

Sociology Curriculum Plan - Whole Academy

PRIMARY	KEY STAGE 3	KEY STAGE 4	KEY STAGE 5
Primary Curriculum Lead(s)	N/A	N/A	
Secondary Curriculum Lead(s)	Amy Coates	AmyCoates@kba.uk	

KEY STAGE 4

SUBJECT	1 st Half of the year (Sep – Jan)	2 nd Half of the year (Jan-July)
10	Paper 1 – The Sociological Approach: • Introduction to key concepts – Culture and Socialisation • Key thinkers – Durkheim, Marx, Weber • Sociological theories – Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Interactionalism, Structuralism, and Action theory • Stratification and inequality – Class, gender and ethnicity The Sociological Research Methods: • Stages of research • Theoretical factors that affect the choice of methods • Ways to evaluate sociological research and methods • Sampling – how do sociologists collect data? • Primary Research Methods • Secondary Research Methods The Sociology of Families and Households: • Key thinkers – Parsons, Zaretsky, Delphey and Leonard, The Rapoports, Young and Willmott, Oakley • Family types and diversity	Paper 1 – The Sociology of Families and Households: • Key thinkers – Parsons, Zaretsky, Delphey and Leonard, The Rapoports, Young and Willmott, Oakley • Family types and diversity continued • Sociological theories on the functions of the family – Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and the New Right • Changing family relationships – marriage, divorce, cohabitation, childhood and parenting • Conjugal roles and power relationships • Methods used to research families • The Sociology of Education: • Key thinkers – Durkheim, Parsons, Bowles and Gintis, Willis, Ball, Ball et al, Becker, Halsey et al • Sociological theories on the functions of education - Functionalism and Marxism, • Education policies since 1870 – to present. • Educational achievement – class, gender, ethnicity – factors affecting internally and externally • Methods used to research education Paper 2 – The Sociology of Crime and Deviance: Key thinkers – Merton, Cohen,

	Sociological theories on the functions of the family – Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and the New Right	The social construction of crime and deviance - functionalism, strain theory, Subcultural theory, Marxism Social control - Formal and informal methods of social control
	Mid-Year Assessment: Paper 1 - Families and Households with research methods assessment only – 50 minutes.	End of Year Assessment: Paper 2 – Families and Households and Education with research methods. 1.45 minutes

SUBJECT	September – November	December – March	March - June
11	Paper 2 – The Sociology of Crime and Deviance: Key thinkers continued – Becker, Heidensohn, Carlen The social construction of crime and deviance continued- feminism and Interactionism. Criminal and deviant behaviour - factors affecting criminal and deviant behaviour including social class, gender, ethnicity and age, public debates Data on crime – Official crime statistics, CSEW, Victim surveys, self report studies, hidden figure of crime Research methods used to research crime and deviance Paper 2 – The Sociology of Social Stratification: Key thinkers – Davis and Moore, Marx, Weber Sociological theories on social stratification in society Functionalism, Marxism Socio-economic class – different views - Weber, Marx	Paper 2 – The Sociology of Social Stratification: Key thinkers continued – Weber, Townsend, Murray, Devine, Life chances – social class, gender, race and ethnicity, sexuality, age, disability, religion and belief - Devine revisiting the idea of the affluent worker. Poverty as a social issue - Different interpretations of poverty as a social issue, types of poverty, explanations of poverty - Townsend, Murray Power and authority - Different forms of power and authority – Weber Power relationships - different factors affecting power relationships including social class, gender, sexuality, race, age, disability, religion and belief - Walby Revision paper 1 Families and Household / Education	Revision paper 1 - - Families and Household / - Education - Research methods Revision paper 2 – - Crime and Deviance - Social stratification - Research methods
	November Mock Exam: Paper 1 content (families and households/ education and paper 2 content (crime only) 1.45 minutes	March Mock Exam: Paper 1 content (families and households/ education and paper 2 content (crime / social stratification) 1.45 minutes	ACTUAL GCSE EXAMINATION Paper 1 – 8th May 2026 Paper 2 – 15th May 2026

KEY STAGE 5

SUBJECT	1 st Half of the year (Sep – Jan)	2 nd Half of the year (Jan-July)
12	Introduction to what Sociology is and sociological theory: - What is sociology/core themes - Culture, norms, values and socialisation - Sociological theories including Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Structuralism verses Action theory, Labelling, The New Right and Post modernism - Assessment Paper 2 content: Families and Households: Theories of the family – Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and the Personal life perspective Changing family patterns including divorce and marriage Family diversity – including postmodernist views Demographics – births, deaths, immigration Couples – conjugal roles and equality in relationships Childhood – the social construction, march of progress, conflict view Social policy and the Family – Functionalist, Conflict theory, The New Right and Feminist views, governments and social policies	Paper 1 - Education Theories on the functions of education – Functionalism, Marxism and the New Right Social class and achievement – external factors, internal factors and Social class and identity Ethnicity and achievement - external factors and internal factors Gender and achievement - external factors, internal factors, boys' underachievement, subject choice and gender identity Education policy – before 1988 and after 1988, the privatisation of education Research Methods - Introduction to research methods – primary and secondary Introduction to research methods in context Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance: Introduction to crime and deviance -defining crime and deviance, social control and social order Theories of crimes and deviance - Functionalism and Merton's strain theory
	Mid-Year Assessment: 1 hour paper 2 / Families and Households topics only	End of Year Assessment: 2 hours paper 1 / Education and research methods in context 1 hour paper 2 (only one topic- Families and Households)

SUBJECT	September – November	December – March	March - June
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Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance:

- **Theories of crimes and deviance continued:** Subcultural theories, Labelling theory, Marxism, Neo-Marxism Right realism and Left Realism
- **Gender and crime** – sources of data, explaining female crime and explaining male crime
- **Ethnicity and crime** – sources of data, Left Realism verses Neo-Marxism
- **Crime and the Mass Media**
- **Globalisation and crime**, Green crime, Human rights and state crimes
- **Crime prevention**, control, surveillance, Punishment and Victims of crime

Paper 3 – Theory and Methods

- **Sociological debates** - Sociology and science – positivism verses interpretivism / definitions of science, Sociology, Sociology and value freedom - objectivity and values in sociology and sociology and social policy
- **Sociological theory** – Functionalism, Marxism –Feminist theories, Action theories – social action theory, Post modernism and Late modernism

Paper 2 – The Media

- **Introduction to the mass media** - Media organisations and media concentration
- **Theories on the role of the media** – pluralism, Marxism, Neo-Marxism, Postmodernism
- **New media** – characteristics of the new media / who is using the new media, debate Neophiliacs, Cultural pessimists and lack of regulation / conclusions
- **The media, globalisation and popular culture** – types of culture / effects of globalisation on popular culture
- **Effects models** – The Hypodermic syringe model, 2 step flow, selective filter, uses and gratification, and the cultural effects model,
- **News selection** and News presentation
- **Media representations** – gender, class, ethnicity, age, sexuality, disability,

Paper 1 - education with research methods in context revision

Paper 2 – families and households /The Media revision

Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance / Sociological theory/ debates / methods - revision

November Mock Exam:

Paper 1 – Education and Research methods in context - 2 hours
Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance – 2 hours

March Mock Exam:

Paper 2 -Families and Households /The Media – 2 hours
Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance - 2 hours

ACTUAL A LEVEL EXAMINATION

Paper 1 – 18th May 2026
Paper 2 – 3rd June 2026
Paper 3 – 12th June 2026

