

# teachers' handbook

Version 2 April 2010



## **GCSE** Sociology

J696 – Full Course

This handbook is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Sociology specification for teaching from September 2009. This booklet contains the following support materials:

Subject specific guidance

Resource list

Publisher partner resources

Frequently asked questions

Other forms of support.

OCR GCSE  
**SOCIOLOGY**

[www.ocr.org.uk/sociology/newgcse](http://www.ocr.org.uk/sociology/newgcse)

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# Introduction

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and students alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so you can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment to be either a linear or unitised fashion.

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specification and to support you while teaching them.

It is important to make the point that this Teacher Handbook plays a secondary role to the specifications themselves. The GCSE Sociology specification is the document on which assessment is based: it specifies what content and skills need to be covered. At all times therefore, the Teacher Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Specification. If clarification on a particular point is sought, then that clarification must be found in the Specification itself.

# Resources

The list below is by no means exhaustive. Inclusion does not necessarily mean complete suitability, unless the resource has been endorsed by OCR. The list is intended to act as a broad guide. It is also recognised that teachers may be familiar with other relevant resources that are not listed below.

Teachers will need to use their professional judgement in assessing the suitability of materials in the list below.

OCR recognises that the teaching of this qualification will vary greatly from school to school and from teacher to teacher. With that in mind, this Teacher Guide and the associated Scheme of Work are offered as guidance but will be subject to modifications by the individual teacher.

## A resource list for teachers

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### Key Endorsed Textbooks

Heinemann is producing the following resources for OCR GCSE Sociology for first teaching in September 2010 [publication – Spring 2009].

Jannine Jacobs Roth, Lynn Taylor, Karen Waterworth, Bruce Viveash, *OCR GCSE Sociology*.

### General texts

J Blundell, *Active Sociology for GCSE*, Longman, August 2001, ISBN 0582434432 - ISBN-13 9780582434431.

J Richardson, *Youth and Culture for OCR*, Causeway Press, September 2005, ISBN 1902796713 - ISBN-13 9781902796710.

P Wilson, A Kidd, *Sociology for GCSE*, Collins Educational, March 1998, ISBN 0003224449 - ISBN-13 9780003224443.

K Browne, *An Introduction to Sociology*, Polity Press, March 2005, ISBN 0745632580 - ISBN-13 9780745632582.

M Haralambos et al, *Sociology: A New Approach*, Causeway Press, July 1996, ISBN 1873929552 - ISBN-13 9781873929551.

### Websites

Internet sites such as You Tube (<http://uk.youtube.com/>) will allow quick access to a number of useful clips. Please remember that that this site contains clips that may not be edited and its use should be regulated.

Wikipedia ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)) is a huge resource of information. It is though unedited and may not always contain correct information.

([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)) is an excellent source of information for some of the topics in the GCSE specification. It has a good data section and search facility.

The Office for National statistics website ([www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)) is a useful and regulated site that provides free access to data produced by the Office for National Statistics, and some data from government departments and devolved administrations.

The Glasgow Media Group ([www.glasgowmediagroup.org](http://www.glasgowmediagroup.org)) promotes the development of new methodologies and substantive research in the area of media and communications.

Students should be encouraged to read a good newspaper on a regular basis or should use media news websites to aid the contextualisation of sociological theory.

# Other forms of Support

In order to help you implement the new GCSE Sociology Specification effectively, OCR offers a comprehensive package of support. This includes:

## Published Resources

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OCR offers centres a wealth of quality published support with a fantastic choice of 'Official Publisher Partner' and 'Approved Publication' resources, all endorsed by OCR for use with OCR specifications.

## Publisher partners

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OCR works in close collaboration with three Publisher Partners; Hodder Education, Heinemann and Oxford University Press (OUP) to ensure centres have access to:

- Better published support, available when you need it, tailored to OCR specifications
- Quality resources produced in consultation with OCR subject teams, which are linked to OCR's teacher support materials
- More resources for specifications with lower candidate entries
- Materials that are subject to a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement

Heinemann is the publisher partner for OCR GCSE Sociology.



Heinemann is producing the following resources for OCR GCSE Sociology for first teaching in September 2009, which will be available in Spring 2009.

OCR GCSE Sociology Student Book  
Jannine Jacobs-Roth, Lynn Taylor, Bruce Viveash, Karen Waterworth  
ISBN: 978 0 435807 573  
Published: May 2009

## Approved publications

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OCR still endorses other publisher materials, which undergo a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. By offering a choice of endorsed materials, centres can be assured of quality support for all OCR qualifications.



## Endorsement

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OCR endorses a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering its qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCR's "Official Publishing Partner" or "Approved publication" logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. All responsibility for the content of the publisher's materials rests with the publisher.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve an OCR qualification. Any resource lists which are produced by OCR shall include a range of appropriate texts.

## OCR Training

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A full range of training events provide valuable support, for the delivery and assessment of OCR qualifications:

### **Get Ready...**

An overview of new OCR specifications

### **Get Started...**

For teachers preparing to deliver or already delivering OCR specifications

### **Get Ahead...**

For teachers wanting to improve delivery and assessment of a current OCR specification

### **Lead the way...**

To encourage creativity and innovation



View up-to-date event details and make online bookings at [www.ocreventbooker.org.uk](http://www.ocreventbooker.org.uk) or view our new training e-books at [www.ocr.org.uk/training](http://www.ocr.org.uk/training). If you are unable to find what you are looking for contact us by e-mail [training@ocr.org.uk](mailto:training@ocr.org.uk) or telephone 02476 496398.

## e-Communities

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Over 70 e-Communities offer you a fast, dynamic communication channel to make contact with other subject specialists. Our online mailing list covers a wide range of subjects and enables you to share knowledge and views via email.

Visit <https://community.ocr.org.uk>, choose your community and join the discussion!

## Interchange

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OCR Interchange has been developed to help you to carry out day to day administration functions online, quickly and easily. The site allows you to register and enter candidates online. In addition, you can gain immediate a free access to candidate information at you convenience. Sign up at <https://interchange.ocr.org.uk>

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the major changes to this specification?

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- The new specification has become unitised. This will allow students to complete a unit/s at the end of year 10 should they wish. Currently the only ruling is that a minimum of 40% must be sat in the same series that the candidates enter for a full course qualification certification.
- The new sociology specification consists of three compulsory units.
- Coursework is no longer part of the specification and has been replaced by a unit assessed through a written examination.
- The scheme of assessment is untiered.
- Unit B673 consists of pre released material, issued to centres prior to the examination.

## What will the pre-released material look like and when will it be issued to Centres?

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- The pre released material will consist of two sociological investigations.
- The investigations will focus on a topic as set out in the specification. The investigations can be drawn from any area of sociological research.
- Candidates will then be examined on their understanding of the investigations.
- The pre release material will be issued approximately two months before the exam.

## How will the omission of coursework affect the teaching of research methods?

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- Research methods will now be assessed in units B671 and in B673. B671 will introduce the basics of research methodology. Unit B673 will build on this, using the pre released investigations, to encourage candidates to apply research methods in context.

## How many topics must I teach for Unit B672?

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- Candidates must study three out of the six optional topics in Unit B672.

## Will OCR make past papers available?

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- Papers from the June 2008 series onwards will be available to download from the secure Interchange website by the end of November.
- Only papers from previous exam series will still be available to download from the OCR Website. These will be free of charge.

## What support can we expect from publishers?

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- OCR is working in partnership with individual publishers for different subject groups. Comprehensive resources are being developed by these Publishing Partners, Heinemann, to support the specification and complement the support available from OCR.

## What support materials are being produced by OCR for the revised GCSE?

- Schemes of work and lesson plans can be downloaded from the OCR website. The materials will be available in fixed PDF format, for reference purposes, and also in Word format, so that teachers can adapt the materials for their own use.

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[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

OCR customer contact centre

**General qualifications**

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email [general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk)

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