



# Sociology

**GCSE 2012**

**Sociology**

Teachers' Handbook

J696

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# Introduction

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and students alike. We've made improvements in two key areas: updated and relevant content and a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills. In addition and in response to reforms announced by the Government and in response to Ofqual mandated changes to GCSEs, unitised assessment of this qualification is being replaced by linear assessment from September 2012.

This means that candidates commencing a two year course from September 2012 will take all of their GCSE units at the end of the course in June 2014.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specification and to support you while teaching them.

It is important to make the point that this Teacher Handbook plays a secondary role to the specifications themselves. The GCSE Sociology specification is the document on which assessment is based: it specifies what content and skills need to be covered. At all times therefore, the Teacher Handbook should be read in conjunction with the Specification. If clarification on a particular point is sought, then that clarification must be found in the Specification itself.

# Resources

The list below is by no means exhaustive. Inclusion does not necessarily mean complete suitability, unless the resource has been endorsed by OCR. The list is intended to act as a broad guide. It is also recognised that teachers may be familiar with other relevant resources that are not listed below.

Teachers will need to use their professional judgment in assessing the suitability of materials in the list below.

OCR recognises that the teaching of this qualification will vary greatly from school to school and from teacher to teacher. With that in mind, this Teacher Guide and the associated Scheme of Work are offered as guidance but will be subject to modifications by the individual teacher.

## A resource list for teachers

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### Key Endorsed Textbooks

Heinemann is producing the following resources for OCR GCSE Sociology for first teaching in September 2010 [publication – Spring 2009].

Jannine Jacobs-Roth, Lynn Taylor, Karen Waterworth, Bruce Viveash, OCR GCSE Sociology.

### General texts

J Blundell, *Active Sociology for GCSE*, Longman, August 2001, ISBN 0582434432 - ISBN-13 9780582434431.

J Richardson, *Youth and Culture for OCR*, Causeway Press, September 2005, ISBN 1902796713 - ISBN-13 9781902796710.

P Wilson, A Kidd, *Sociology for GCSE*, Collins Educational, March 1998, ISBN 0003224449 - ISBN-13 9780003224443.

K Browne, *An Introduction to Sociology*, Polity Press, March 2005, ISBN 0745632580 - ISBN-13 9780745632582.

M Haralambos et al, *Sociology: A New Approach*, Causeway Press, July 1996, ISBN 1873929552 - ISBN-13 9781873929551.

### Websites

Internet sites such as You Tube (<http://uk.youtube.com/>) will allow quick access to a number of useful clips. Please remember that that this site contains clips that may not be edited and its use should be regulated.

Wikipedia ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)) is a huge resource of information. It is though unedited and may not always contain correct information.

([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)) is an excellent source of information for some of the topics in the GCSE specification. It has a good data section and search facility.

The Office for National statistics website ([www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)) is a useful and regulated site that provides free access to data produced by the Office for National Statistics, and some data from government departments and devolved administrations.

The Glasgow Media Group ([www.glasgowmediagroup.org](http://www.glasgowmediagroup.org)) promotes the development of new methodologies and substantive research in the area of media and communications.

Students should be encouraged to read a good newspaper on a regular basis or should use media news websites to aid the contextualisation of sociological theory.

# Other forms of Support

In order to help you implement the new GCSE Sociology Specification effectively, OCR offers a comprehensive package of support. This includes:

## Published Resources

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OCR offers centres a wealth of quality published support with a fantastic choice of 'Official Publisher Partner' and 'Approved Publication' resources, all endorsed by OCR for use with OCR specifications.

## Publisher partners

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OCR works in close collaboration with three Publisher Partners; Hodder Education, Heinemann and Oxford University Press (OUP) to ensure centres have access to:

- Better published support, available when you need it, tailored to OCR specifications
- Quality resources produced in consultation with OCR subject teams, which are linked to OCR's teacher support materials
- More resources for specifications with lower candidate entries
- Materials that are subject to a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement

Heinemann is the publisher partner for OCR GCSE Sociology.



Heinemann is producing the following resources for OCR GCSE Sociology.

OCR GCSE Sociology Student Book  
Jannine Jacobs-Roth, Lynn Taylor, Bruce Viveash, Karen Waterworth  
ISBN: 978 0 435807 573  
Published: May 2009

## Approved publications

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OCR still endorses other publisher materials, which undergo a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. By offering a choice of endorsed materials, centres can be assured of quality support for all OCR qualifications.



## Endorsement

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OCR endorses a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering its qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCRs “Official Publishing Partner” or “Approved publication” logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement. All responsibility for the content of the publisher’s materials rests with the publisher.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve an OCR qualification. Any resource lists which are produced by OCR shall include a range of appropriate texts.

## Professional Development

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The 2012-13 OCR Professional Development Programme offers more accessible and more cost effective training, with the same valued content that you expect from us.

At OCR, we are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve the support we offer to teachers. Most recently we have been considering the increasing challenges that schools face in releasing teachers for INSET, and how OCR can make its professional development programme more accessible and convenient for all.

From September 2012, our new improved programme will include:

- FREE online professional development units available when and where you want them
- FREE live web broadcasts of professional development events
- FREE face to face training for GCSE controlled assessment and GCE coursework
- A series of ‘not to be missed’ premier professional development events.

For more information, please email [training@ocr.org.uk](mailto:training@ocr.org.uk) or visit [www.ocr.org.uk/training](http://www.ocr.org.uk/training).

## OCR Social

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Visit our social media site <http://www.social.ocr.org.uk>. By registering you will have free access to a dedicated platform where teachers can engage with each other - and OCR - to share best practice, offer guidance and access a range of support materials produced by other teachers; such as lesson plans, presentations, videos and links to other helpful sites.

## Interchange

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OCR Interchange has been developed to help you to carry out day to day administration functions online, quickly and easily. The site allows you to register and enter candidates online. In addition, you can gain immediate a free access to candidate information at you convenience. Sign up at <https://interchange.ocr.org.uk>

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the major changes to this specification?

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- The new sociology specification consists of three compulsory units.
- Coursework is no longer part of the specification and has been replaced by a unit assessed through a written examination.
- The scheme of assessment is untiered.
- Unit B673 consists of pre released material, issued to centres prior to the examination.

## What will the pre-released material look like and when will it be issued to Centres?

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- The pre released material will consist of two sociological investigations.
- The investigations will focus on a topic as set out in the specification. The investigations can be drawn from any area of sociological research.
- Candidates will then be examined on their understanding of the investigations.
- The pre release material will be issued in the January of the year in which the exam will take place.

## How will the omission of coursework affect the teaching of research methods?

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- Research methods will now be assessed in units B671 and in B673. B671 will introduce the basics of research methodology. Unit B673 will build on this, using the pre released investigations, to encourage candidates to apply research methods in context.

## How many topics must I teach for Unit B672?

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- Candidates must study three out of the six optional topics in Unit B672.

## Can learners re-sit the qualification?

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- Yes but only in its entirety, re-sitting individual units mid-course is no longer possible.

## Will OCR make past papers available?

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- Papers from the most recent series will be available to download from the secure Interchange website after the issue of results.
- Papers from previous exam series will still be available to download from the OCR Website. These will be free of charge.

## What support can we expect from publishers?

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- OCR is working in partnership with individual publishers for different subject groups. Comprehensive resources are being developed by these Publishing Partners, Heinemann, to support the specification and complement the support available from OCR.

## What support materials are being produced by OCR for the revised GCSE?

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- Schemes of work and lesson plans can be downloaded from the OCR website. The materials will be available in fixed PDF format, for reference purposes, and also in Word format, so that teachers can adapt the materials for their own use.

## Contact us

Keep up to date with the latest news by registering to receive e-alerts at [www.ocr.org.uk/updates](http://www.ocr.org.uk/updates)

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