

SOCIOLOGY

2026 – 2027



THE GRANGE SCHOOL



Sociology

Course Details	Exam Board: AQA – 2027 Cohort starting AQA course Level: Level 3 A-Level Course Examination Structure: 3 Examination papers all 2 hour written exam 80 marks which equal 33.3% of the final marks Coursework/Controlled Assessment: N/A
Key Learning Objectives	• To be able to apply a range of sociological theories to sociological problems. • To evaluate research methods. • To evaluate the sociological theories of functionalism, Marxism, feminism and postmodernism in a range of sociological contexts.
Curriculum Content – Year 12	
Autumn Term (September – December)	Teacher 1: To teach: Introduction to sociology • What is culture, norms and values? • What are the sociological theories? Teacher 1: To teach Paper 2: Family • the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies • changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures Teacher 2: To teach Paper 1: Education • the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure • differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society
Spring Term (January - April)	Teacher 1: To continue to teach Paper 2: Family • gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society • the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society • demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation. Teacher 2: To continue to teach Paper 1: Education • relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning • the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy

Summer Term (May - July)	Teacher 1 and Teacher 2 will split : Paper 1 Research Methods with methods in context quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design • sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant • observation, experiments, documents and official statistics • the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data • the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts' • the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research • consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories • the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory • the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific • the relationship between theory and methods • debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom • the relationship between Sociology and social policy. Revision for Year 12 mock exams and recap of the year.
Curriculum Content – Year 13	
Autumn Term (September – December)	Teacher 1: Paper 2 Beliefs • ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions • the relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations • religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice Teacher 2: To teach Paper 3: Option Unit Crime • crime, deviance, social order and social control • the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
Spring Term (January - April)	Teacher 1 To continue to Paper 2 - Beliefs • the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices • the significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context, and globalisation and the spread of religions. Teacher 2: To continue to teach Paper 3: Option Unit Crime • globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes • crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies. Teacher 1 and Teacher 2: To teach Paper 3 Theory and Methods • quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design • sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant • observation, experiments, documents and official statistics • the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data • the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'

	• the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of • method(s) and the conduct of research • consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories • the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory • the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific • the relationship between theory and methods • debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom • the relationship between Sociology and social policy
Summer Term (May)	Revision for all three units.
Assessments	Assessments will include completing a range of exam questions from Paper 1,2 and 3 and cover the three assessment objectives. These will take place on a regular basis half termly following units of work. Students will also have low stakes tests to check the subject knowledge they are developing.
Homework / independent study	This is an important part of studying for Sociology A Level and students will be asked on a regular basis half termly to complete a range of homework activities. Homework could include: - Preparing for in class assessments and timed essays and knowledge tests - Reading sociological articles - Textbook activities - Researching sociological concepts, theories or studies - Carrying out sociological research - Wider reading around the topic
Equipment required	Students need to buy one textbook AQA A level Sociology Book One by Webb, Westergaard Trobe and Townend
Resources available for home-based study	Sociology review can be taken home for students to read. A wide range of textbooks are available to borrow from the Sociology teachers.