

SOCIOLOGY

SPECIFICATION

A Level AQA Sociology 7192

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The course encourages students to acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and structures; to appreciate the significance of theoretical and conceptual issues in sociological debate; to understand sociological research methods; to reflect on their own experience of the social world in which they live and to develop skills which enhance their ability to participate more effectively in adult life.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Sociology is the science of society. It is first the study of relationships existing between people living together in a given community so that facts relating to these relationships may be detected, classified and examined to see if any meaningful generalisations about them are possible, for example, the customs and laws relating to marriage and family, the class structure and its relationship to health or educational achievement. The aim is to generate an appreciation of the underlying patterns of behaviour in a changing world that allow us to make sense of how behaviour is shaped by forces beyond individual choice or awareness.

The A Level course comprises a variety of subject areas including Families and Households; Education; Theory and Methods; Beliefs in Society; Crime and Deviance.

The A Level course has 3 exams (all 2 hours, worth 80 marks each) comprising short answer questions and extended writing up to 30 marks.

METHODS OF STUDY

A variety of learning experiences are encouraged, including class discussions and debates, individual and group projects and assignments. There is an important requirement that reading, note taking and the completion of activities relating to particular syllabus themes be undertaken by the students in their independent study time.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Attend Manchester Crown Court to gain experience of the criminal justice system first hand.
- Get involved with the lower school by helping to run a social sciences lunch time club.

- Visit a disused prison to learn about institutionalisation and experience life behind bars.