

A Level Sociology: Curriculum intent

Why & why now?

Education is easy for students to relate to and learning about differences in achievement ignites their thirst for Sociology. This unit is also not long after GCSE results have been received and provides students with an understanding of the systems and processes they have been part of in their educational journey.

Start of Y12: Introduction to Sociology

Why & why now?

As a new subject to students, the introductory lessons provide students with key concepts/terminology necessary for accessing the rest of the course.

Why & why now?

This is the first of our optional units and builds on what students have learned about class, ethnicity and gender, applying this knowledge to another relatable topic area, the family. Within this topic area students are able to build on their knowledge of the key theoretical perspectives which are introduced through the education topic area.

Education

Methods in Context

Why & why now?

MIC provides information on different sociological research methods. Conducting this straight after the education unit allows students to apply their knowledge of research methods to the education context, and develop problem solving skills around choosing the best method/s for studying particular issues. It also creates the opportunity for research based project work within the school environment.

Families & Households

Y13: Crime & Deviance

Why & why now?

This is a mandatory unit and students look forward to it during year 12. The unit allows students to draw on what they already know, whilst challenging some of their assumptions about the government, criminal justice system and the police. Additionally it provides greater knowledge of the key theoretical perspectives as applied to crime and deviant behaviours in society.

Media

Theory & Methods

Why & why now?

This is a mandatory unit which brings together the main theories and research methods already studied. By doing this at the end of the course, students can clearly see the synoptic links between different theoretical bases and topic areas. This allows students to consolidate their knowledge and build links – crucial for the exams.

Why & why now?

This is an optional unit, chosen because it engages students and allows them to build critical thinking skills. The media is a large part of their lives and studying this enables application to what they are seeing/hearing/reading, helping students make sense of the wider world. There are huge links between all the units, but particularly between crime and media and therefore this makes a natural follow-on from the crime unit.

A Level Sociology: Curriculum intent