SUBJECT: **SOCIOLOGY**
Title of GCE: **A Level** Sociology
Exam Board: AQA
Syllabus Number: **7192**

Course Overview:

Sociology is the study of people in social groups. It attempts to see through and look beyond what seems obvious, by considering a range of factors which influence our behaviour in groups, such as culture, globalisation, socialisation, gender, ethnicity and social class.

This course aims to introduce students to the key concepts and themes of Sociology and to encourage them to critically analyse contemporary society and the issues facing the modern world.

A level sociology aims to ensure that students are able to use contemporary research to evaluate and question the way in which society is organised. Students will be encouraged to explore the education system which they are part of, and critically analyse the purpose and role of education in modern society. Students will interact with a range of different theories and explore how the education system is researched by sociologists. The course encourages students to look outside of the UK and investigate how education has become a global issue. Students will be expected to carry out small scale research tasks, some of which may be based in the lessons around school.

The study of Families and Households develops students understanding of a number of accepted structures in the way we live today. Students will explore how families in the UK are changing in modern society and will, for example, investigate the effect of migration on traditional family structures. A firm understanding of changes in the law will underpin knowledge on the way in which families are changing.

One of the most popular areas of sociology is the study of Mass Media and its influence over individuals and society. The sociology of mass media explores the impact of new media across different groups in society and around the world. Students will be expected to critically analyse the selection and content of the news and carry out research into the stories selected to be published. This area of study draws heavily on contemporary news stories and sociological research.

Crime and Deviance focuses on the patterns of offending through the use of official statistics and other ways of measuring crime. Students will be expected to analyse this through different elements of class, gender, ethnicity and location. A critical approach will be required to evaluate the reasons for these trends and the role in which the police and the criminal justice system may play in creating such figures. Also, students will evaluate the impact that green crime, online crime and state crime has on our world.

Throughout A level sociology students will be exposed to a range of Theories and Methods that sociologists use in their work. They will develop the skills to use many of these in their analysis and identify how sociological research can affect government policy.

A Level Assessment:

Paper One: Education with theory and methods
Paper Two: Topics in sociology, Families and Households; the Media
Paper Three: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

All papers are 2 hours duration and account for 33% towards final grade.

Coursework/Controlled Assessment:
Not applicable.

Career Opportunities:

Sociology is an essential element in the study of medicine, law, teaching, policing and social work. Careers in this field of study could include child care, social work, teaching, public relations, advertising and the police.

'Sociology has opened my eyes to the real world around me and I will never look at the world in the same way again.' A Level Sociology student.

Students who study this subject often complement it with:
Business Studies, History, Media Studies, Psychology, Politics

Useful revision websites:

http://www.jrf.org.uk/
http://www.sociologyonline.co.uk/
http://www.barrycomp.com/bhs/

For more information or advice contact:

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