

Key Stage 4

Intent

Sociology is a Social Science that focuses on the social behaviour of humans and how our society is organised. By studying Sociology at GCSE level students cultivate what we call a sociological imagination whereby they develop an ability to look at their own lives and the lives of others in society in ways they have never considered before. Sociology gets students studying the world around them from different perspectives whilst using sociological theory and research to question what they see. From this students develop an ability to analyse, evaluate and think critically which helps prepare them successfully for life beyond Patcham High.

GCSE Sociology covers four main topics; Education, Crime and Deviance, Families, and Social Stratification. Students also learn how Sociologists conduct research by applying a variety of different research methods to these topics when studying them.

Implementation

- Sociology lessons follow a specific scheme of work that is well structured, challenging and engaging.
- Lessons have clear objectives that are revisited frequently in order to assess understanding of learning.
- Lessons will employ a range of activities and teaching methods that help engage and motivate students.
- Lessons will involve debate and discussion to encourage higher order and critical thinking skills that can then be channelled into written work.
- Students will regularly practice exam questions and lots of preliminary work is carried out, including modelling, to ensure students gain a clear understanding of the demands of the GCSE exam and are well prepared for it.
- Much time is also given to reviewing and improving on exam answers and students learn the mark schemes and criteria needed to make those improvements.
- Questioning is regularly used as well as group work and opportunities to work individually.
- Both formative and summative assessments are used to gauge understanding and lessons usually begin with recapping previous knowledge learnt and then building on that.

Impact

The feedback from students who have studied Sociology at Patcham High is regularly positive. Many are very vocal about their enjoyment of the subject and are grateful for the critical thinking skills it has equipped them with. Many also go on to take it at A-Level and even University whilst others will often pursue careers where interaction with people is key and for which Sociology has helped.

Students make good progress in Sociology and will often achieve excellent grades. For the past four years Patcham High results have been consistently better on average than all other schools nationally offering the same course.

