



# AS/A Level Sociology

(Available for teaching from September 2008)

**This specification aims to introduce students to key concepts and core themes of Sociology, and to encourage them to develop their understanding and sociological awareness by engaging with contemporary issues.**



## **What are the benefits to me and my students of delivering this OCR specification?**

- It reduces the assessment burden for students with the number of units reduced from six to four (two at AS, two at A2).
- Simple, straightforward assessment, with no coursework element.
- Research methodology is integrated into concepts and themes to allow it to be studied in context.
- Links are developed between substantive topics, sociological thought, methods of enquiry and the formation of social policy, particularly in the context of social inequality in the contemporary UK.

## AS Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Exploring socialisation, culture and identity	This unit looks at the formation of culture, the process of socialisation and its role in forming identity. It also explores the research process in context, exploring methods of data collection, analysis of data and research concepts. The examination will utilise pre-released material which will contain an adapted article or piece of research. The questions will be unseen but will relate to and develop concepts, themes and methods contained in the pre-release.	Mandatory
Topics in socialisation, culture and identity	The themes of culture and socialisation are developed through the study of a choice of one substantive topic from: Sociology of <b>the family</b> Sociology of <b>health</b> Sociology of <b>religion</b> Sociology of <b>youth</b> The unit explores the influence of these themes on the attitudes, values and social experiences of both individuals and society.	Mandatory

## A2 Level

Unit title	Description	Mandatory/Optional?
Power and control	The themes of power and control are developed through the study of one substantive topic from: Sociology of <b>crime and deviance</b> Sociology of <b>education</b> Sociology of <b>the mass media</b> Sociology of <b>power and politics</b> Included within the topic area covered would be an overview of the theoretical approaches to the study of that topic.	Mandatory
Exploring social inequality and difference	This unit builds upon the knowledge and skills acquired to develop links between the nature of sociological thought and methods of sociological enquiry and core sociological themes such as power, social inequality, culture and identity.	Mandatory

### How is this qualification assessed?

All units are assessed through timetabled written examination.

Examinations sittings are available in January and June.

#### Dates of first examinations

##### AS

First AS examination June 2009.

##### A2

First A2 examination January 2010.

### What support will I receive?

#### Training

A series of events will run annually to support teachers and to provide feedback on recent examinations. In addition to this there will be a number of INSET sessions for teachers of the new specification once the specification has been accredited.

#### Publishers

Harcourt will publish textbooks to support the new Sociology specification.

#### Resources

You can download all the following resources from the OCR website – [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk).

- Specimen Assessment Materials will be available for use alongside the specification.
- Detailed guidance notes within the specification to provide you with more in depth information on content coverage.

For more information please contact the OCR Customer Contact Centre on **01223 553998**, or visit [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk).