

## **IGCSE Sociology (0495) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **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 the 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 4 x 70 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 O Level questions along with the mark scheme, marks and comments of a senior examiner)
- Past question papers and mark schemes

All the above are available from CIE Publications and the Teacher Support website.

### **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. IGCSE is not usually sufficient to gain access to a university: higher level qualifications are also required.

### **Can you suggest any websites that could be used as teaching aids?**

<http://www.atss.org.uk> – The Association for the Teaching of the Social Sciences (ATSS)

<http://www.philipallan.co.uk> – Sociology Review

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

Most of the textbooks can be obtained over the Internet. The following websites may be of interest:

- [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)
- [www.heffers.co.uk](http://www.heffers.co.uk)

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