

The Sociology Curriculum

INTENT

The aim of the Social Sciences faculty is to offer GCSE and A Level Sociology as part of the desire to offer a broad range of subjects and deepen the learning experience. The Sociology curriculum aims to develop both the knowledge and skills required for students to perform at their best in the AQA exams. The causes and impacts of human behaviours will be studied and applied to familiar and unfamiliar contexts. Students will be encouraged to think analytically and reach logical conclusions. Cultural capital is embedded within the curriculum with students introduced to a wide variety of viewpoints and experiences including some of the most influential Sociologists from our history. Our four-year curriculum design promotes the building and revisiting of knowledge. Challenge is high for the most able, with scaffold and support for students who need it.

IMPLEMENTATION

Both the GCSE and A Level in Sociology are offered as two year courses using the AQA syllabus ensuring a level of consistency to subject topics and style of examination questions. Each lesson follows a specific scheme of work that is well structured, challenging and engaging. Lessons fully encompass the 'Brixham Way' including learning goals, modelling and questioning. Practice exam questions and formal assessments are carried out at regular intervals and are followed up with self, peer or teacher marking and opportunities for dedication reflection on personal performance and ways to ensure progress. Students have access to key terminology and Knowledge Organisers (GCSE) to support their study both in and out of the classroom.

The sequencing of lessons involves an introduction to the subject at both GCSE and A Level followed by the remaining substantive topics. Family is selected as the first main topic at both GCSE and A Level as experience has shown that students find this topic both a motivation and accessible place to start. Student voice has been sought in order to confirm this decision. Education follows and again is an area students can personally relate to and builds on their confidence in Year 1. Research Methods completes Year 1 allowing opportunities to relate directly to the topics already covered. The more challenging topics that students have less direct experience of are delivered in the second year as students have become more confident and able to transfer knowledge and skills. 'The Big Ideas' of social structures, social processes, social issues and the big theories are revisited continually throughout the course.



Sociology at Brixham College prepares students for life and provides opportunities for them to fulfil their potential as citizens within our diverse and rich society. Sociology aims to create a lifelong love of learning within the students alongside the resilience and confidence to embrace their future.

The selection of Sociology as a subject to study has been strong. It has successfully run as a subject at A Level since the conception of the 6th form and at GCSE has now broadened to two groups at GCSE. Students who go on to study at University level frequently choose courses related to their past studies e.g. Criminology, Law, Teaching and Journalism.

A range of assessments are undertaken throughout both GCSE and A Level including key assessments, mock exams and regular in class practice. Opportunity is given to students to undertake dedicated improvement and reflection time which is clearly demonstrated in student work.

Evidence of the success of Sociology can be seen in the historic pattern of results. Students have been able to attain the highest grades and results are frequently above the national average.