**AQA Sociology Alevel**

**KS5**

Sociology gives a strong academic basis for many university courses and future careers in law, civil service, criminal justice, business and public relations. It provides students with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and reflect on current social issues that are often relevant to their own social experiences. Curriculum topics of Education, Families, Beliefs and Crime will explore how these intersect with social class, gender and ethnicity in the UK. The course opens the possibility for deep investigations into discussion such as ‘What impact do digital forms of communication have on social relations?’, ‘How has the experience of childhood evolved?’ and ‘What are the patterns and trends of religion in relation to social class?’

Teaching methods include lectures from a subject expert with all lessons and resources available online as well as collaborative research and revision tasks and opportunities for student delivery of aspects of the curriculum. Weekly essay practice and reflection help to promote progress as do virtual and physical revision tools such as notecards, Quizlet, Seneca, Google Classroom, model answers and routine tests to ensure knowledge is embedded. Clear and constructive feedback is offered weekly to ensure all students are equipped to move onto higher education. Students can expect individualised support through termly meetings and adjustments based on exam practice progress.

A level Sociology is 100% examination, with three exams at the end of Y13 which are two hours each:

**PAPER 1 – Education with Theory and Methods:**

• the relationships between class, gender and ethnicity and educational achievement.

• recent reforms to the educational system.

**Theory and Methods:**

• the nature of sociological thought and debate.

• the research methods of social enquiry.

**PAPER 2 options selected by The Bourne Academy**

**Families and Households sample topics:**

• different family structures over time and place and current trends regarding marriage and divorce.

• demographics of families in the UK

• childhood and relationships between family members.

• the changing experience of women in families including domestic violence

**Beliefs in Society sample topics:**

• debates over secularisation and New Age religious movements

• the study of beliefs in society, why some societies are religious and others secular.

• the extent to which religion can act as both a conservative force and as an agent of social change.

**PAPER 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**

**Crime and Deviance sample topics:**

• Debates in contemporary society through a detailed study of crime and deviance.

• The social construction of crime and deviance are considered and the ways in which crime is socially distributed, explained and reduced.

• The role of the Criminal Justice System and the media in reducing and/or creating crime

An A Level in Sociology can lead to university studies, as well as developing a range of skills and attributes. Studying Sociology develops strong critical thinking skills and makes students consider important issues with a global outlook. Crucially, it also improves their ability to analyse and formulate clear, logical arguments – skills that are particularly useful across a range of different University subjects.