

## Sociology – Student Guide for Advanced Subsidiary/Advanced GCE Specifications

Sociology is the study of societies and how they shape people's ideas, their social behaviour and their cultures, and how, in turn, people interact together and shape their societies.

### Before you start this course

It would be helpful if you have studied a subject like English or History at GCSE, where you have been able to practise writing essays.

Sociology combines well with most other subjects in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, including English, History, Psychology and Economics. If you are thinking about a career in health or social care, you might think about taking Human Biology as well.

Sociology is accepted for admission to a wide range of university degree courses in the social sciences (including social policy, social work and education), the arts, humanities, and business studies. It is also accepted for training courses in health and social care, personnel management, leisure and tourism, journalism, the police, legal professions and similar careers, and for direct employment in these and similar areas.

The subject is made up of 8 units. There are 4 units available at AS and at A2, and you may be able to choose your units yourself, or your teacher/tutor may choose for the whole group.

To get a certificate for Advanced Subsidiary GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 AS units from the 4 available.

To get a certificate for Advanced GCE, you will need to have studied for and been assessed on your performance in 3 of the 4 AS units, together with 3 A2 units from the 4 available.

### The units available for AS are:

#### Unit 2532 The Individual and Society

For this unit, you will learn about the relationship between the individual and society, for example, how and to what extent individuals are influenced by the groups to which they belong; and how, in turn, they can influence the behaviour of those groups. You will learn more about the various identities that make up the individual, e.g. gender, ethnic group, class and/or nation. For this unit, you will sit an examination of one hour.

#### Unit 2533 Culture and Socialisation

For this unit, you will learn about one or more of the most important influences on the individual's behaviour, i.e. either the family, the mass media, religion, and/or youth and culture. By studying these social groups, you will gain greater understanding of yourself and the part these groups play in your everyday life. You will study topics such as changing family roles and their influence on decision making, media stereotypes, new religious movements, territory and the gang. For this unit, you will sit an examination of one and a half hours.

#### Unit 2534 Sociological Research Skills and Unit 2535 Research Report (Sociology)

You will have a choice between Units 2534 and 2535. For both units, you will be introduced to the basic tools you need to do social research, for example, collecting data using an interview or questionnaire survey, or carrying out participant observation. You will learn how to evaluate the design of a piece of research. For Unit 2534, you will sit an examination, while for Unit 2535 you will need to write a short report of no more than 1,000 words on a sociological study you have read. It will be marked by your own teacher and moderated by OCR.

3 of these 4 units form the Advanced Subsidiary GCE qualification.

**The units available in A2 are:**

**Unit 2536 Power and Control**

For this unit, you will build upon your understanding of the AS units you have studied about the individual and society by looking at issues to do with power and control. You will need to choose at least one, possibly two, options from: Crime and Deviance; Education; Health; Popular Culture; Social Policy and Welfare; Protest and Social Movements. You will sit an examination of one hour.

**Unit 2537 Applied Sociological Research Skills and Unit 2538 Personal Study (Sociology)**

You will need to choose between Units 2537 and 2538. Both units will enable you to build on your understanding of the basic tools of social research studied in Units 2534 and 2535. For Unit 2537 you will sit an examination of one and a half hours in which you will be asked to design, analyse and evaluate some sociological research. Unit 2538 gives you the opportunity to carry out your own research and to evaluate it. You will need to produce a Personal Study on a subject of your choice. This will be, at most, 2,500 words long and will be marked by OCR.

**Unit 2539 Social Inequality and Difference**

This is the final unit and, since it tests your understanding of the links between different parts of the course you have studied, you have to take it last of all. It is based on the important sociological theme of social inequality and difference, and the emphasis will be on inequalities of class, gender and ethnic group. You will also consider differences at work, and wealth and poverty. For this unit, you will sit an examination of an hour and a half. The questions will ask you to make links between social inequalities and sociological thought and research methods.

3 of these 4 units complete the Advanced GCE qualification.

**The assessment structure for Sociology is:**

