Sociology

GCSE

Eduqas

Course Content

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way they do? Why some groups have more power, wealth, or opportunities than others? Or how your identity is shaped by family, media, education, and culture? If so, GCSE Eduqas Sociology is your gateway to understanding the fascinating forces that shape our society.

This course invites you to explore the hidden structures and everyday interactions that influence our lives. You'll dive into big questions about inequality, crime, gender, race, and social class—learning to think critically about the world around you. From examining how schools reinforce social norms to investigating the causes of crime, you'll develop a sharp, analytical mind and a deep appreciation for diversity and social justice.

The curriculum is split into key themes: **Families**, **Education**, **Crime and Deviance**, and **Social Stratification**, all underpinned by core sociological theories and research methods. You'll learn how to conduct your own investigations, interpret data, and challenge assumptions—skills that are not only academically valuable but also essential for life in a complex, ever-changing world.

What makes sociology truly exciting is its relevance. Whether you're watching the news, scrolling through social media, or chatting with friends, sociology helps you see the bigger picture. It empowers you to question, to understand, and to make a difference.

So, if you're curious about people, passionate about fairness, and eager to explore how society really works, GCSE Sociology is the perfect subject for you. Step into the shoes of a sociologist—and see the world in a whole new light.

Year 10
Term 1
Introduction to sociology: Key Concepts in Cultural Transmission **Cultural transmission** is how culture—norms, values, language, and beliefs—is passed on through **primary socialisation** (family) and **secondary socialisation** (education, peers, media, religion). It shapes identity, behaviour, and social order. Sociologists study how different agents influence individuals and how cultural norms vary across societies and subcultures.
Term 2
Families The **Families** theme explores different family types (nuclear, extended, lone-parent), their roles, and how they've changed over time. It examines functions like primary socialisation, emotional support, and economic provision, while analysing sociological perspectives (functionalism, Marxism, feminism) on family life, gender roles, and the impact of social change.
Term 3
Research Methods **Sociological research methods** explore how sociologists gather data. Students learn about **quantitative** (e.g. surveys, questionnaires) and **qualitative** (e.g. interviews, observations) methods, sampling techniques, and ethical issues. The theme develops skills in evaluating reliability, validity, and bias, helping students understand how evidence supports sociological theories and arguments.
Term 4
Education The **Education** theme examines the role of schools in society, including the **formal** and **hidden curriculum**, and how education reinforces norms and values. It explores inequalities linked to **class**, **gender**, and **ethnicity**, and compares sociological perspectives—**functionalism**, **Marxism**, and **feminism**—on the purpose and impact of education.
Term 5
Education continued
Term 6
Social Differentiation and Stratification This theme explores how society is structured through **social stratification**—the unequal distribution of power, status, and wealth. It examines **inequality** based on **class**, **gender**, **ethnicity**, and **age**, and how life chances are affected. Students analyse sociological perspectives on **power**, **prestige**, and **social mobility**, including poverty and discrimination.

Year 11
Term 1
Social Differentiation and Stratification continued
Term 2
Applied Methods of sociological enquiry This theme focuses on how sociologists apply research methods in real investigations. Students learn to design studies, formulate hypotheses, choose appropriate **quantitative** or **qualitative** methods, and consider **sampling**, **ethics**, and **practical issues**. It develops analytical skills by interpreting data and evaluating how evidence supports sociological theories and conclusions.
Term 3
Crime and Deviance The **Crime and Deviance** theme explores why people break rules and how society responds. It examines definitions of crime, causes of criminal and deviant behaviour, and patterns linked to **class**, **gender**, **ethnicity**, and **age**. Students analyse sociological perspectives and the role of agencies like the **police** and **courts**.
Term 4
Crime and Deviance
Term 5
Revision and Exam
Term 6

Independent learning

Homework for Sociology is typically set on GCSEPOD. This is a service that the school subscribes to and offers short videos that enable students to review what has been learnt in class. This is followed by a multiple-choice style quiz. Homework is set fortnightly.

Sociology is around us and is constantly being discussed. This means that there are

Assessment

There are regular assessments for each of the units of work that we study. They happen once each of the units of work have been taught. In each assessment, there will be questions about elements of the previous units of work as well.

1. Cultural Transmission
2. Families
3. Research methods
4. Education
5. Crime and Deviance
6. Research methods

Student will also have mock exam in order to practice what a full exam looks like.

Useful websites and reading materials

Regularly reading news websites will be helpful. There are a wide range of sociological discussions about gender, education, crime and punishment as well as identity. Students are welcome to use knowledge from independent reading in exams. News websites that offer regular articles include:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news
https://www.theguardian.com/uk

You can buy study guides at the following websites:
https://www.amazon.co.uk/WJEC-Eduqas-Sociology-Revision-Guide/dp/191120890X

Past paper assessments and specification are available at:
https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab_keydocuments