



The curriculum for this stage of students' education has been designed to support discovery of a new and exciting subject option. Students will quickly utilise their extended writing skills obtained in KS4 English as they analyse the causes of educational achievement and underachievement in the UK. Students will relate this topic to their own educational history and will be able to apply key Sociological perspectives to their experiences. Students will develop their analysis skills through conducting research, before studying Families and Households, a popular optional topic that includes evaluating social policies past and present that were designed to improve family life. At the end of the year, students will be challenged to learn Paper 3 content, which includes a synoptic overview of key thinkers in Sociology, where student must compare their contributions. Students will be formally assessed with two periods of mock examinations, a one-hour paper in November to assess initial knowledge obtained and a further three papers in June to assess knowledge retention over time and exam technique.

<p>HALF TERM 1: PAPER 1 EDUCATION STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External factors that affect class differences in achievement, such as material deprivation, cultural capital and parent's education. Internal factors that affect class differences in achievement, such as labelling, self-fulfilling prophecy and pupil subcultures. Statistics regarding ethnic differences in achievement. Theories of institutional racism, absent fathers and linguistic codes. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Extended writing baseline assessment Weekly tests and fortnightly exam questions Ability to understand different theoretical perspectives</p>	<p>HALF TERM 2: PAPER 1 EDUCATION STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics regarding gender differences in achievement. Theories of gender roles, role models within schools and the hyper heterosexual identity. Theoretical perspectives of education including Marxism, Functionalism and the New Right. Educational reform such as the tripartite system, grammar schools and multi-academy trusts. Educational policies such as free school meals and pupil premium. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Mock exam Weekly tests and fortnightly exam questions Ability to describe theories</p>	<p>HALF TERM 3: PAPER 1 METHODS IN CONTEXT STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reasons for choosing an appropriate research method in Sociology. Evaluation of laboratory, field and armchair experiments. The strengths and weaknesses of open and closed questionnaires. Evaluation of structured, semi-structured, unstructured and group interviews. Types and analysis of observations. The strengths and weaknesses of secondary sources, including documents and statistics. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Weekly tests and fortnightly exam questions Reading week project Ability to apply essays to scenarios given in the exam question</p>
<p>HALF TERM 4: PAPER 2 FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The division of labour between couples; the dual burden and the triple shift. The changing nature of childhood including child centredness. Theories of the family, including Marxism, Functionalism and the New Right. Demographic changes such as the decline in birth rate, marriage rate and death rate. The aging population, net migration and secularisation. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Weekly tests and fortnightly exam questions Ability to evaluate content</p>	<p>HALF TERM 5: PAPER 2 FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How family patterns are changing, with an increase in divorce and separation and a rise in cohabitation. The individualisation thesis, the pure relationship and the concept of fictive kin Social policy that impacts on family life, such as universal credit, child maintenance allowance and tax breaks for married couples. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Weekly tests and fortnightly exam questions Ability to compare theoretical perspectives</p>	<p>HALF TERM 6: PAPER 3 THEORY AND METHODS STUDENTS MUST KNOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strengths and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The theoretical viewpoints of Functionalists, Marxists and Feminists, including critical evaluation of each. <p>HOW THIS WILL BE ASSESSED: Mock exams Weekly tests Fortnightly exam questions</p>

Embedding this knowledge can be supported at home by the constant review of lesson content through a range of revision methods, including the completion of past exam papers and analysis of mark schemes. The required commitment to A-Level Sociology is a minimum of 4 hours independent study each week to consolidate and extend knowledge. Students can further develop their understanding of Sociology through taking advantage of securing a year 12 work experience in a social setting, for example a primary school or at a charitable organisation. This will allow them to apply theory to real life settings, as they work with people of different economic backgrounds, which will give them real life experience of potential barriers to education.