

Sociology

Units 1-2

Sociology focuses on the study of human behaviour and social interaction to understand how societies are organised, develop and change. There is no single sociological perspective, rather, there are several theories that offer different ways of understanding human society. Sociologists use these theories and frameworks in a complementary way to attempt to objectively examine social issues and explain concepts. In VCE Sociology students examine key theories regarding family, deviance, ethnicity, community and social movements.

UNIT 1

This unit uses sociological methodology to explore the social category of youth and the social institution of family. Sociologists draw on methods of science to understand how and why people behave the way they do when they interact in a group. Sociology attempts to understand human society from a holistic point of view, including consideration of society's composition, how it is reproduced over time and the differences between societies. When sociologists investigate a topic, they attempt to do so with a reflective, critical mindset. Sociologists are guided by theories, or frameworks, to explain and analyse how social action, social processes and social structures work.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations, experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Gather a wide range of relevant source materials, evaluate sources and critically reflect on own and others' approach, describe the nature of sociological inquiry, explain functionalist and feminist views of family, analyse key developments and issues that influenced the experience of family.

ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from a representation analysis, an essay, a report, a media report, a research report, a multimedia presentation, an extended response and a film analysis.

UNIT 2

In this unit students explore the concepts of deviance and crime. The study of these concepts from a sociological perspective involves ascertaining the types and degree of rule breaking behaviour, examining traditional views of criminality and deviance and analysing why people commit crimes or engage in deviant behaviour. It also involves consideration of the justice system, how the understanding of crime and deviance has changed over time, and the relationship between crime and other aspects of a society, such as gender and ethnicity.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations and experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Gather and use a variety of relevant source materials, evaluate sources and critically reflect on own and others' approach to the social world, explain and apply the functionalist, social control, interactionist and positive theories of deviance, analyse the impact of moral panic on individuals and groups considered deviant, examine the various ways other nations deal with crime, evaluate the effectiveness of sentencing.

ASSESSED TASKS

The assessment tasks can range from a representation analysis, an essay, a report, a media report, a research report, a multimedia presentation, an extended response and a film analysis.

Sociology

Units 3-4

UNIT 3

This unit explores expressions of culture and ethnicity within Australian society in two different contexts – Australian Indigenous culture, and ethnicity in relation to migrant groups. Students develop an understanding of a variety of barriers and enablers that need to be considered when investigating experiences of ethnicity. For example, the way that a group sees itself might not correspond with the way that outsiders see it. Sometimes observers place people into broad ethnic categories that do not correspond with the views of individual group members.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations, experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Explain and apply sociological concepts, apply ethical methodology, evaluate sources and critically reflect on their own and others's approaches to understanding the social world, synthesise evidence to draw conclusions.

ASSESSED TASKS

An extended response (50%), a report (50%).

UNIT 4

In this unit students explore the ways sociologists have thought about the idea of community and how the various types of community are experienced. They examine the relationship between social movements and social change. Students investigate changes to the concept of community over time by exploring the theory of Ferdinand Tonnies, the impact of information and communications technology and a range of sociocultural factors. The study of the experience of community includes an exploration of economic, social and political changes as well as relevant geographical characteristics. Students investigate the concept of power used by sociologist Max Weber. Students undertake a general exploration of the meaning, nature and purpose of social movements and how they influence social change. They learn about four types of social movements: alternative, redemptive, reformative and revolutionary, and their characteristics. They investigate theories about why social movements arise, including the deprivation theory, which asserts that social movements seeking change arise among people who feel unjustly treated, particularly in economic conditions.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Class and group discussions, group work, research and investigations, individual presentations, note-taking and literature review, analysis of case studies, theoretical inquiry, social observations, experiments and data analysis.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Explain and apply sociological concepts, analyse the nature and purpose of social movements, evaluate the influence of social movements on social change, source and use a range of relevant evidence to support observations and analysis.

ASSESSED TASKS

A research report (50%), an essay (50%).

VCAA ASSESSMENT - the overall study score will consist of:

School Assessed Coursework (50%) and 2 hour written exam in November (50%).