

Key Stage 5 Sociology Curriculum Intent

Sociology is an exciting and relevant discipline that helps students develop their knowledge and understanding of society. At Sandwell Academy, the intent of the Sociology curriculum is to increase students' awareness of our global interconnectedness and develop and strengthen their higher-level thinking. Students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to understand and explain the causes of human behaviour and the impact of this on wider society. This will develop a deeper awareness of the local and global world around them and reflect on social issues that are relevant to their own social experiences. This means students acquire worldly knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary society and social changes that impact the lives of all human beings.

Students develop an understanding of how culture shapes their identity and how aspects of society are socially constructed by both internal and external forces. This liberates learners as they observe their own lives, focusing on how processes and forces shape their environment. Students study the work of key sociological thinkers and develop their comprehension of methodological research, debates about the scientific credibility of sociology and its impact on public policy making.

This is achieved through quality first teaching which ensures students understand Sociological principles and can apply them in familiar and unfamiliar contexts. Sociology allows students to think analytically, apply their knowledge and establish connections in their learning to ensure logical and justified conclusions in all contexts. Students are challenged to work collaboratively and think independently when engaging in all lessons and class debates. Knowledge and skills are consistently built upon and assessed through regular exam practice, with feedback provided regularly.

Key Stage 5 Sociology Curriculum Implementation

The A Level Sociology curriculum builds on sociological vocabulary, via an introduction to key concepts, how sociologists study society, and sociological theory. As the course progresses, students will apply this terminology to the study of families and households, education, methods in context, theory and methods, beliefs in society, and crime and deviance.

The course nurtures thoughtful and motivated young adults who become active citizens that are empowered with intellectually challenging ideas and concepts and essential skills of critical thinking. The curriculum challenges students to work collaboratively and think independently when engaging in all lessons and debates. Topic choices are designed logically with the ability to revisit and build on existing knowledge with the flexibility to challenge more able learners whilst providing scaffolding to those that need it most.

Independent learning is built into lessons and homework that develop a synoptic understanding of the course with cognitive links between content to extend evaluative and analytical thinking. Knowledge and skills assessments are undertaken on a regular basis with exam style questioning and examination style responses. Techniques to help develop long-term memory and help students master subject content are embedded in the curriculum. These are focused on embedding challenge, metacognition, and memory techniques.

Progress is tracked through regular folder checks and assessment tracking. Taxonomy and command words along with assessment objective skill requirements are embedded in teaching and learning with students drawing from scaffolded exemplar responses and reflecting on their own work to ensure high

expectations for all students. Students manage their folders and folder content, supporting them to achieve independence in their organisation and management of information, both classwork and homework, and revision.

Key Stage 5 Sociology Curriculum Impact

Since establishing Sociology as a discipline at Sandwell Academy in 2019, the quality of teaching and learning has been praised during observations and learning walks by middle leaders and senior management. Additionally, the engagement of students in the subject is high and can be observed in lessons and recorded in student voice. This is supported by the number of students choosing to study A Level is consistent and some students go on to study the subject further at university. More importantly, students frequently express their enjoyment of Sociology, the quality of teaching they have received and their appreciation of the knowledge and skills they have gained from the department. This shows that the curriculum in Sociology is working as the examination results are above the national average and among the best in the school at A Level.