



CLAIRES COURT
SIXTH FORM

Curriculum Statement

Year 12 and 13 - Sociology
2025 – 2026

Your place to *aim high*

Sociology

Why study Sociology?

The Sociology Department at Claires Court aims to inspire students to reflect upon the world we live in and become curious and motivated to learn more about sociological issues within British society.

By studying sociology, students will acquire a greater understanding and awareness of social, political, legal and educational changes in society and their implications. They will develop a greater sense of tolerance and understanding of class, gender and ethnic diversity and differences in society.

Students will acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary society. They will have the opportunity to develop a broad set of desirable key skills, including the ability to analyse and formulate clear, logical arguments with scope for extensive evaluation from a range of theoretical perspectives. They will be supported to develop growth mindsets and become independent and reflective learners.

The course content has been designed to inspire, nurture and develop all learners.

Entry requirements

You should have achieved a minimum of grade 5 in your English Language GCSE. It is also helpful if you have achieved a grade 5 or above in a supporting humanities subject such as History, Geography or Religious Studies.

Course content:

Paper 1: Education with Methods in Context

1.1. Education:

You will learn sociological explanations of :

- the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- 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 identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning
- the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.

2.2. Theory and methods

You will learn sociological explanations of

- quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- 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

Paper 2: Families and Households and Beliefs

2.1 Families and Households

You will learn sociological explanations of :

- 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, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society
- demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

2.2 Beliefs in Society

You will learn sociological explanations of:

- ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions
- the relationship between social change and social stability, and religious beliefs, practices and organisations
- religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice
- the relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and 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, and globalisation and the spread of religions.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

3.1 Crime and Deviance

You will learn sociological explanations of:

- crime, deviance, social order and social control

- the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

3.2 Theory and Methods

You will learn sociological explanations for:

- 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

Method of study

The course will be studied as a whole class with opportunities for small group work, discussions, debates and structured examination technique learning. You will have the opportunities to explore film production techniques and make film clips in respect of your studies into the media and its influence.

Mastery

Sixth Form students will be taught core skills and concepts together with the knowledge that will underpin the study of Sociology at this level. These include critical and analytical thinking, writing ability, cultural competence, and self-awareness. Recall exercises are employed throughout the Curriculum to ensure understanding and mastery of knowledge, which will assist them to understand and make sense of key debates that they encounter in current affairs and the world around them. Worked examples, teacher modelling and exemplar answers will be employed in order to ensure they develop confidence about how to think and write analytically and evaluative at this key stage. This will enable them to apply this knowledge in

their own writing and to demonstrate a deeper understanding of and participation in the world around them. We will regularly practise and formally assess the student's learning using exam style questions which will prepare them for the eventual styles they encounter at A level.

Assessment

There are three exams, each account for one third of your A level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answers and extended writing questions.

Where does it lead?

Sociology is a great choice for people who want a career in the civil service or public services, including policy writing, research, social work or nursing. However, the subject is also useful for other careers like marketing, advertising, PR, journalism, the police, probation service or teaching.

Awarding Body: AQA

For further information please contact: Mrs Lisa Quéré

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