

Education (paper 1)

- the role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity
- relationships and processes within schools: teacher/pupil relationships, pupil identities and subcultures, the hidden curriculum, and the organisation of teaching and learning
- the significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation, and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome, for an understanding of the structure, role, impact and experience of and access to education; the impact of globalisation on educational policy.
- Methods in Context - students must be able to apply sociological research methods to the study of education.

Global Development (paper 2)

- development, underdevelopment and global inequality
- globalisation and its influence on the cultural, political and economic relationships between societies
- the role of transnational corporations, non-governmental organisations and international agencies in local and global strategies for development
- development in relation to aid and trade, industrialisation, urbanisation, the environment, and war and conflict
- employment, education, health, demographic change and gender as aspects of development.

Core themes

- socialisation, culture and identity
- social differentiation, power and stratification.
- the significance of conflict and consensus, social structure and social action, and the role of values.
- the focus of study should be on UK society today, within its globalised context.

AQA sociology specification content at a glance

Theory and Methods (papers 1 and 3)

- quantitative and qualitative methods of research; research design
- sources of data: questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics
- the distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data
- the relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'
- the theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research
- consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories
- the concepts of modernity and post-modernity in relation to sociological theory
- the nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific
- the relationship between theory and methods
- debates about subjectivity, objectivity and value freedom
- the relationship between Sociology and social policy

Families and Households (paper 2)

- the relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies
- changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, separation, divorce, childbearing and the life course, including the sociology of personal life, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures
- gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society
- the nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society
- demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, death rates, family size, life expectancy, ageing population, and migration and globalisation.

Crime and Deviance (paper 3)

- crime, deviance, social order and social control
- the social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class, including recent patterns and trends in crime
- globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.