

IGCSE Sociology (0495)

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

Candidates may take a simple translation dictionary into the examination if English is not their first language.

Is there a preferred order for teaching IGCSE Sociology?

No, although the basic syllabus order is often followed. To a large extent it depends on the individual department or teacher and the preparation of the students in previous school years.

How many hours contact time do you recommend for IGCSE Sociology?

There is no set rule. Over a two-year course some 2 to 2.5 hours per week of lessons should be sufficient. Students will need to do extra work in their own time to supplement this.

Can I teach the IGCSE course in one year?

It has been known for Centres to teach IGCSE Sociology in one year on 4x70 minute lessons per week. Consequently this is only to be considered when candidates are taking a fairly small number of IGCSEs in total, say four or five. If the pupils have good prior knowledge of some topics it should be possible.

What support materials are available?

- Syllabus
 - IGCSE Sociology Standards Booklet (this contains student answers to IGCSE questions along with the mark scheme, marks and comments of a senior examiner);
 - Question papers for the past two years;
 - Mark schemes from November 2000 onwards;
- All the above are available from CIE Publications

Is IGCSE equivalent to UK GCSE and how is it regarded by universities and employers?

Yes, IGCSE and UK GCSE are equivalent and have equal acceptance by universities and employers. The best place to find out about acceptability of CIE examinations by British universities is the UCAS website (<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/quals/intquals/appa.html>). IGCSE is not usually sufficient to gain access to a university: higher level qualifications are also required.

Can you suggest any web-sites that could be used as teaching aids?

- <http://www.le.ac.uk/education/centres/ATSS/atss.html> The Association for the Teaching of the Social Sciences (ATSS)
- <http://www.oneworld.org/ni/index4.html> New Internationalist One World Almanac
- <http://www.philipallan.co.uk> Sociology Review

I am having problems getting hold of the recommended textbooks. Can you help?

Most of the texts can be obtained over the Internet. The following web-sites may be of interest:

- www.amazon.co.uk
- www.heffers.co.uk

Do my students have to do the coursework option?

No, they can do the alternative to coursework, Paper 4 instead of the coursework.

Are there any changes planned for the syllabus?

The syllabus is being revised for 2004. The content will remain similar, but the structure of the examination papers will change. There will be two papers and the coursework option will be removed.