

# New AS/A Level Sociology

## H181 and H581 replaces 3878 and 7878

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Sociology specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Sociology.

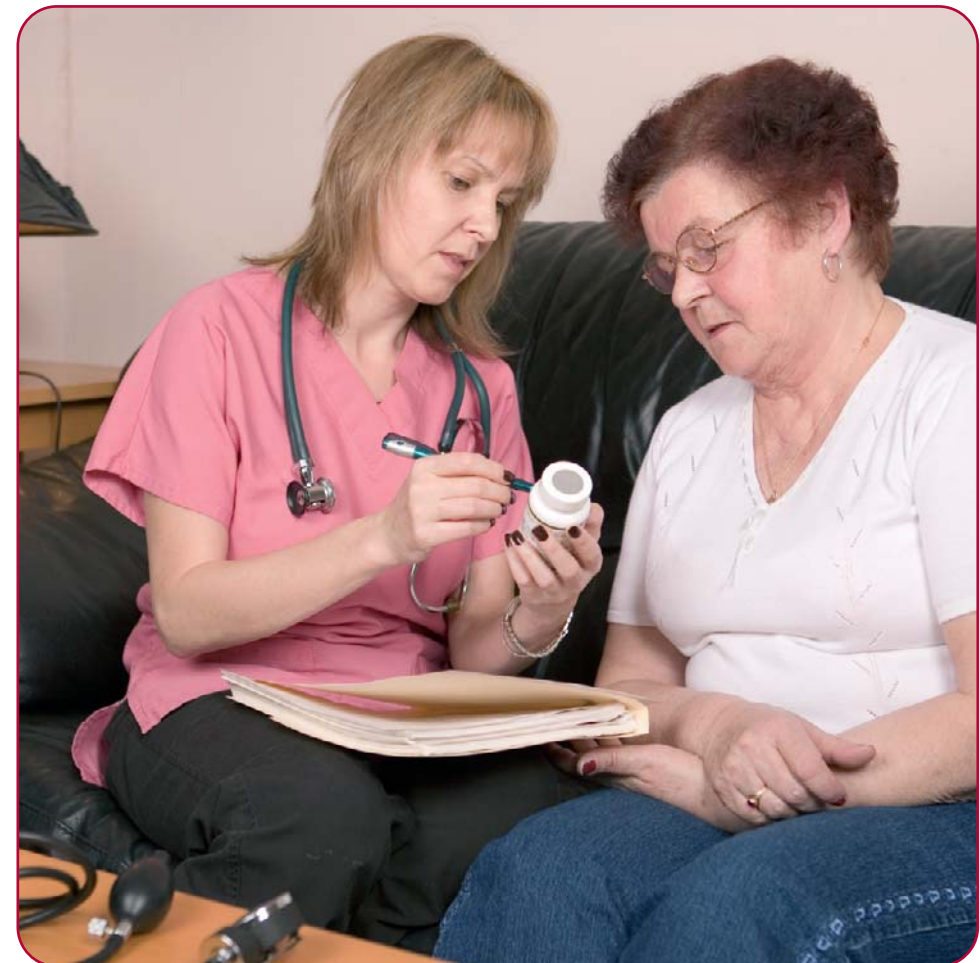
The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit [www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels](http://www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels)

**Current specification – mapping the changes**  
**Outline specification for first teaching September 2008**

**pages 2-3**  
**page 4**

### QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve GCE A level Sociology is to be reduced from six to four
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment
- Synoptic Assessment remains an effective form of assessment.



# Mapping the changes to the A Level Sociology specification for first teaching September 2008

H181 and H581 replaces 3878 and 7878



Existing specification		Candidates must complete six units			
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS <b>The Individual and Society</b>	<b>2532</b> Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G671 assesses the core sociological themes currently covered by 2532 and 2533 – formation of culture, process of socialisation and the creation of identity.</li> <li>Candidates will answer a structured question paper based on pre-released material, which will comprise of one compulsory question.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research methods are integrated into this unit in the new spec and are therefore looked at in the context of key concepts and core themes. Pre-released material will accompany the written examination.</li> <li>New unit code G671.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move from six units to four and the removal of coursework options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be a suite of INSET sessions for teachers of the new specification once the specification has been accredited.</li> <li>Harcourt publications are our partners for textbooks supporting the new Sociology specification.</li> <li>Specimen Assessment Materials will be available for use alongside the specification.</li> <li>The specification will include detailed guidance notes to provide teachers with more in depth information on content coverage.</li> <li>Indicative schemes of work will be produced to accompany the new specification.</li> </ul>
AS <b>Culture and Socialisation</b>	<b>2533</b> Mandatory 40% (AS) 20% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While some of themes covered in 2533 will move into G671, G672 will require candidates to investigate at least one of the key topics in socialisation, as 2533 currently does, looking at the Sociology of; the family, health, religion and youth.</li> <li>Candidates will answer two structured questions, and there will be two questions per topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The content of the current 2533 unit is being split between the two new AS units.</li> <li>'Mass media' as a topic area has moved to unit G673 in the A2 units and 'health' has moved to unit G672 at AS-level.</li> <li>New unit code G671/G672.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move from six units to four and the removal of coursework options.</li> </ul>	
AS <b>Sociological Research Skills</b>	<b>2534</b> Optional 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> <li>New unit code G671.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move from six units to four and the removal of coursework options.</li> </ul>	
AS <b>Research Report</b>	<b>2535</b> Optional 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A - See across.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will no longer be assessment by coursework in GCE Sociology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is stipulated in the subject criteria published by QCA.</li> </ul>	

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
<b>A2</b> Power and Control	<b>2536</b> Mandatory 15% (A) 1hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in 2536, G673 requires candidates to study one of four topic areas; crime and deviance; education; mass media or power and politics.</li> <li>Candidates will have to answer two questions on their chosen topic from a choice of three. These will be unstructured essay questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Mass media' as a topic area has moved to unit G673 in the A2 units and 'health' has moved to unit G672 at AS-level.</li> <li>New unit code G673.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move from six units to four and the removal of coursework options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be a suite of INSET sessions for teachers of the new specification once the specification has been accredited.</li> <li>Harcourt publications are our partners for textbooks supporting the new Sociology specification.</li> </ul>
<b>A2</b> Applied Sociological Research Skills	<b>2537</b> Optional 15% (A) 1hr 30mins exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research methods at A2 are integrated into the G674 unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New unit code G674.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move from six units to four and the removal of coursework options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specimen Assessment Materials will be available for use alongside the specification.</li> </ul>
<b>A2</b> Personal Study	<b>2538</b> Optional 15% (A) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move from six units to four and the removal of coursework options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The specification will include detailed guidance notes to provide teachers with more in depth information on content coverage.</li> </ul>
<b>A2</b> Social Inequality and Difference	<b>2539</b> Mandatory 20% (A) 1hr 30mins exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>G674 will assess candidates understanding of social inequality and difference in the context of sociological research.</li> <li>Assessment is through a two hour paper with three compulsory structured questions based on a piece of research (not pre-released) followed by an essay question from a choice of two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research methods are integrated into the questions in the paper and there is a choice of two routes through the essay-style question.</li> <li>New unit code G674.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move from six units to four and the removal of coursework options.</li> </ul>	

Candidates must complete four mandatory units



	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Exploring socialisation, culture and identity	<b>G671</b> Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>research methods are integrated allowing them to be studied in context.</li> <li>pre-released material allows candidates to focus in more detail on how research methodology relates to different areas of sociological investigation.</li> <li>specification contains detailed guidance notes to provide teachers with information on coverage.</li> <li>maintains a contemporary focus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be a suite of INSET sessions for teachers of the new specification once the specification has been accredited.</li> <li>Harcourt publications are our partners for textbooks supporting the new Sociology specification.</li> <li>Specimen Assessment Materials will be available for use alongside the specification.</li> <li>The specification will include detailed guidance notes to provide teachers with more in depth information on content coverage.</li> </ul>
AS	Topics in socialisation, culture and identity	<b>G672</b> Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>familiar to those using the current specification.</li> <li>'health' and 'mass media' swap from AS to A2 respectively, reflecting the relative difficulty of the two topic areas.</li> <li>two-part structured questions.</li> <li>specification contains detailed guidance notes to provide teachers with information on coverage.</li> <li>maintains a contemporary focus.</li> </ul>	
A2	Power and control	<b>G673</b> Mandatory 25% (A Level) 1hr 30mins exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>familiar to those using the current specification.</li> <li>'health' and 'mass media' swap from AS to A2 respectively, reflecting the relative difficulty of the two topic areas.</li> <li>specification contains detailed guidance notes to provide teachers with information on coverage.</li> <li>maintains a contemporary focus.</li> </ul>	
A2	Exploring social inequality and difference	<b>G674</b> Mandatory 25% (A Level) 2hr exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>research methods are integrated allowing them to be studied in the context of social inequality.</li> <li>choice of two routes through the essay question within the exam paper.</li> <li>specification contains detailed guidance notes to provide teachers with information on coverage.</li> <li>maintains a contemporary focus.</li> </ul>	