

Sociology Higher

AWARD RECEIVED - Higher Sociology

ENTRY LEVEL – What do I need to do it?

You will normally be expected to have attained a pass at N5 in a social subject (Geography, History or Modern Studies), preferably at grade A or B. Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits.

COURSE CONTENT –What will I learn?

There are three units (topics) for Higher:



Unit I – Social Issues

Who does better in exams? Girls or Boys? Why are the top 5 entries on the 'UK Wealth List' wealthier than the bottom 20% of the population combined? Yes, five people have more money than 13 million all together! Why is there a large, and growing, income gap in the UK? This unit looks at issues that impact on everyone's lives like why girls out-perform boys in exams at all levels, and why our rich are getting richer and our poor are getting poorer.

Unit II – Culture and Identity

Do people think these pictures are normal? Why do we associate roles and jobs as male or female? In this topic you will learn why people associate certain jobs, roles and even colours to gender. We will look at personal and social identity, who we are, and how we define ourselves in an ever changing world. In this topic we will also look at culture, from global pop culture like 'Big Bang Theory' to High Culture like a day at Royal Ascot Races.



Unit III – Human Society

This unit looks at the difference between sociology and common sense views of the world. For example a common sense view is that teenagers are drinking more alcohol, whereas research tells us that teenagers are *less* drinking alcohol than 5 years ago. Why? Functionalism argues that inequality in wealth is good for society, Marxism considers rich people to be like parasites living off the rest of the population, Feminist theories examine why men are more powerful in society, and Action perspectives look at how much *you* shape society, rather than being shaped by it. The unit ends by looking at the research methods that sociologists use to try and get to the '**truth**' about social trends.



TEACHING METHODS – What will I do?

In the Social Subjects Faculty, we use a variety of teaching methods. You will be working as an independent individual much of the time, but often, also, in pairs, groups or as a whole class. There is a great deal of reading and writing to be done for Higher Sociology. Your teacher will have high expectations of your levels of personal effort. While factual knowledge is obviously important, Sociology also teaches you many skills that you will use at college and university or employment as well as in life in general, such as critical thinking, evaluating, essay writing, debating and arguing.

ASSESSMENT

| | Higher |
|------------------------|---|
| Unit Assessment | There are unit outcomes to achieve for each unit: Human Society, Culture and Identity and Social Issues. These will be marked by your teacher. You must meet the appropriate level of competence in these unit assessments to continue with the course. |
| Added value | In Higher, the Added Value unit is known as the Assignment. This is a written report on a Sociological topic of your choosing, written under exam conditions with the aid of research materials that you have gathered independently. This is marked by the SQA and it is worth 1/3 of the final mark for Higher Sociology. |
| Exam | The examination for Higher Sociology is one paper, worth 60 marks. There are three sections, one on each unit and each worth 20 marks. |



HOMEWORK

You will be given regular homework for Higher Sociology. Higher students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, organisation and homework and to do significant amounts of extra reading and preparation for assessments.

PROGRESSION IN THE SENIOR PHASE

A pass in Higher Sociology could lead to a Higher or Advanced Higher in another social subject in S6.