

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Sociology 9699

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2027 and 2028

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. AS candidates take the designated AS components; the full A Level includes the additional components shown. 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: Socialisation, Identity and Methods of Research	1 h 30 min	60	AS 50%; A 25%	Three compulsory questions and one of two essays
2: The Family	1 h 30 min	60	AS 50%; A 25%	Three compulsory questions and one of two essays
3: Education	1 h 15 min	50	A 21%	Four compulsory questions
4: Globalisation, Media and Religion	1 h 45 min	70	A 29%	Two 35-mark essays from two different sections

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

AS Level assessment consists of two papers.

Paper One, Socialisation, Identity and Methods of Research, lasts one hour and thirty minutes and carries sixty marks. Section A contains three compulsory questions. In Section B, you answer one essay from a choice of two.

Paper Two, The Family, has the same duration, mark total and format. Each paper contributes fifty per cent of AS Level or twenty-five per cent of the full A Level.

A Level candidates also take Paper Three and Paper Four.

Paper Three, Education, lasts one hour and fifteen minutes and carries fifty marks. You answer four compulsory questions, ending with a twenty-six-mark essay. It contributes twenty-one per cent of the A Level.

Paper Four, Globalisation, Media and Religion, lasts one hour and forty-five minutes and carries seventy marks. The paper has separate sections for the three topic areas. You answer two thirty-five-mark essays, choosing one question from each of two different sections. It contributes twenty-nine per cent of the qualification.

You may take AS Level as a standalone qualification, complete A Level through an approved staged route, or take all four papers together.

AS Level grades range from lowercase a to e, while the full A Level is graded from A-star to E.

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 June and November, with an additional March series for schools in India. 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. Paper 4 requires essays from two different sections. Two answers from the same section do not satisfy the stated choice requirement.

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.