St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level Sociology

Course Description

Sociology is the study of society where you will learn about different aspects of society including The Family, Education, Beliefs, and, Crime and Deviance. As a bit of an insight, in The Family unit you will learn whether women still do an unfair share of domestic work, or if the emergence of the '*new man*' has made their lives easier; in Education you will learn how social factors such as class, ethnicity and gender affect student performance. Sociologists study these different parts of society using a range of research methods which you will study in depth focusing on the strengths and weaknesses of such approaches.

Skills Attained

Sociology both requires and develops literacy skills, specifically the ability to write a strong essay, maintaining a clear line of well evidenced argument throughout an extended piece of writing. You will also learn how to apply research methods to novel situations. Throughout your studies you will consider both empirical data and theoretical debates and come to your own conclusions as to whether or not society is organised in a fair way where everyone has an equal chance of success, or an unfair way which benefits the wealthy and not the poor.

Assessment

Students will sit three 2 hour exam papers at the end of the second year of A Level Sociology. Each paper is worth 80 marks and 33.3% of the final A level grade.

Paper 1— Education, Theories and Methods
Paper 2— Family and Religion
Paper 3— Crime, Theories and Methods



Progression

The fact Sociology develops students' understanding of the world in which we live, means it is a highly versatile subject and is very useful for many career paths and university courses.

Former St Benedict's Sociology students have gone on to study Law at Oxford, began training as teachers and nurses, and embarked on careers in journalism highlighting the usefulness of the course.

Sociology is classed as a humanities subject but also uses scientific methodology, therefore it combines well with any other subject. Sociology students learn to view the world from a variety of different perspectives including: functionalism, Marxism, feminism, interactionism and postmodernism.

In this class, students develop a much deeper understanding of the world around them and their own perspectives. Having studied Sociology they will not see the world in the same way again.

Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
Grade 4 in GCSE Maths

Exam Board: AQA

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