



Sociology

Why should I study GCSE Sociology?

This course will help you to understand how families, schools and the criminal justice system shapes our lives and influences the type of society that we live in. It will develop your appreciation of why certain groups in society achieve more than others and whether our society is as fair as it appears.

What will I study?

You will study:

- The different types of families that exist in our society and why families are changing.
- Why people offend and how some groups are more likely to commit crimes or be given a prison sentence than other sectors in society.
- Why certain students achieve better results than other students and you will decide if this is due mainly to what occurs inside or outside of school.
- The concept of power, and who and why certain groups have more power and a higher status than others in UK society.
- The research methods that are used by sociologists so that you can evaluate whether their theories, on families, education, crime and power are reliable and valid.

How will my work be assessed?

All units of work will be assessed by two exams at the end of two years of study. Exam paper 1 will measure your knowledge of the family, education, sociological theories and research methods whilst paper 2 will test your knowledge of crime and deviance, social stratification and research methodology. Both exams contain short, multiple-choice questions as well as a minimum of four essay questions. Due to the focus on extended writing in this subject it is imperative that you have developed writing skills.

What future opportunities can this lead to?

There is a wide range of potential career options that are available to students who study sociology, some of which are detailed below:

Social services: having an understanding of the opportunities and disadvantages faced by different groups in society will prepare you for work in social services.

The law: sociology will provide you with a clear understanding of why crimes are committed, helping you to understand causes, as well as recognising which groups are disadvantaged and how this can lead to further crime.

Research: your developing knowledge of research methods will help you with investigations for organisations such as the government, market research for companies and young offender programmes.

Who can I speak to for more information?

For further information about Sociology please speak to Mrs Farrell or Miss Argent in the Social Sciences Department. Alternatively, please contact options@penistone-gs.uk.