

Social Science: OCR Sociology A Level

Overview of the course

Sociology allows learners to engage with some of the dominant social issues of our time. The course ends with students completing four exams, one for each unit. No coursework is completed. Students will explore the following topics;

AS course students focus on the following units;

- **G671: Socialisation, Culture and Identity**

This unit introduces candidates to key concepts associated with developing a sociological understanding of the contemporary social world.

- **G672: Sociology of the Family**

Candidates explore contemporary family structures, relationships and changes.

A2 course students focus on the following units;

- **G673: Power and Control: Education**

Why do we attend school? Is the education system fair? Students will explore social theory and empirical evidence concerning our education system.

- **G674: Social inequality and Difference**

This paper looks at the issues faced by various groups in society and attempts to explain the differences in status enjoyed by particular social and cultural groups.

What skills will students develop?

By the end of the year students will have developed a multitude of skills that will allow them to progress academically no matter what path they choose; evaluative thinking; the empirical use of evidence; research skills and the ability to engage with, and decode, high level academic material. Whilst these skills will put the students in good stead for university, they will also help to nurture creative, independent and critical thinkers.

SMSC

The study of societal issues, cultural factors and the complexities of human interaction is, of course, our forte within Sociology. This therefore, enables learners to develop an all-encompassing awareness of social, moral and cultural issues.

Assessment

We take pride in our marking in the Sociology Department. Students will have their books diagnostically marked throughout the year so that they can approach their exams with confidence. In addition students will complete an assessed piece of exam work every three weeks with detailed and relevant feedback provided – by the end of the course the learners will be completely prepared for their exams. We also employ a variety of formative assessment policies, encouraging students to learn from their peers and to also be critical of their own work. At the end of the year students will sit four exams;

- Socialisation, culture and Identity **(25%)**
- Topics in Socialisation, culture and identity **(25%)**
- Power and Control: Education **(25%)**
- Social Inequality and Difference **(25%)**

Literacy - During the course students will engage with a wide range of complex literature, as well as producing many pieces of extended writing based on what they have studied in class. We strive to encourage literacy in our subject by providing specific literacy comments when marking work, and engaging with an assortment of readings including academic texts, newspaper articles, philosophical writings and so forth.

Numeracy - The positivist tradition of understanding the world through patterns, trends and statistics is a large part of Sociology and we will engage with a multitude of data, from key trends and resources throughout our society. Students will engage with data, as well as collating and analysing their own, all the while sharpening their numeracy skills.

ICT - In Sociology, students are encouraged to use ICT to aid their learning. Students will conduct research using ICT. Also, students will create presentations using PowerPoint. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to use the internet to explore key trends in society and current social issues.

Meeting the needs of individual students

We take pride in our varied and inclusive teaching methods, catering for the wide range of abilities, learning styles and sensibilities of our students. We understand that pupils should be treated as individuals, and so we use our assessment practices to understand those who we teach and to tailor our teaching practices to them. This allows for academic success and an enjoyment of the learning process.

Resources to support learning

We are exceptionally well resourced at Cass, with a variety of ICT, academic and other pedagogical resources. Students will be expected to engage with visual, physical and electronic learning resources.

Access the OCR A Level Sociology specification here -

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-sociology-h181-h581/>

Extra-curricular activities

Students will be given the opportunity to carry out research projects, attend outside talks on social issues in society and have the opportunity for inside speakers.

Additional support for learning

One-on-one support is available, as are extension classes and a wide range of revision support procedures.

Independent study & VLE

Our students will be encouraged to use the VLE both in and out of class. They will also be expected to complete independent as well as small group work outside of the classroom – strategies that aim to both encourage progress as well as prepare learners for further education. Homework is set at least once a week.