

Sociology Curriculum Overview

<p>Why do we teach Sociology at Ark BDA?</p>	<p>Sociology is valuable as a subject which teaches students to be critical – critical of interactions and experiences, critical of their background and lives, and most importantly, critical of society. Studying the ‘science of society’ gives our students a language and theoretical framework to understand the injustices and inequalities that have affected their lives, and the lives of their families. Through unpicking stereotypes teachers may hold, prejudices about teenagers in the media and the inherently unequal structure of capitalist society, students come to understand both the complexity of our society, and the different layers of stratification within it. This means that whatever they go on to study or do later in life, they can be critical consumers of information, rather than passively accepting what they are told. This is a crucial skill, not just for academia, but also to be involved and responsible citizens.</p> <p>Finally, and most importantly, it helps students to understand that they can play a part in tackling the injustices and inequalities in our society. Students learn about contemporary issues and problems within all topics, such as the gender pay gap and the huge inequalities that exist in the education system. Through teaching these issues, our aim is to empower them and motivate them to make a positive difference in the world. Whether that is through standing up to discrimination on an individual or wider level, volunteering with disadvantaged people or one day working for a charity or becoming a teacher, students should feel motivated and empowered to make a positive impact and tackle the embedded inequalities and social problems that exist in our society.</p>
<p>How do we deliver our Christian values in Sociology?</p>	<p>Sociology teaches students to develop love and compassion by teaching the important values of respect and tolerance, through a close study of diversity, social norms and attitudes and discrimination. Students develop a strong awareness of injustice and become active agents in tackling inequality in its many guises, encouraging them have the courage to always act with integrity. Through receiving regular feedback lessons, students are also encouraged to develop resilience and commitment to their work. This is also embodied through the inclusion of and encouragement to read wider texts beyond the curriculum.</p>
<p>How do we build core skills and knowledge over time?</p>	<p>In Sociology, students return to a number of key concepts which are interwoven throughout the GCSE and A-level curriculum. These include: socialisation, norms, social control, social solidarity, sociological perspectives, globalisation, oppression, patriarchy, capitalism, social class and roles. These are recurring key concepts and themes in Sociology, so students return to them again and again to develop this key knowledge in different contexts, best preparing them to transfer this knowledge to new contexts.</p> <p>They develop the necessary skills through first developing a knowledge of the main theoretical perspectives in Sociology: functionalism, Marxism and feminism, and then applying these to the contexts of the topics we study: Families, Education, Crime, Social Stratification and Beliefs. The initial study of Sociological perspectives gives students a solid foundation in the ‘big ideas’ of Sociology. Students study Families and Education in Year 10, which are topics that students can relate to, and which contain less abstract thinking. Students study Social Stratification, the topic which contains the most abstract ideas and is therefore the most challenging, last, so that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to understand these concepts. At A-level, students gain a more detailed understanding of these abstract theoretical ideas through the study of Theory and Methods, which also encompasses key debates in the study of Sociology.</p>
<p>How does the study of Sociology prepare students for life beyond Ark BDA?</p>	<p>Students become critical consumers of society, so they are able to evaluate information effectively, and not take information at face value which is a crucial skill for life and future study. It also gives students the skills they need to craft a convincing and well-structured argument, which again is valuable both in future studies and in life.</p> <p>Students also come to understand the same issue can be analysed from a range of perspectives, which links to humanities and other Social Sciences. By comparing the functionalist, Marxist and feminist perspectives on Crime, Education, Stratification and Families, students develop crucial evaluative skills, and the ability to weigh up evidence and reach a balanced conclusion, which again prepares students well for humanities subjects. Through writing mini essays, they become well-versed in constructing convincing arguments, evaluating their own ideas and defending their overarching argument. This is a transferrable skill which prepares students well for success in English, humanities and social sciences too. In addition, the knowledge of concepts like social class also link to English and History, as these concepts run between different subject areas.</p>
<p>How do we implement this curriculum at BDA?</p>	<p>Our lessons are split equally between the different topics we study in each year group, with content sequenced from foundational to more abstract and advanced – for example, beginning with sociological perspectives, then families (which is a more familiar topic to our students which they already have a degree of background knowledge on) before progressing to social stratification at the end of Year 11, which is much more abstract. Our topics are grounded in key questions about the nature of society (what types of inequalities exist and why? For example), which are explicitly linked to current and relevant issues affecting our students. The structuring of topics reflects the demands of the specification, which is rooted in classic sociological studies as opposed to recent research, but this is complemented by the use of contemporary examples in lessons. Core knowledge is explicitly planned and clear in knowledge organisers and booklets, and homework focuses on learning key concepts and ideas. Regular retrieval is built into lessons to revisit and consolidate prior learning.</p>

Year Group	Key curriculum end point: Knowledge and skills	How does it link to future progression?
10	<p>To explain debates within sociology including conflict versus consensus.</p> <p>To be able to use sociological research methods as outlined in the topics and how they apply in the specified contexts ie families, education.</p> <p>To describe the key features of each theory or explanation in the context of the specific topics of education and families.</p> <p>To critically evaluate and analyse key sociological theories and explanations.</p> <p>To demonstrate an understanding of the relevance and usefulness of various primary and secondary sources for a specific area of research.</p>	<p>Provides base knowledge for all topics within the GCSE course.</p> <p>Enables students to apply knowledge to the Paper 2 topics of crime and social stratification, as well providing an introduction to the A Level Year 12 Research Methods topic.</p> <p>Provides base knowledge for the A Level Year 12 Families and Education topics.</p> <p>Begins to prepare students to develop the AO2 and AO3 skills required throughout the A Level course.</p> <p>Students will need to apply these skills at a deeper level for the Year 12 Research Methods topic.</p>
11	<p>To describe the key features of each theory or explanation in the context of the specific topics of crime and social stratification.</p> <p>To be able to debate contemporary social issues to challenge everyday understandings of social phenomena from a sociological perspective.</p> <p>To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key sociological theories by reading and responding to extracts which illustrate the different views of sociologists.</p> <p>To identify and explain the advantages and disadvantages, strengths and weaknesses of a particular method for a specific area of research.</p>	<p>Provides base knowledge for the A Level Year 13 Crime topic, inequality is also a key theme explored throughout the A Level course.</p> <p>Students are required to debate in greater depth in their 20 and 30 mark essays across the A Level.</p> <p>Begins to prepare students for using the item in 10, 20 and 30 mark questions at A level.</p> <p>Begins to prepare students to evaluate research methods in the 16-mark essay question at A Level.</p>
12	<p>To examine and explain different research methods, research design and qualitative versus quantitative data.</p> <p>To apply sociological research methods to the study of education.</p> <p>To explain in-depth sociological explanations of the role and function of education and families, in the context of wider contemporary society.</p> <p>To be able to engage in theoretical debate about key sociological perspectives and issues related to the study of education, families and research methods.</p> <p>To analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and research methods.</p>	<p>Students must be able to apply their knowledge of research methods to education, as well as the Paper 3 theory and methods topic.</p> <p>Students will need to be able to relate Year 13 topics to contemporary society, as well as debate key sociological perspectives. This will also provide a basis for the undergraduate study of sociology.</p> <p>This is an AO3 skill that students need to be able to demonstrate consistently throughout the entire A Level Sociology course.</p>
13	<p>To explain in-depth sociological explanations of the role and function of crime and religion, in the context of wider contemporary society.</p> <p>To be able to engage in theoretical debate about key sociological perspectives and issues related to the study of crime and deviance and beliefs in society.</p> <p>To explain the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'</p> <p>To be able to make synoptic links across all topics studied at A Level, and apply examples to demonstrate understanding of these links.</p>	<p>Students need to demonstrate extensive knowledge of key issues surrounding theory and methods at Year 13. This will also provide a basis for the undergraduate study of sociology as students will require foundation knowledge of key sociological theory and research methods, of which they'll build upon at degree level. Research methods will also be applicable for other degree subjects e.g. Psychology and Criminology.</p>

		Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 10	Topic	Introduction to Sociology The Sociology of Families Research Methods	The Sociology of Families Research Methods	The Sociology of Families The Sociology of Education	The Sociology of Education	The Sociology of Education	The Sociology of Education Families and Education Revision Introduction to Y11 content – the Sociology of Crime
	Key question	What is Sociology? What skills does a sociologist need to carry out research? Why and how has family diversity increased? Socialisation, norms, social stigma, diversity, conflict, consensus	What functions does the family serve? What trends have there been in marriage and divorce and why? Sociological perspectives, oppression, capitalism, patriarchy, social class	How and why have family structures and relationships changed over time? Norms, roles, patriarchy, oppression	What is the purpose of education? How is education organised today, and is this organisation fair? Sociological perspectives, social solidarity, capitalism, oppression, social class	Do all social groups have the same experience in education? Why not? Interactionism, social class, patriarchy, inequality	What effects have the marketisation of education had on schools? Marketisation, social policy, inequality, globalisation
	Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is Sociology and key terms - Functionalism - Marxism - Feminism - Family diversity; the Rapoport's - Nuclear family and alternatives - Research design - Practical, ethical, theoretical sampling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Functionalist, Marxist, feminist views on the family - Marriage and divorce - Perspectives on divorce - Surveys - Questionnaires - Interviews - Observation - Secondary sources - Longitudinal studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changing family structures and relationships - Conjugal roles - Symmetrical family - Contemporary issues - Review of families - Purposes and role of education (introduction) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Functionalist perspective - Marxist perspective - Alternative provision; organisation of current education system - State vs private schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal processes - Education and social class - Education and gender - Education and ethnicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketization and policy - Families revision - Education revision
	Assessment	Assessment: HW quizzes, 3,4, and 12-mark Qs in lessons	Formal assessment: Families section of Paper 1	Assessment: Families end of unit assessment	Assessment: HW quizzes, 3,4, and 12-mark Qs in lessons	Assessment: HW quizzes, 3,4, and 12-mark Qs in lessons	Formal Assessment: Full paper 1
Year 11	Topic	The Sociology of Crime and Deviance	The Sociology of Crime and Deviance The Sociology of Social Stratification	The Sociology of Social Stratification	The Sociology of Social Stratification Revision	Revision	
	Key question	Why do people commit crime? Norms, social control, sociological perspectives, social class	What explains trends the links between ethnicity, gender and crime? How is society stratified and why do these divisions exist? Inequality, patriarchy, social class, stratification	What are the different ways society is stratified and how does this affect life chances? Why does poverty exist? Social class, stratification, patriarchy, poverty, inequality	Is political power distributed equally? Why/ why not? Inequality, conflict, social class, poverty, democracy	NA	

	Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crime, deviance, social control, social order - Functionalist view and Merton's strain theory - Cohen's subcultural theory - Marxist perspective - Becker's labelling theory - Crime statistics - Class and crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethnicity and crime - Gender and crime - The media and crime - Contemporary issues relating to crime - Defining stratification and systems of stratification - Functionalist perspective - Marxist vs Weberian views on class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is social class important today? - Ethnicity and life chances - Gender and life chances - Age and life chances - Affluent worker studies - Poverty and explanations for poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The welfare state - Murray and the underclass - Power and authority - Political power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key theories - Families revision - Education revision - Research methods revision - Crime revision - Social stratification revision 	
	Assessment	Assessment: HW quizzes, 3,4, and 12-mark Qs in lessons	Formal assessment: Full Paper 1	Formal assessment: Paper 1 and Crime section of Paper 2	Formal assessment: Full Paper 2	Assessment: HW quizzes, 3,4, and 12-mark Qs in lessons	
Year 12	Topic	Introduction to Sociology Families Education	Families Education	Families Education	Research methods	Review of Year 1 content	Introduction to crime and deviance
	Key question	<p>What are the key sociological perspectives?</p> <p>What is the function of the family?</p> <p>What is the function of education?</p> <p>Sociological perspectives, norms, inequality, patriarchy, social class, social control, social solidarity</p>	<p>Why and how are families changing?</p> <p>Why do different social groups have different experiences of education?</p> <p>Diversity, norms, social stigma, patriarchy</p>	<p>What demographic trends have changed recently and why? How do these link to globalisation?</p> <p>How has marketisation, privatisation and globalisation affected education?</p> <p>Demography, globalisation, marketisation</p>	How do sociologists carry out research in the context of education?		<p>What is the difference between crime and deviance?</p> <p>Why do functionalists believe crime can play a positive role in society?</p> <p>Why do Marxists and Interactionists have a negative perspective on crime?</p>
	Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key words/ ideas - Functionalism - Marxism - Feminism - Interactionism - Functionalist perspective - New Right perspective - Marxist perspective - Feminist perspective - Postmodern perspective - Functionalist perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social policy and families - Changing family patterns: divorce, same-sex marriage, marriage, child-bearing/ rearing - Subcultures, pupil identities - Social class and education - Gender and education - Ethnicity and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family diversity – globalisation and postmodernism - Demography – birth/ death rates - Demography – immigration/ emigration - Childhood - Marketisation - Privatisation - Globalisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choosing a method - Research process - Sampling - Practical, ethical, theoretical - Questionnaires - Interviews - Experiments - Observations - Ethnography - Logitudinal - Methods in context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revision of key sociological theory - Skills-based development of analysis and evaluation - Using and applying contemporary examples in Families and Education - Embedding understanding of how to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Functionalist perspective on crime - Marxist perspective on crime - Interactionist perspective on crime

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marxist perspectives - New Right and vocationalism - Internal processes – labelling, setting, streaming 				answer a 16-mark research methods essay question.	
	Assessment	Assessment: practice 10 and 30-mark essays; knowledge quizzes	Formal Assessment: Education section of Paper 1; Families section of Paper 2	Assessment: practice 10 and 30-mark essays; knowledge quizzes	Assessment: practice MiC and RM essays; knowledge quizzes	Assessment: practice 10 and 30-mark essays; knowledge quizzes	Formal Assessment: Whole Paper 1; Families section of Paper 2
Year 13	Topic	<p>Crime and deviance</p> <p>Theory and methods</p> <p>Social control, norms, sociological perspectives, capitalism</p>	<p>Crime and deviance</p> <p>Theory and methods</p> <p>Globalisation, social solidarity</p>	<p>Beliefs in Society</p> <p>Theory and methods</p> <p>Sociological perspectives, social control, social solidarity, patriarchy</p>	<p>Beliefs in Society</p> <p>Globalisation, secularisation</p>	Revision	
	Key question	<p>Why do people commit crime?</p> <p>How can we explain why some social groups appear to have a higher involvement in criminality?</p>	<p>How has globalisation impacted crime?</p> <p>What is the role of punishment in our society?</p>	<p>What is the purpose of religion?</p> <p>How well do different theoretical perspectives explain society?</p>	<p>How and why is religion changing?</p> <p>Should sociology be considered and treated as a scientific discipline or not?</p>	N/A	
	Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Left and right realist perspective - Crime statistics - Crime and class - Crime and gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crime and ethnicity - Crime and globalisation - Crime and the media - Green/ state crime - Punishment and victimology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defining religion - Functionalist perspective - Marxist perspective - Feminist perspective - Interpretivist/postmodernist perspective - Religious organisations - NAMs and NRMs - Functionalism - Marxism - Feminism - Interactionism - Postmodernism <p>Link between theory and methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sects and cults - Class, gender, ethnicity and religion - Secularisation - Globalisation and religion - Science, ideology and religion - Sociology and values - Sociology and social policy - Sociology as a science - Research methods revision 	<p>Sociological perspectives on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Families - Crime and deviance - Beliefs in society <p>Making synoptic links between topics</p> <p>Exam and essay-writing practice</p>	
	Assessment	Assessment: Practice 10 and 30 mark essays; knowledge quizzes	Assessment: Theory and Methods practice papers; Beliefs assessment	Assessment: Practice 10 and 20 mark essays; knowledge quizzes	Formal assessment: Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3	Assessment: Practice 10, 20 and 30 mark essays; knowledge quizzes	