

Subject Name: Sociology

Subject intent incorporating ambition, community and kindness where possible:
Feel free to use what is already there and tweak

Intent

The intention of the Sociology curriculum at Queen Elizabeth's is to encourage students to look at the society they live in through fresh eyes; questioning what shapes society and how society influences both individuals and groups. Developing their confidence interpreting social issues and applying research critically to form their own considered opinions. Engaging with Sociology enables students to develop a more empathetic approach to different cultures, values and experiences as they make sense of the society, community and world that they live in.

We challenge students to think like a sociologist by questioning the world they live in and applying their knowledge to understand current events and issues in society. Students explore differences in society; analysing why there are variations in experiences, the factors that contribute to these differences and how sociologists explain this.

Whilst studying Sociology students will develop a critical approach to research, analysing the strengths and limitations of different research methods and the importance of a scientific approach to sociological research. To develop a broad understanding of sociological perspectives, students will study conflict and consensus, structural and social action theories as well as positivist and interpretivist approaches to research.

There are many opportunities to be analytical exploring similarities and differences between perspectives, why approaches differ and to strengthen their evaluative skills exploring criticisms of approaches and sociological research. Students are actively encouraged to be ambitious and bring current examples, research and statistics into their exploration of society.

Implementation

Sociology at Queen Elizabeth's follows the AQA A level syllabus.

The core units are:

- Education
- Research Methods with methods in context
- Theories and Debates in Sociology
- Crime and Deviance

The optional units taught at Queen Elizabeth's are:

- Family and Households
- Global Development

Our learning journey is designed to allow all students to understand the 'Big Picture' and make links between all the topics taught as they work towards the final exams in Year 13.

Sociology lessons are delivered in line with the school's teaching and learning policy. Students are expected to engage in lesson discussions and to complete a number of hours of study outside of the classroom each week equal to the number of hours taught. (currently 4 hours in year 12 and 5 hours in year 13).

Students are expected to contribute their own ideas in discussions, work on tasks individually, in pairs and small groups as well as in whole group tasks.

Impact

Students who have studied Sociology at A Level, develop a sound awareness of social issues such as inequality, prejudice and discrimination, and understand how to lead healthy and happy lives as their awareness of social issues develops and they become able to apply this in their own lives.

The knowledge and skills gained in Sociology help to create students who are ambitious, kind, and confident in developing and expressing their own informed opinions but are also respectful of the views of others. They understand the true value of being part of a community.

Teachers of Sociology	
Sociology	Paula Smith
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