North Herts Education Support Centre

Course Title

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Sociology

Overview

Students study towards the WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Sociology. The intent is to enable students to develop critical and informed understanding of the world in which they live. Students explore how individuals are influenced by social structures, institutions, culture and processes of socialisation while also considering the extent to which individuals can shape their own identities and experiences.

The Eduqas specification is designed to develop students' understanding and critical awareness of modern society and encourages students to question assumptions that may otherwise be taken for granted. Students learn to analyse arguments, construct informed arguments, evaluate different sociological explanations and reach substantial conclusions.

Outline of the Course

Component 1 gives students the basic building blocks of Sociology, they will look at how people develop culture and identity, then apply these to two key institutions: families and education. Students study the roles and purposes of families and education within society and learn how sociologists study society and how evidence is produced.

Component 2 builds on the concepts and theories introduced in component 1. Students examine the ways in which social structures affect people's behaviour, opportunities and life chances. In the crime and deviance topic, students learn how sociologists explain crime and how evidence such as crime statistics must be questioned and evaluated. Students will apply their knowledge of research methods to real sociological research situations, enabling students to make informed judgements about the quality of the evidence used to support sociological arguments.

Assessment details

Assessment takes place through examinations at the end of Year 11. Both examinations are 1 hour 45 minutes and weigh 50% each of the qualification.

Component	Content	Examination	Weighting
Component 1: Understanding Social Processes	Cultural transmission, families, education and sociological research methods.	1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Component 2: Understanding Social Structures	Social differentiation and stratification, crime and deviance and applied methods of sociological enquiry.	1 hour 45 minutes	50%

Staff Roles

Miss Holbrook

Equipment/Health & Safety

Class textbooks and other necessary equipment are provided by the centre. Including access to ICT resources as necessary. Basic classroom health and safety expectations apply.

How it will be examined
Both examinations contain a combination of: **Short-answer questions** **Structured questions** **Extended-response questions** Students will be taught how to: **Identify** **Describe and explain** **Apply** **Analyse** **Compare** **Evaluate** **Construct extended arguments** **Reach justified conclusions** Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, respond to sociologists' views, analyse different interpretations, evaluate research methods and evidence and make links across different areas of the course.

Appeals Process
If a learner wishes to appeal their final grade, NHESC can trigger a remarking of their examination paper(s) by WJEC. The learner must give their permission before NHESC applies for an appeal. The grade could go up, down or stay the same following an appeal.

Curriculum Plan	
Component 1: Understanding Social Processes	**Component 2: Understanding Social Structures**
Key concepts and processes of Cultural Transmission • Culture, norms and values • Socialisation and agents of socialisation • Social control • Identity, roles and status • Sociological explanations **Families** • Different family and household structures • Changing family patterns • Relationships within families • Gender roles • Power and relationships • Sociological perspectives and explanations **Education** • Functions of school • Sociological perspectives • Achievement • Patterns and inequalities	**Social Differentiation and Stratification** • Social stratification and social class • Inequality, poverty, power, status, life chances • Differences between social groups • Sociological explanations of inequality and stratification • Contributions of sociological thinkers **Crime and Deviance** • Definitions of crime and deviance • Social construction of crime and deviance • Patterns of criminal and deviant behaviour • Social control • Different social groups and experiences of crime • Evidence about the nature and extent of crime • Sociological explanations of crime

• Factors affecting educational experiences • Relationships and processes • Relationship between education and society **Sociological research methods** • Research process • Primary and secondary data • Qualitative and quantitative data • Questionnaires, interviews, observations, official statistics and other secondary sources. • Sampling • Practical and ethical considerations • Reliability, validity and representativeness • Strengths and limitations	**Applied methods of sociological enquiry** • Apply their methodological understanding to practical research situations. • Develop understanding of different stages involved in sociological research and learn how to interpret and evaluate data.