



Curriculum Overview 2026-7

Social Science Department – Sociology

Department	Social Sciences
Head of Department	Miss G Muir
Department Members	Mrs N Sterling, Miss K Reynolds, Mrs D Bryton, Miss K Parker
Accommodation and Resources	S1, S2, S3, S4, T1 - laptop/Chromebook trolleys, a developing 'library' of textbooks, journals and original social science studies.

Curriculum Intent	The Social Sciences department aims to provide a solid foundation for the social scientific understanding of human behaviour. We work to develop lifelong skills and understanding in order for students to appreciate different perspectives and think holistically regarding the reasons why we behave the way that we do. Students are encouraged to achieve through aspirational target grades and departmental intervention. By considering a range of explanations and perspectives, students are able to develop the knowledge and understanding required in the subjects. Students will be able to explain, analyse and evaluate, in each topic area, theories, perspectives and methods and services and policies in Health and Social Care. They will be able to apply evidence from relevant studies and cases in their answers to questions to illustrate their breadth of knowledge and detailed understanding. As social scientists we aim to encourage students to question everything and to be able to critically evaluate theories and methods of investigation. These skills encourage students to think critically about the world around them. By introducing students to critique their world evokes a passion for studying the Social Sciences further in higher education.
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Curriculum Implementation

Key Stage 5: Sociology

What my child will learn in Year 12

Year 12	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Unit Title	Introduction to Sociology and Theoretical perspectives. Families and Households	Families and Households	Education	Education Research Methods (Paper 1 and 3)	Research Methods and Methods in Context (Paper 1) Theory and Methods (Paper 1 and 3)	Theory and Methods (Paper 1 and 3) Revision for PPE - Paper 1
Previous knowledge recalled - Families and Households	Application of theories to view on Family - Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Postmodernism	Review of changes in the family structure to apply to how there have been changes in gender roles and childhood over time.				



		Review of social policies and how social policies have had an impact on childhood and demographic trends.				
Previous knowledge recalled - Education			Application of theories to view on Education. Review of theoretical views on Education and the New Right perspective of Education to apply to social policies of marketisation.	Review of policies to apply to their impact on educational achievement of social groups. Review of theories including Functionalism and Marxism and how they would then explain differences in students' achievement.	Review of educational issues to apply to Methods in Context incl. Labelling, hidden curriculum, subcultures.	Review of Theories and Methods - and how different theories research.
New Knowledge - Families and Households	The meaning of sociology Introduction to sociological theories the main features of the nature and nurture debate outline the key concepts (core themes) socialisation, culture Introduction to sociological theories - structure/action ; consensus/conflict; modern/postmodern The relationship of the family to the social	Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, childbearing and the lifecourse. Gender roles, the domestic division of labour and power relationships within the family. The nature of childhood and changes in the status of children in the family and society. Demographic trends in the UK				



	structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies.	since 1900 - birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population and migration and globalisation.				
New Knowledge - Education			The role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure. The significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome. An understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.	Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society - exploring internal and external factors. Relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum and the organisation of teaching and learning.		
New Knowledge Theory and Methods				The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method and the conduct of research.	Application of sociological research methods to the study of education. Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories. The	The relationship between theory and methods. Application of sources of data.



				Data collection techniques – quantitative and qualitative – evaluating these.	concepts of modernity and postmodernity. The key debates within sociology - social policy, Sociology as a science and value freedom.	
Key Knowledge Assessment	Key terms test. Retrieval starters - key concepts and theoretical views. Paragraph - PEEL structure.	Retrieval starters, low stake quizzes. Creation of PEEL paragraphs. 10, 20 mark questions.	Retrieval starters, low stake quizzes. Assessed on 10 and 30 mark questions.	Retrieval starters, low stake quizzes. Assessed on 30 mark questions in Education and 10 mark question Methods question.	Retrieval starters, low stake quizzes. 20 Methods in Context essay. 20 mark Theory and Methods essay.	Retrieval starters, low stake quizzes. PPE – Paper 1
Links to literacy and numeracy	Introduction to key concepts: socialisation, norms, values, culture, theories. Identification of differences between skills: analysis and evaluation.	Exploring differences between explicit and juxtaposed evaluation. Analysis of data - key family trends over time: marriage, cohabitation, divorce, childbearing. Analysis of data - demographic trends for Families and Households.	Analysis and evaluation of social policies in the education system/	Analysis of data - exploring key differences in educational achievement across social groups. Exploring scientific nature of Sociology.	Embedding of statistical data in education for the methods in context questions. Analysis and evaluation of theoretical perspectives in Sociology.	Analysis and evaluation of sources of data. Data analysis of research projects.
Extra-Curricular opportunities	Trips are proposed to National Sociology Workshops/Exam Prep Sessions as well as visits to local universities to explore their Social Science offers and Conferences.					
Links to careers/aspirations	With Sociology, students are well placed to pursue careers in both arts and scientific fields, depending on personal interests. There are many options within the public and private sectors, education, mental health support, social work, education/training and human resources. It is also a popular option for those pursuing a career in Criminology or Law. There are also a number of less typical roles for which Sociology can be very beneficial such as jobs in media and advertising industries.					
Links to our Fulston	Fortitude: Sociology is a challenge and requires perseverance and resilience. We encourage students take responsibility for their learning and face setbacks with a growth mindset.					



FAMILY values	Ambition: We encourage students to aim high and to work towards their personal goals. Class Charts is used to monitor and celebrate achievements. Mindful: Sociology is a sensitive subject. Topics such as The Family and Households can be a challenge for many students due to personal circumstances. Students are encouraged to be mindful of their peers, to broach topics with sensitivity and tact and create a safe learning environment for everyone. Integrity: We have high standards for our students and help to instil in them an attitude that they should do what is right at all times. Leadership: Students are fully encouraged to volunteer as Peer Mentors within the subject area. Students will be invited to represent the school on extra-curricular activities and to apply their knowledge and understanding in the support of their tutor groups in 6th Form assemblies. Students will be role models for core British values including tolerance and acceptance. Young Citizens: Sociology covers a range of topics which can help students to become more aware of the world around them and to be a positive force in other people's lives. Through discussions of social influences, ethical considerations, cultural diversity and many more, students can see how they can make a positive impact on their friends, family and wider community.
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What my child will learn in Year 13

Year 13	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Unit Title	Media (Paper 2)	Media (Paper 2)	Crime and Deviance (Paper 3)	Theory and Methods (Paper 1 and 3)	Review of topics/ Revision for Public exams	Public exams
Previous knowledge recalled - Media	Review of Sociological theories learnt in Year 12 and how these can be used to explain media - Marxism, Neo-Marxism. Recall of inequalities and effect on differing social groups and their	Review of culture - an introductory topic discussed at the beginning of Yr 12 to apply to globalisation and popular culture of the media.				



	representation in the media.					
New Knowledge - Media	The differences between traditional media and the new media. The new media and their significance for an understanding of the role of the media in contemporary society. The relationship between ownership and control.	Social construction of the news - the selection and presentation of the news. Globalisation , popular culture and the media. .Representations in the media: social class; gender; ethnicity; age; sexuality; disability. The impact of stereotyping. Models of media effects. The relationship between media and violence.				
Previous knowledge recalled - Crime and Deviance			Review of Sociological theories learnt in Year 12 and how these can be used to explain crime. Review of Research methods - for how crime and deviance is measured. Key concepts – socialisation & social control – agencies of.	Review of sociological explanations of crime to aid in understanding their view on crime control, prevention and punishment. Sociological theories and how these can be used to explain media representations and crimes. Review of globalisation - when exploring this during		



				both Family and Education in Year 12.		
New Knowledge - Crime and Deviance			What is crime? What is deviance and how is crime measured? Methodology and crime. How is crime explained? Completing theories. Patterns of crime and victimisation: class, ethnicity, gender. How is crime managed?	Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment. Victims and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies. Globalisation & crime, state crime and the relationship between media and crime. White-collar, corporate, green & environmental crime.		
Previous knowledge recalled - Theory and Methods				Review Theory and Methods topic - what are the different research methods? How can we evaluate these research methods? – in regards of PET. How do different theories view society and how do they explore society – what RMs do they adopt? – revisit structure and type of exam Qs.		



Key Knowledge Assessment	Low stakes retrieval questions/quizzes Application to PEEA/EL paragraphs Practice exam questions – 10, 10, 20 mark - media. Practice exam questions – 4, 6, 10, 30 mark – C&D.	Low stakes retrieval questions/quizzes Application to PEEA/EL paragraphs Practice exam questions – 10, 10, 20 mark - media. Practice exam questions – 4, 6, 10, 30 mark – C&D.	Low stakes retrieval questions/quizzes Application to PEEA/EL paragraphs Practice exam questions – 10, 10, 20 mark - media. Practice exam questions – 4, 6, 10, 30 mark – C&D.	Low stakes retrieval questions/quizzes Theory and Methods - 10 and 20 mark Qs.	Low stakes retrieval questions/quizzes .	
Links to literacy and numeracy	Analysis of statistical data on the ownership and control of the media and the digital divide. Analysis and evaluation of theoretical views on media ownership. Understanding of tier 3 vocabulary.	Development of analysis and evaluation of theoretical views of crime. Analysis of statistical data on patterns of crime and victimisation. Understanding of tier 3 vocabulary.	Development of analysis and evaluation of competing views on punishment. Understanding of tier 3 vocabulary. Analysis of data on globalisation on crime incl. State crime, green crime. Understanding of tier 3 vocabulary.	Critical analysis of theoretical perspectives and making synoptic links between topics.		
Extra-Curricular opportunities	Trips are proposed to National Sociology Workshops/Exam Prep Sessions/conferences as well as visits to local universities to explore their Social Science offers and conferences.					
Links to careers/aspirations	With Sociology, students are well placed to pursue careers in both arts and scientific fields, depending on your personal interests. There are many options within the public and private sectors, education, mental health support, social work, education/training and human resources. It is also a popular option for those pursuing a career in Criminology or Law.					



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Links to our Fulston FAMILY values	Fortitude: Sociology is a challenge and requires perseverance and resilience. We encourage students take responsibility for their learning and face setbacks with a growth mindset. Ambition: We encourage students to aim high and to work towards their personal goals. Class Charts is used to monitor and celebrate achievements. Mindful: Sociology is a sensitive subject. Topics such as culture and identity and crime and deviance (which are synoptic) can be a challenge for many students due to personal circumstances. Students are encouraged to be mindful of their peers, to broach topics with sensitivity and tact and create a safe learning environment for everyone. Integrity: We have high standards for our students and help to instil in them an attitude that they should do what is right at all times. Leadership: Students are fully encouraged to volunteer as Peer Mentors within the subject area – this is very successful for Y13 students. Students will be invited to represent the school on extra-curricular activities and to apply their knowledge and understanding in the support of their tutor groups in 6th Form assemblies. Students will be role models for core British values including tolerance and acceptance. Young Citizens: Sociology covers a range of topics which can help students to become more aware of the world around them and to be a positive force in other people's lives. Through discussions of social influences, ethical considerations, cultural diversity and many more, students can see how they can make a positive impact on their friends, family and wider community.