

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

Sociology 9699

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2027 and 2028

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 9699, 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
AS Paper 1: Socialisation and identity	At AS Level, you begin with socialisation and identity. You will explore how individuals learn social expectations, how order and conformity are maintained, and how class, gender, ethnicity and age influence identity.
AS Paper 1: Research methods	You will also study sociological research methods, including primary and secondary data, quantitative and qualitative approaches, questionnaires, interviews, observations and experiments. You will evaluate evidence through concepts such as validity, reliability, objectivity, representativeness and ethics.
AS Paper 2: The family	The second AS area is the family. You will compare functionalist, Marxist, feminist, New Right and postmodernist perspectives, while examining family diversity, social change, gender roles, childhood, parenthood and the changing experiences of family members.
A Level Paper 3: Education	At A Level, Paper Three focuses on education. It examines the role of education in society, social mobility, curriculum influences and inequalities related to class, ethnicity and gender.
A Level Paper 4: Globalisation, media and religion	For Paper Four, you study at least two areas from Globalisation, Media and Religion. These topics explore global power and inequality, migration and global crime; media ownership, representation and influence; and the changing role of religion in contemporary society.

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

Qualification route	Components	Meaning
AS Level only	1 and 2	Standalone AS qualification, graded a-e
Staged A Level	1 and 2 first; then 3 and 4	Carry forward eligible AS marks within Cambridge rules and time limits
Full A Level in one series	1, 2, 3, 4	All required components; A Level graded A*-E

AS and A Level percentages refer to different qualification totals. A component can therefore have one weighting at AS and a different weighting in the full A Level. Confirm the entry option and any carry-forward arrangements with the centre.

Paper 4 requires essays from two different sections. Two answers from the same section do not satisfy the stated choice requirement.

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**.