

GCSE Sociology

Course content and overview

The WJEC GCSE in Sociology is designed to develop pupils' understanding and critical awareness of the social world around them. The course focuses on the importance of social structure in explaining social issues. Pupils will be encouraged to explore and debate contemporary social issues to enable them to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions and to question their everyday understanding of social phenomena. By following this course, pupils will develop their own sociological awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world.

Sociology requires pupils to apply their sociological knowledge, understanding and skills to develop an understanding of relationships and tension between social structures and individual agency within a UK and global context. Critically analyse information and use evidence in order to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions. Use and apply their knowledge and understanding of how social structures and processes influence social control, power and inequality. Use sociological theories to understand social issues, debates, social changes and continuities over time. Understand and evaluate sociological methodology and a range of research methods. Use sociological terminology appropriately and make connections between the key areas of subject content.

Pupils will sit two examinations in Year 11.

Assessment Details

Exam Board: WJEC

Assessment: Component 1: Understanding Social Processes Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification 100 marks.

Component 1:

This component focuses on the themes of socialisation, identity and culture. Pupils study the key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, including socialisation and the acquisition of identity, and develop these through detailed study of families and education.

Assessment: Component 2: Understanding Social Structures Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification 100 marks

Component 2:

The focus in this component is on social differentiation, power and stratification. This includes the theme of power, issues of social order and social control, studied through crime and deviance. Pupils also study applied methods of sociological enquiry

Useful Revision Guides, resources and websites

The Sociology GCSE specification can be found at: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Revision materials can be found at WJEC: <https://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=28&lvlId=2>

Supporting Home Learning

- Independent reading is crucial to improve both knowledge and understanding.

- Completion of home study and regular revision of teaching notes will enable pupils to embed their knowledge and ensure familiarity with the key skills and different question types.

Progression Routes & Careers

Studying Sociology provides students with valuable insights into social behaviour, institutions, and structures, as well as critical thinking and analytical skills. This foundation can open up a variety of career opportunities in numerous fields. For example, Social Work, Community Development Worker, Youth Worker, Teaching (Primary, Secondary, and Further Education), Criminologist/Criminal Justice Roles, Human Resources (HR) and Recruitment, Market Research Analyst, Charity/Non-Profit Sector Roles, Journalism and Media, Equality and Diversity Officer, Counselling and Therapy, Health and Social Policy Adviser.

Essential Skills that are developed through the course that will be valuable to all career choices:

- Critical Thinking
- Research Skills
- Communication
- Understanding of Diversity and Inclusion
- Problem-Solving

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