



## **A level Sociology**

### **Who is this course for?**

Sociology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in local government, the public services and caring professions, such as nursing, social work, the police and civil service. It has also become a popular choice for those seeking careers in personnel management, written and broadcast media. It is seen as a great subject to combine with other social science / humanities subjects such as Psychology, Politics, History and Philosophy. An A level in Sociology is also a great choice for anyone with an interest in what lies behind how the various institutions of society operate; including the family, education, the media and law enforcement agencies. It is great for developing a wider understanding of how cultural beliefs around the world operate to influence social policy.

### **What are the entry criteria ?**

Most students aiming to start A level Sociology will achieve C grades or above in their GCSE subjects and it is important to have good English skills in order to write good analytical and evaluative Sociology essays. The average of your main GCSEs will be 4.6 or above.

## **The Sociology department at Wyke Sixth Form College**

The department uses 4 classrooms that are equipped to the highest standards. In addition the department makes good use of the college's excellent IT facilities as part of an Accelerated Learning teaching strategy that seeks to support all learning styles.

The department makes wide ranging use of interactive on-line and textbook resources to facilitate independent learning and promotes a structured programme of Assessment for Learning leading to Individual Learning Plans for students.

Sociology teachers are highly qualified and experienced practitioners who ensure opportunities are available to enhance learning, develop skills and confidence in the classroom.

The Sociology department values a close relationship with students, tutors and parents. It provides 'surgeries' during lunchtimes and 'twilight sessions' to support all levels of learner. All factors which contribute to the 'outstanding' AS and A2 results enjoyed by Wyke College's Sociology students.

The Sociology staff team is:

- ✿ Mike Betts NCSL LP (Head of Sociology)
- ✿ Harrison White
- ✿ Eileen Thorp
- ✿ Mike Belcher
- ✿ Mags Johnson

## Exam Board

At Wyke College we use the AQA A-level specification. This consists of 4 units:

## Course Details

### AS (Y12)

- **SCLY 1: *Families and Households.***

Functions of the family, changing family patterns, family diversity and the life course, families and social policy, demography, childhood and couples, sociological theories of the family.

- **SCLY 2: *Education with Research Methods.***

Sociological theories of education, the role and purpose of education, processes within school, differential educational achievement, class, gender, ethnicity, educational policy, research methods in the context of education.

### A2 (Y13)

- **SCLY 3: *Beliefs in Society***

Theories of religion, ideologies of science, religion and social change, secularisation, postmodernity and beliefs, religion in a global context, religious organisations, movements and members, social patterns of belief and participation.

- **SCLY 4: *Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods***

Functionalist, strain and subcultural theories of crime and deviance, Labelling theory, Marxist theories of crime and deviance, Realist theories of crime and deviance, class, gender and ethnicity, the media and crime, globalisation, green crime, human rights and state crimes, control, punishment and victims, suicide, research methods and theory in context, how sociologists investigate and explain crime.

The complete specification, together with past exam papers, can be seen on the AQA website. [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## Departmental Enrichment

The department offers lunchtime 'surgeries' and intensive twilight revision sessions as well as lots of additional help in-between lessons and by email. ILP's – Individual Learning Plans are used to tailor the teaching and learning to the individual student's needs. Students from the department have participated in the mock UN student conference.

## Student success

With a 100% pass-rate and outstanding value added (as judged by ALIS and ALPS) the department has helped many students achieve excellent grades and move on to higher education. Below are details of some of our successful students and their higher education destinations:

Student	School Attended Prior to Wyke	Sociology Grade	HE destination
Natalie Alden	Beverley High School	A*	University of Manchester
Jennifer Dixon	St Marys College	A*	Leeds Metropolitan University
Rebecca Tindall	Cottingham High School	A	Birmingham City University
Nolwazi Siziba	Newland High School for Girls	A	University of Surrey
Rory Redgrave-Close	Kelvin Hall School	A	University of Leeds
Zachary Garton	Wolfreton School	A	University of Lancaster
Chloe Fisher	Kelvin Hall School	A	University of Hull
Lucy Bannister	Kelvin Hall School	A	University of Liverpool
Sinitta Beadle	Andrew Marvel School	A	University of Hull

## What does this course lead to

Having **A-level Sociology** can open up a world of opportunities in both university choices and career options. If you are considering applying to university to study Sociology, Criminology, Social Policy, Social Work,

Psychology, Public Administration, Journalism, Marketing & Advertising and a host of other Humanities based subjects then A-level Sociology is essential. Possible career choices that require A-level Sociology include the Public and Civil Service, Caring Professions, Voluntary Sector, Teaching, Media, Advertising and Personnel Management amongst a range of others. In fact, having an A-level in Sociology is desirable for a huge range of careers, as it is a great qualification to have.

## **What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?**

The start of the A-level course is always challenging, but you will find these tasks aid the transition from GCSE.

- Keep up to date with the news media; written and broadcast.
- Visit A level Sociology websites and try out the activities and reading available e.g. Sociology Exchange and Sociology Central.
- Complete the activities on Families & Households available online at [www.sociology.uk.net](http://www.sociology.uk.net), the website for the textbook used in the Sociology Department. This will prepare you for the first unit of study at AS level.