

**NORTHGATE**  
SIXTH FORM **IPSWICH**  
CENTRE



# SOCIOLOGY

A-LEVEL

## What is Sociology?

*A good sociologist is someone who is interested in the events that define people's lives, their moments of tragedy, love, hate, drama and ecstasy...but they must also be fascinated by the commonplace, the everyday, the unromantic. Sociology is not common sense...it is about understanding society in a disciplined way.*

The seven billion people on earth are members of a single biological species – humans – but there are striking differences between them:

- The Chinese wear white at funerals, whilst the British wear black.
- It is tradition that at British weddings couples kiss, at Korean weddings couples bow, and at Cambodian weddings the groom touches his nose to the bride's cheek.
- In the UK a typical handshake is shorter than one second, whereas in Africa it is common for a handshake to last several minutes.

Sociology is the study of how human societies shape the lives of the people who live in them, and how these people act, react and interact.



# A Level Sociology

AQA

TWO YEAR A LEVEL

## Topics Studied

### ■ Families and Households

Marriage, divorce, childhood, domestic violence, and relationships

### ■ Education

Explaining achievement based upon gender, class, and ethnicity

### ■ Sociological Research Methods

### ■ Beliefs in Society

Secularisation, global religion, sects, cults, and religious fundamentalism

### ■ Crime and Deviance

Police, prisons, surveillance, gangs, punishment, and cybercrime

### ■ Sociological Theory and Research Methods

## Entry Requirement and Assessment

- Students are required to have GCSE English grade 4 or above.
- Students sit three written exams at the end of Year 13.

## Teaching Methods

A variety of teaching methods are used, including debate, discussion, research, group work, presentations, videos, and educational trips.

## Complementary Subjects

Many students combine Sociology with Psychology, History, Politics, or Media Studies, but it links with all areas of humanities and arts.

## Progression

A well-respected A Level which will help to gain access to a variety of degree courses and professional qualifications. It can be combined with other humanities, arts and sciences, and is particularly useful for those considering a career in business, teaching, law, the media, healthcare, and the police.

## Curriculum Leader: Mr S Evans

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