

O Level Sociology (2251)

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 O Level 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 O Level 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 O Level course in one year?

It has been known for Centres to teach O Level 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 O Levels 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
 - O Level Sociology Standards Booklet (this contains student answers to O Level 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

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

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 2 papers:

Paper 1 (2 hours 30 minutes) Candidates answer one compulsory question on sociological research methods from Section A and three questions from sections B to D.

Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) Candidates answer three questions from sections A to D. The questions are based on structured responses to a given stimulus material. The stimulus is of the form of a short quotation or statement from a sociological source.