

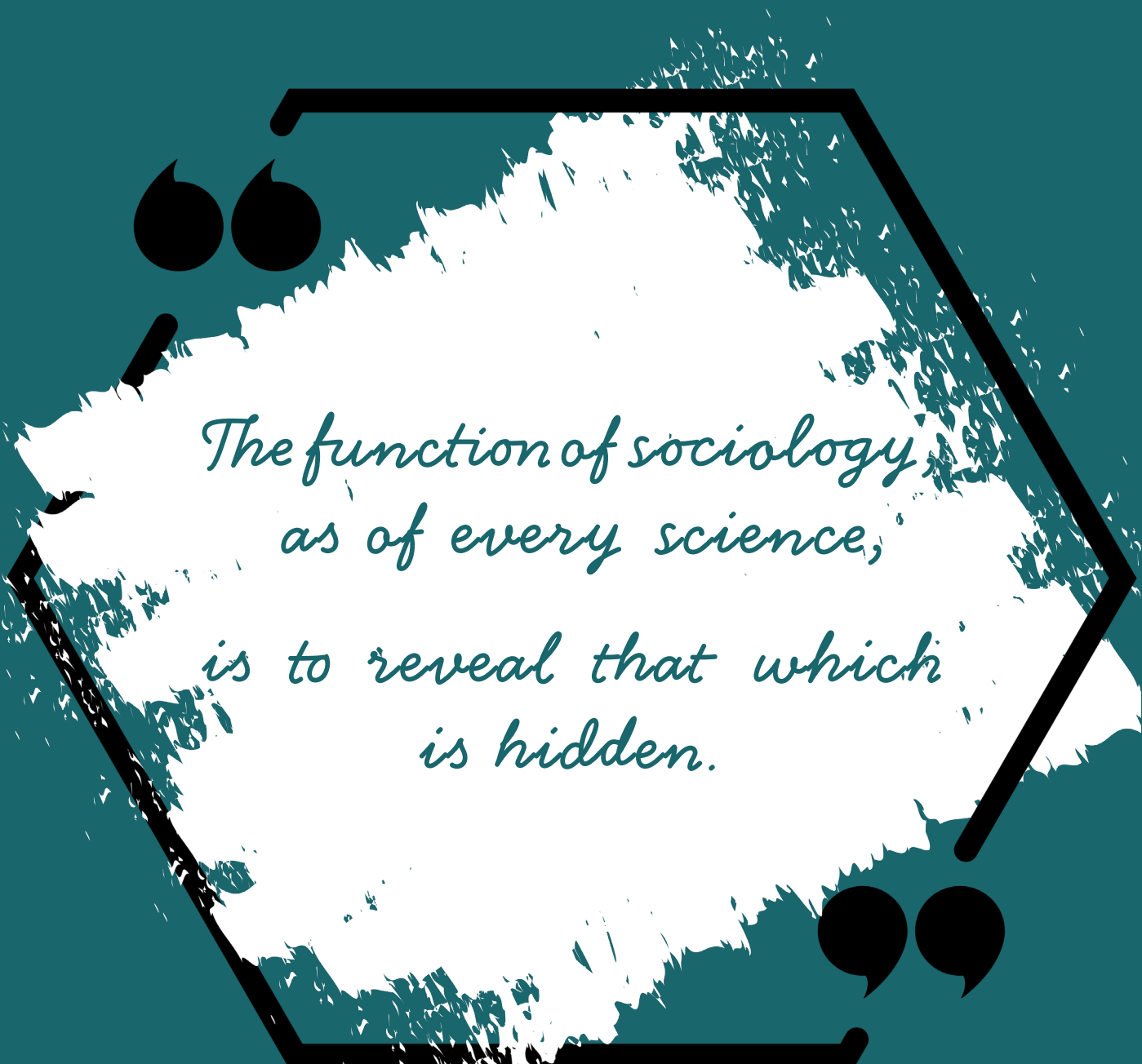


OUR CURRICULUM



SOCIAL SCIENCE

PHILOSOPHY & NARRATIVE



*The function of sociology,
as of every science,
is to reveal that which
is hidden.*

Pierre Bourdieu

PSYCHOLOGY

A Level Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it dictates and influences our behaviour, from communication and memory to thought and emotion. In Y1, Psychology begins with the basic foundations of explanations for behaviour; and looks at the origins of psychology and its emergence as a science.

Initially, students engage with each approach in psychology which provide the necessary context to understand the subject and all other topics studied. These include the basic assumptions of the learning, cognitive, developmental, social and biological approaches, plus the ground breaking work of Skinner, Freud and Bandura. Furthermore, analysis of key explanations for abnormal behaviour are explored within the topic psychopathology.

Each of these core foci underpin understanding for future topics, such as biopsychology, aggression and schizophrenia. An empirical approach is adopted throughout the curriculum, and research methods is key to this; this topic area bridges the gap between year 12 and year 13 learning. Because of this, students are then prepared for more complex knowledge including issues and debates, which builds on students understanding of analysis and evaluation of the key approaches. For example, students apply their understanding of ethical issues to key studies covered in previous topics, such as Milgram and Zimbardo; highlighting the connection between Y1 and Y2 content.

Furthermore, they debate the juxtaposition of key issues such as nature versus nurture, applying this knowledge to new and prior learning. Finally, students are able to consolidate their understanding of the connections of each discipline; by considering concepts such as holism and interactionism, and how these philosophies provide a solution to a variety of issues already discussed. If students are interested in the scientific study of the mind and behaviour, then psychology is a subject they will enjoy.

The study of psychology helps students develop a wide range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology's purpose of understanding is how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures.

The subject is the exploration of human actions at a personal level, from romantic love, family, crime, racial and gender identity.

The aim of the course is to help students develop the skills to think critically of human interaction through learning research methods and weighing out their costs and benefits. In addition, the students are trained to uproot the problems in society and search the possible solutions through the use of different perspectives such as Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism, to name a few.

To start off with, students investigate the underlying issues in Education and the social policies that have been introduced to tackle the issues. For instance, they inspect the gender, class and racial differences that contribute to educational underachievement and how varying sociologists would approach this. They will then unearth the different types of Families and Households and how our modern society has changed the norms of what a 'traditional family' looks like.

SOCIOLOGY

In the student's final year, they examine Crime and Deviance, a topic which reveals the reasoning behind people's illegitimate actions.

The students are encouraged to provide an unbiased review on the importance of class, cultural and female oppression in crime. Furthermore, we look into the relationship between Media and Society and the effects that mass media have on the world.

Throughout the course, students are expected to use sociological perspectives such as Marxism, Functionalism and Feminism etc. to appreciate that one meta-narrative does not suffice for an explanation. Sociology often answers the questions 'who?', 'what?', 'where?' and 'why?' when it comes to societal as well as cross-cultural tensions.

For this reason, if students are interested in gaining a deep understanding of how society works and possibly how it 'should' work then Sociology is the subject for them.

CRIMINOLOGY

Criminology is the scientific study of the causes and consequences of crime and criminal behaviour. This includes examining the motivations and consequences of crime and its perpetrators, as well as how the criminal justice system works and how crime can lead to social change.

Studying criminology can be seen as multi-disciplinary, as it contains elements of psychology, biology, statistics, law, and sociology.

In Criminology the aim is to develop the knowledge and skills of students to consider a wide variety of crimes, through all aspects of the criminal justice system.

Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to build on their cultural capital, as they prepare themselves for the realities of being citizens in the local, national and global worlds in which they will live and work.

Throughout this Applied Level 3 course, students will be able to understand the changing awareness of crime, the criminological theories behind criminals, the process from crime scene to courtroom and the purpose and modern issues with crime and punishment.

This will help students to identify local, national and global issues, exploring cultural and religious differences in how different societies view crime, the impact of the media, historical issues with laws and how laws have changed.

CRIMINOLOGY

This will give students the opportunity to build on their cultural capital, as they prepare themselves for the realities of being citizens in the local, national and global worlds in which they will live and work.

Through the course, students will develop a wide range of transferable skills including independent research, working as part of a team, organisation skills, responding to feedback and working to deadlines.

This will enable students to think critically, develop analytical, evaluative and communication skills. which can then be applied to future opportunities, such as university or employment.

As students complete the controlled assessment of designing a campaign for change, they will also develop their own skills of campaigning which they can then use to challenge stereotypes and prejudice and to change their community, society and world that they live in.

The synoptic nature of the course means that students will develop a detailed overview of Criminology and will be encouraged to take a holistic approach to the study of crime that can be applied to their world now and in the future.



BUILDING ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST
TO HELP THE CHILDREN OF TODAY
MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW