



Park Hall Academy

Sociology

Course Overview

KEY STAGE 4 (Years 10 & 11)

Year 10

Autumn 1 (Sept- Oct)

Studying Society

- social structures, including the family, education and stratification systems
- social processes, including socialisation, social control and social change
- social issues, including the causes and consequences of inequality, and the sources, distribution and exercise of power and authority.

Autumn 2 (Nov-Dec)

Families and Households

- 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, child-bearing and the lifecourse, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.
- The nature and extent of changes within the family, with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships.
- The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society.
- Demographic trends in the UK since 1900; reasons for changes in birth rates, death rates and family size.

Spring 1 (Jan- Feb)

Sociological Methods

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; their strengths and limitations; research design.
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents, and official statistics; the strengths and limitations of these sources.
- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data.



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- 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.

Spring 2 (Mar- Apr)

Education

- The role and purpose of education, including vocational education and training, in contemporary society.
- 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 subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning.
- The significance of educational policies, including selection, comprehensivisation and marketisation, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of education.
- The application of sociological research methods to the study of education.

Summer 1 (May-June)

Revise key areas of Studying society, the family, research & education

Summer 2

Year 11

Autumn 1 (Sept- Oct)

Beliefs in Society

- Different theories of ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions.
- The relationship between religious beliefs and social change and stability.
- Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice.

Autumn 2 (Nov-Dec)

Beliefs in Society

- The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and



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movements, beliefs and practices.

- The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context.

Spring 1
(Jan- Feb)

Power and Politics

- Different theories of the nature and distribution of power.
- The role of the contemporary state.
- The nature of, and changes in, different forms of political participation, including voting behaviour, political action and protest, and membership of political organisations and movements.

Spring 2
(Mar- Apr)

Power and Politics

- The role of political parties, pressure/interest groups, new social movements and the mass media in the political process.
- The significance of globalisation for an understanding of power and politics in the contemporary world.

Summer 1
(May-June)

Revise key areas of Studying Society, the family, Research & Education, Beliefs in Society and Power & Politics

Summer 2

GCSE examination

KEY STAGE 5 (Years 12 and 13)

Year 12

AS Sociology

Autumn 1
(Sept- Oct)

Families and Households

- 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, child-bearing and the life course, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures.
- The nature and extent of changes within the family, with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships.



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Research Methods

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; their strengths and limitations; research design.
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents, and official statistics; the strengths and limitations of these sources.
- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data.

Autumn 2
(Nov-Dec)

Families and Households

- The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society.
- Demographic trends in the UK since 1900; reasons for changes in birth rates, death rates and family size.

Research Methods

- 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.

Spring 1
(Jan- Feb)

Education

- The role and purpose of education, including vocational education and training, in contemporary society.
- 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 subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning.

Spring 2
(Mar- Apr)

Education

- The significance of educational policies, including selection, comprehensivisation and marketisation, for an understanding



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of the structure, role, impact and experience of education.

- The application of sociological research methods to the study of education.

Summer 1
(May-June)

Revision of Family & Households, Education and Research Methodology

Summer 2

Power & Politics

- The nature of, and changes in, different forms of political participation, including voting behaviour, political action and protest, and membership of political organisations and movements.
- Different theories of the nature and distribution of power.

Year 13

A2 Sociology

Autumn 1
(Sept- Oct)

Power & Politics

- The role of the contemporary state.
- The role of political parties, pressure/interest groups, new social movements and the mass media in the political process.

Theory and Methods

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research; their strengths and limitations; research design.
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, observation (participant and nonparticipant), experiments, documents, and official statistics; the strengths and limitations of these sources.
- 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.

Autumn 2
(Nov-Dec)

Stratification and Differentiation

- Different theories of stratification, including stratification by social class, gender, ethnicity and age.



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- Dimensions of inequality: class, status and power; differences in life-chances by social class, gender, ethnicity, age and disability.

Theory and Methods

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.

Spring 1 **(Jan- Feb)**

Stratification and Differentiation

- The problems of defining and measuring social class; occupation, gender, and social class.
- Changes in structures of inequality, and the implications of these changes.

Spring 2 **(Mar- Apr)**

Stratification and Differentiation

- The nature, extent and significance of patterns of social mobility.
- The connections between sociological theory and methods and the study of stratification and differentiation.

Summer 1 **(May-June)**

Stratification and Differentiation

- The significance of globalisation for an understanding of power and politics in the contemporary world.

Power & Politics

- Revision of key areas for examination

Summer 2

A2 A Level examination