



Key content

The visual overview and GCSE content for AQA Sociology is outlined below:

Year 10	Year 11
AQA GCSE Sociology: Introduction to Sociology and Research Methods	AQA GCSE Sociology: Crime
AQA GCSE Sociology: Introduction to Sociology and Research Methods	AQA GCSE Sociology: Crime
AQA GCSE Sociology: Families and Households	AQA GCSE Sociology: Social Stratification
AQA GCSE Sociology: Families and Households	AQA GCSE Sociology: Social Stratification
AQA GCSE Sociology: Education	AQA GCSE Sociology: Revision
AQA GCSE Sociology: Education	

Students must know and understand:

- debates within sociology including conflict versus consensus
- how sociological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these ideas inform our understanding of the social world
- the contextualised work (a sense of time and place) of key classical sociologists Durkheim, Marx and Weber referencing both their view of the world and their contribution to the development of the discipline
- different sociological perspectives on social structures, social processes and social issues, including those informed by: feminism, functionalism, interactionism and Marxism as specified in the topics listed below and key arguments (identified through reading and responding to extracts from key sociological texts)
- the interrelationship between the core areas of sociology
- how to use sociological research methods as outlined in the topics and how they apply in the specified contexts ie families, education, crime and deviance, social stratification. Teachers may encourage their students to undertake small-scale research projects in order to develop their understanding of the practical difficulties faced by the sociologists working in the field
- key sociological terms and concepts concerned with social structures, social processes and social issues and the explanation of social phenomena including: society, socialisation, norms, values, roles, labelling, discrimination, power and authority.

Key assessment points

Below is the main overview of how GCSE Sociology is assessed and the skills needed to be successful in the GCSE examinations:

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

What's assessed

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

What's assessed

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all GCSE Sociology specifications and all exam boards.

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.
- AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods.
- AO3: Analyse and evaluate sociological theories, concepts, evidence and methods in order to construct arguments, make judgements and draw conclusions.

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)		Overall weighting (approx %)
	Paper 1	Paper 2	
AO1	20	20	40
AO2	20	20	40
AO3	10	10	20
Overall weighting of components	50	50	100

Component	Maximum raw mark	Scaling factor	Maximum scaled mark
The sociology of families and education	100	x1	100
The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification	100	x1	100
Total scaled mark:			200

Although, students will have opportunities to complete whole papers in timed conditions, regular assessment in sociology will range from PPE papers, timed exam questions and low stakes knowledge testing/multiple choice quizzing.

Christian ethos

GCSE Sociology aims to fulfill the two remaining visions from The Church of England that were not covered by KS3 Social Sciences:

Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.

Educating for hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

British values

British values are at the core of GCSE sociology: ‘A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background.’ (Lord Nash)



Week	Month	Key Questions
Aut1-1	September	An introduction to Sociology and Research Methods
Aut1-2		
Aut1-3		
Aut1-4		
Aut1-5	October	What is sociology? (introducing the course and it's requirements)
Aut1-6		What are the central themes? (introducing the central themes)
Aut1-7		What are the 'Big' debates in Sociology? (introducing the 'Big' debates)
		What are the key sociological terms and concepts?
		What are research methods? (an introduction to research methods)
		How do I plan successful sociological research?
		Assessment
		Half term holiday
Aut2-1	November	An introduction to Sociology and Research Methods
Aut2-2		
Aut2-3		
Aut2-4		
Aut2-5	December	Feedback
Aut2-6		Who was Karl Marx? What is marxism? Why is it a useful perspective in understanding our society?
Aut2-7		What is neoliberalism & neo-conservatism? Why are they useful perspectives in understanding our society?
		What is feminism & feminist sociology? Why is it a useful perspective in understanding our society?
		What is functionalism & functionalist Sociology? Why is it a useful perspective in understanding our society?
		What is interactionist sociology? Why is it a useful perspective in understanding our society/?
		Assessment
		Christmas holiday
Spr1-1	January	Families and Households
Spr1-2		
Spr1-3		
Spr1-4		
Spr1-5	February	Feedback
Spr1-6		What is the family?
		What are the central debates in understanding the family?
		What are the functions of the family? Why are they important?
		What are the different family forms? How have they changed over the centuries?
		What are conjugal role relationships?
		Assessment
		Half term holiday
Spr2-1	March	Families and Households
Spr2-2		
Spr2-3		
Spr2-4		
Spr2-5		
Spr2-6		
		Feedback
		What are the changing relationships within families?
		What are the main criticisms of families?
		What is divorce? Why has the attitude to divorce changed?
		What are the views of different sociological perspectives on the families?
		Assessment
	April	Easter holiday

Sum1-1		Education Feedback What is education? Why is it important? What are the central debates within the topic of education? What are the different types of School? Why are they different? What are forms of education? Why have they developed? What are the different roles and functions of education? Assessment
Sum1-2		
Sum1-3	May	
Sum1-4		
Sum1-5		
Sum1-6		
	June	Half term holiday
Sum2-1		Education Feedback What is the relationship between education and capitalism? Why is there a difference in educational achievement? [examination of marxist views, class etc.] Why is there a difference in educational achievement? [feminism, gender etc.] Why is there a difference in educational achievement? [ethnicity] What are the processes within schools? Why is the ethnocentric still present in school? EOY Assessment (Paper 1) Feedback
Sum2-2		
Sum2-3		
Sum2-4		
Sum2-5	July	
Sum2-6		
Sum2-7		



Week	Month	Learning Intentions and/or Key Questions
Aut1-1	September	Crime and Deviance What is crime? What is deviance? Why is there crime?
Aut1-2		
Aut1-3		
Aut1-4		
Aut1-5	October	What are the central debates of crime and deviance? What is the social construction of crime and deviance? What are the main sociological perspectives on crime and deviance? What is social control? Why is it important? Assessment
Aut1-6		
Aut1-7		
		Half term holiday
Aut2-1	November	Crime and Deviance Feedback Does society cause criminal and deviant behaviour? What are the 'moral panics' over criminal and deviant behaviour?
Aut2-2		
Aut2-3		
Aut2-4		
Aut2-5	December	What is data is there available to understand crime in our society? Why are the causes and correlations difficult to interpret from the data? Who are young offenders? What is the prison system? Do prevention methods fail to reduce crime? What is the media coverage of crime? Does the media distort crime? Assessment
Aut2-6		
Aut2-7		
		Christmas holiday
Spr1-1	January	Social Stratification Feedback What is social stratification? Why does it still exist in the 21 st century? What are the central debates within social stratification?
Spr1-2		
Spr1-3		
Spr1-4		
Spr1-5		
Spr1-6	February	What is the functionalist theory of stratification? Why would some disagree? What is socio-economic class? Why is this socially constructed? What are life chances? How can we increase the life chances for all? Why are there still homeless in the 21 st century? Assessment
		Half term holiday
Spr2-1	March	Social Stratification Feedback What is poverty? Why is poverty a social issue? What is power and authority? Why is power and authority a social issue? What are power relationships? Why do they exist in our society? Assessment (Paper 2) Feedback
Spr2-2		
Spr2-3		
Spr2-4		
Spr2-5		
Spr2-6		
		Easter holiday
Sum1-1	May	Revision, skills and Examination Practice
Sum1-2		
Sum1-3		
Sum1-4		

Sum1-5		
Sum1-6		