

‘Neither the life of an individual nor the history of society can be understood without understanding both’ – C Wright Mills – Sociological Imagination

Social Sciences at Noel-Baker Academy

Sociology is the study of human social life and the social relationships. It provides us with an understanding of why the social world behaves in a certain way and how individuals can shape the society that we live in. We as individuals are provided with so many free choices so sociology will enable students to learn about the factors that impact these choices and the opportunities / barriers that may impact their role within society

Sociology

Sociology is an interesting subject and relevant in many ways to students’ lives. A broad introduction to key areas of sociology are studied and students develop an understanding of how society works. It gives students an insight into particular kinds of social relations and different aspects of the social structure of British society.

This specification encourages students to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing their critical and evaluative skills. Throughout the course students evaluate how sociological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these ideas inform our understanding of the social world.

Year 10 Units to be studied

Sociological Perspectives: This underpins all knowledge across the different sociological perspectives. They will learn about the functionalist, Marxist, Weber, feminist and internationalist perspectives. Alongside studying debates such as nature and nurture and the conflict and consensus theories, students will build their understanding of how these different sociological viewpoints can be applied across all the other units which are studied throughout the 2 years.

Research Methods: Students will study different methods and methodological issues used within the study of sociology. This knowledge of understanding the process of research design will be applied across all the other units within the exam units. Students will learn about the usefulness of primary and secondary data for specific areas of research and learn how to interpret data in a variety of forms.

Family: Within this unit, students will study the functions of families and how family forms differ in the UK and within a global context using their knowledge from the sociological perspectives unit. They will learn about the developments in families and how family relationships have changed over time. Students will learn about joint and segregated conjugal roles and the domestic division of labour in both traditional and contemporary families.

Education: Students will learn about the different sociological views of the role and functions of education. They will understand how education links into secondary socialisation and the transmission of norms and values. They will study the different factors and processes affecting educational achievement and how class-based inequalities can affect parental choice and competition between schools.

Year 11 Units to be studied

Social Stratification: Within this unit, different views of the functionalist theory of social stratification will be studied. Students will build on their knowledge from the sociological perspectives units using Marx and Weber's ideas to explain socio-economic class. They will study the different factors affecting an individual's life chances; using different interpretations of poverty as a social issue.

Crime and Deviance: Students will study the social construction and explanations of concepts of crime and deviance and how formal and informal social control is used within society. They will learn about the causes of crime from different sociological perspectives and factors affecting criminal and deviant behaviour. Students will apply their knowledge from the education and social stratification units to explain crime, poverty and delinquent subcultures. Through their knowledge of research methods they will understand the sources of data used for crime on patterns and trends for crime figures and dark figures of crime.

Social Sciences Enrichment activities

Students will have access to debating club where they can discuss and analyse key issues within society. Which will further build on their knowledge, giving them the opportunity to apply their understanding into everyday situations.

Further studies and career progression within Sociology

For Social Sciences, particularly for the study of subjects such as psychology, politics, history and law. Students with qualifications in Sociology can access a wide variety of careers, including research, the police, law, social work, teaching, human resources.