Cornwallis Academy
Ambitions for All

SMILE
SUCCESSFUL | MOTIVATED | INSPIRED | LEARNING | EXCITED & ENGAGED

Year 12 Sociology

Introduction to Sociology – a unit to introduce the basic concepts and theory of the subject curriculum

AS Level Sociology – units on Education and Families and Households

Learning Objectives

4.1.1 Education

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

• the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure

• differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society

• relationships and processes within schools, with particular reference to teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning

• the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

4.2.2 Families and Households

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

• the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies

• changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures

• gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society

• the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society

• demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation

What previous knowledge is required?

None

How will this content help with future learning?

Education is the compulsory topic, Families is the optional topic. Future learning comprises Year 2 material such as Crime and Deviance

Common Misconceptions

National Curriculum / Specification

AQA AS Level Sociology
AQA A Level Sociology

AS Level Sociology – Theory and Methods

Learning Objectives

4.1.3 Theory and Methods

Students must examine the following areas:

• quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design

• sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation,

experiments, documents and official statistics • the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data • the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts' • the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research • consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories • the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory • the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific • the relationship between theory and methods • debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom • the relationship between Sociology and social policy.
What previous knowledge is required?
None
How will this content help with future learning?
Theory and Methods are key areas for study throughout the whole course.
Common Misconceptions
Positivist/Interpretivist, Liberal/Marxist/Radical feminism
National Curriculum / Specification
AQA AS Level Sociology AQA A Level Sociology