

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Sociology 0495

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2028, 2029 and 2030

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. All candidates take the required components described below. A component's raw mark is the total available on that assessment; its weighting is the share of the qualification result, which may differ from its share of raw marks.

Paper or component	Duration	Raw marks	Weighting	Question or task structure
1: Research Methods, Identity and Inequality	2 h	80	50%	Methods compulsory; choose Identity or Inequality question
2: Family, Education and Crime	1 h 45 min	80	50%	Two of three topic questions

Read the weighting against your qualification route. A longer paper or a larger raw-mark total does not automatically mean a greater final weighting. Prepare for every component that applies to you, including practical, oral or coursework requirements where specified.

What each component requires

Assessment consists of two written papers, each worth eighty marks and contributing fifty per cent of the qualification.

Paper One, Research Methods, Identity and Inequality, lasts two hours. Question One on research methods is compulsory and includes source-based questions together with a research-planning task. You then answer either Question Two on identity or Question Three on social stratification and inequality. Each completed question is worth forty marks.

Although you choose between the final two questions in the examination, Cambridge requires all three Paper One topics to be studied.

Paper Two, Family, Education and Crime, lasts one hour and forty-five minutes. It contains one question on each of the three topic areas, and you answer two questions based on the two topics you have studied. Each question is worth forty marks.

Both papers combine definitions and shorter explanations with more developed responses. You will interpret evidence, apply sociological ideas and construct balanced arguments supported by theories, studies and relevant examples.

Successful candidates may receive grades from A-star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

Use sociological terms accurately and connect research evidence to the argument. A balanced answer explains why perspectives differ and weighs their strengths and limitations. Research-method evaluation should consider the context, including practical and ethical constraints.

The assessment objectives are visible in the response itself: relevant knowledge, appropriate use of the stimulus or task, a clear method or explanation, and a conclusion where requested. The command word and mark allocation help show the depth required. An answer should respond to the actual question, not reproduce a memorised passage that only partly fits.

Timing and examination arrangements

Begin preparation with accurate, untimed work, then move towards the duration and conditions of your required component. Use mark allocations to guide pacing while allowing time to read instructions and check the response. Any practice pacing advice is study guidance, not a new Cambridge time rule.

Examinations are available in both the June and November series, and private candidates may enter.

An approved examination centre confirms entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. Study Research Methods, Identity and Inequality for Paper 1 even though the examination offers a choice between the Identity and Inequality questions. Paper 2 requires two selected topics from Family, Education and Crime.

Key pointers: Know your required components, follow question choices precisely and practise the relevant response formats. **Next:** Open **Learning Resources** to see which materials support this preparation.