



Social Studies

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Examination Board WJEC

Overview of course content

The new exciting Social Studies qualification helps learners understand the social issues we face in society, such as poverty, inequality and crime. Learners will discover that these issues are complex and can be looked at from different viewpoints. Social Studies explores how societies change over time, what causes those changes and how we, as members of society, can take action to bring about positive change. Learners will gain the skills to think critically about social problems and understand how they can help make a difference.

Why should you consider taking Social Studies?

- Understand the world. Learn about how society works and the issues people face.
- Explore real-life topics. Study things that affect you and the world around you, like inequality, crime and social justice.
- Think critically. Develop skills to question, analyse and understand different viewpoints.
- Learn about change. Discover how societies change and how people can make a difference.
- Make a difference. Learn how to take action on important social issues in your community.

How will the qualification be delivered and assessed?

Unit 1: Society and Social Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine a variety of social issues from a range of viewpoints.• Explore the ideas of identity, rights, responsibilities and the diverse nature of society.• Identify social institutions in Wales, the UK and the wider world that influence how societies function.	Unit 2: Investigating Society and Social Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine research methods used to investigate social issues.• Draw conclusions from data about social issues.• Judge the credibility of sources related to social issues.
Unit 3: Social Change in Contemporary Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore events that cause change in society and understand how it happens.• Identify people and groups that help make change happen.• Explore the consequences of social change on people and communities.	Unit 4: Planning to Effect Social Change <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore examples and ways people take action.• Understand how to plan your own social action.• Examine if social actions are working within society.

The qualification will have **two exams**. Paper 1 (examining Unit 1) at the end of Year 10. Paper 2 (examining Unit 3) at the end of Year 11.

The qualification will have **two NEA tasks**. Unit 2 will involve learners investigating a social issue that is set by WJEC. Unit 4 will involve learners identifying and engaging with a social issue that interests them and planning for social action.

Learning Pathways post 16

Social Studies opens up many future pathways and career opportunities. It is especially valuable for jobs that require strong communication skills and an understanding of diversity. Careers in healthcare, social work, teaching and childcare all benefit from the skills of empathy, problem solving and critical thinking that this subject develops. Social Studies also provides a strong foundation for careers in Politics, the Civil Service and Journalism. For those wishing to continue their studies, it is an excellent starting point for A-Level courses in Sociology, Psychology and Law as well as other social sciences.