees including Criminology and Social Policy.

A level Sociology is beneficial for students considering applying for degrees in Law, Psychology, Criminology, Anthropology or Geography. It allows a development of core skills, building arguments, reading and understanding the work of others. All these skills are applicable in employment and at university across courses.

HOW THIS COURSE IS ASSESSED

3 separate exams each lasting 2 hours (carrying 33.3% marks each)

- The course is content heavy and therefore requires candidates to have an excellent memory alongside a dedicated attitude towards active revision.
- The vast majority of assessment is essay-based; therefore students must possess strong literacy and written communication skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.

What the course covers

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods [80 marks]

1. **Education:** Sociological theories of education, differential achievement by class, gender and ethnicity, relationships and processes within schools (labelling, setting/streaming, pupil identities, subcultures) and education policy 1944-present, including globalization [50 marks in total].
2. **Methods in Context:** Application of knowledge of sociological research methods to the topic of education [20 marks].
3. **Theory and Methods:** Sociological theories of society, research methods, practical, ethical and theoretical research considerations and debates in Sociology [10 marks].

Paper 2: Families and Households and Stratification and Differentiation [80 marks]

1. **Families and Households:** Sociological theories of the family, trends and patterns in family structure and diversity, couples and the 'dark side' of the family, sociological theories of childhood, demography and the family (birth rates, death rates, ageing population and migration) [40 marks in total].
2. **Stratification and Differentiation:** Sociological theories of inequality, inequality across class, gender, ethnicity, disability and age, measuring social class, globalization and social mobility [40 marks in total].

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods [80 marks]

1. **Crime and Deviance:** Sociological theories of crime, patterns of criminality across class, gender and ethnicity, crime in a global context (including green crime, state crime and the role of the media in crime), crime prevention and punishment (including prison and the criminal justice system) [50 marks in total].
2. **Theory and Methods:** Sociological theories of society, research methods, practical, ethical and theoretical research considerations and debates in Sociology [30 marks in total].

FURTHER INFORMATION

The complete specification can be viewed on the AQA website: www.aqa.org.uk