

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Sociology 0495

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2028, 2029 and 2030

Understanding the whole syllabus

Sociology examines how social relationships, institutions and inequalities influence people's lives. Sociological explanations are supported and challenged by evidence gathered through research. The syllabus asks you to move beyond everyday opinion and explain how a theory or method helps answer a social question.

For Sociology 0495, the content map below follows the approved subject briefing and the official syllabus. Labels group related areas for orientation; the detailed syllabus remains the authority for individual learning requirements.

Content map

Syllabus area or component	What the area covers
1: Research methods	The syllabus begins with sociological research methods. You will compare positivist and interpretivist approaches and examine surveys, questionnaires, interviews, observations, sampling and secondary evidence. You will also consider practical and ethical issues and evaluate research in terms of validity, reliability, representativeness and bias.
2-3: Identity and inequality	The next areas are identity and social inequality. You will investigate how people learn their identities through socialisation, how societies maintain social control, and how factors such as class, gender, ethnicity and age influence social experience. You will also examine stratification, poverty and inequality within and between societies.
Two options from 4-6: Family, education and crime	The remaining part of the course covers two topics selected from Family, Education, and Crime, Deviance and Social Control. These topics explore social institutions, changing relationships, patterns of achievement and explanations of behaviour from different sociological perspectives.

These areas should be read as a connected course. Begin with the foundational knowledge identified in the first part of the map, then build towards the applications and explanations that depend on it. Organise notes around concepts, perspectives and evidence. Revisit research methods while studying substantive topics, and practise explaining how evidence supports or limits a claim. Where a row describes a choice of topics or components, study the selection required by your agreed route rather than treating all alternatives as compulsory.

Qualification and component choices

All candidates follow the component structure shown in the Assessment Overview. There is no separate Core/Extended route in this syllabus.

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.

The assessed skills

Assessment objectives describe the abilities Cambridge looks for across the qualification. The following explanations paraphrase the syllabus objectives; they are not additional topics or separate orientation tasks.

Assessment objective	Meaning for the learner
AO1 Knowledge and understanding	Select accurate subject knowledge, terminology and examples that answer the question, and explain their meaning.
AO2 Interpretation and application	Apply the relevant knowledge or method to the specific facts, data or situation in the question.
AO3 Analysis and evaluation	Weigh evidence, explanations or methods, explain limitations and reach a justified judgement.

These abilities work together in an answer. Accurate knowledge supports application, while a clear explanation shows how the evidence or method leads to a conclusion. The balance varies by component, so the next lesson connects these abilities with the actual assessment formats.

Key pointers: Follow the stated examination-year syllabus, cover the required areas for your route and develop skills alongside knowledge. **Next:** Open **Assessment Overview**.