

IGCSE Sociology (0495)

Frequently Asked Questions

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

Candidates may take a simple translation dictionary into the examination if English is not their first language.

Is there a preferred order for teaching IGCSE Sociology?

No, although the basic syllabus order is often followed. To a large extent, it depends on the individual department or teacher and the preparation of the students in the previous school years.

How many hours contact time do you recommend for IGCSE Sociology?

There is no set rule. Over a two-year course, some 2 to 2.5 hours per week of lessons should be sufficient. Students will need to do extra work in their own time to supplement this.

Can I teach the IGCSE course in one year?

It has been known for Centres to teach IGCSE Sociology in one year on 4 x 70 minute lessons per week. Consequently, this is only to be considered when candidates are taking a fairly small number of IGCSEs in total, say four or five. If the pupils have good prior knowledge of some topics, it should be possible.

What support materials are available?

- Syllabus
- IGCSE Sociology Standards Booklet (this contains student answers to O Level questions along with the mark scheme, marks and comments of a senior examiner)
- Past question papers and mark schemes

All the above are available from CIE Publications and the Teacher Support website.

Is IGCSE equivalent to UK GCSE and how is it regarded by universities and employers?

Yes, IGCSE and UK GCSE are equivalent and have equal acceptance by universities and employers. IGCSE is not usually sufficient to gain access to a university: higher level qualifications are also required.

Can you suggest any websites that could be used as teaching aids?

- <http://www.le.ac.uk/education/centres/ATSS/atss.html> - The Association for the Teaching of the Social Sciences (ATSS)
- <http://www.philipallan.co.uk> – Sociology Review

I am having problems getting hold of the recommended textbooks. Can you help?

Most of the textbooks can be obtained over the Internet. The following websites may be of interest:

- www.amazon.co.uk
- www.heffers.co.uk