

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Sociology

Entry Requirement:

Grade 5 in GCSE English.

Awarding body: OCR

About the subject: Sociology is the study of human culture and society. Sociologists research questions like “How are we affected by our upbringing?”, “Why is there religion?” and “Is feminism still important in the 21st century?” Later in the course, sociologists will look at Social Inequality, investigating the way wealth, privilege and power is unevenly distributed in society and ideas like meritocracy and redistribution that try to solve this problem. They also consider wider issues, such as whether society is essentially good, whether sociology can be scientific and new ideas like post-modernism.

Sociology is a Social Science that may lead to qualifications or careers in caring professions, education, health and policing as well as social work and politics. It is also useful for the further study of Geography, History and Law.

This subject will appeal to students who are drawn to the humanities and who find essay writing fulfilling rather than challenging. There is a focus on theories and research methods and the importance of backing up positions with argument and evidence. Many lessons involve considering current affairs or conducting debates and discussions. Homework often involves becoming familiar with events in the news.

Assessment:

This is a two-year course looking at different perspectives in Sociology and how Sociology can be used to solve real world problems like inequality, extremism and social policy.

There are three examined units at the end of Year 13:

- **Paper 1** (*Socialisation, Culture & Identity*) looks at different views on society and upbringing with a focus on the importance of the media and/or youth culture.
- **Paper 2** (*Researching & Understanding Social Inequalities*) considers different sociological methods used to study social inequality as well as theories and solutions offered by sociologists.
- **Paper 3** (*Debates in Contemporary Society*) studies the impact of globalisation and the digital revolution, with a focus on crime and punishment in the 21st century.

There is no coursework component but students must reflect on current affairs in the news and carry out their own research into attitudes and beliefs.