



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority



GCE A level performance descriptions for sociology

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Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for sociology

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2
Assessment objectives	<p>Knowledge and understanding of the theories, methods, concepts and various forms of evidence outlined in paragraphs 3.2 a), b) and c), and of the links between them.</p> <p>Communication of knowledge and understanding in a clear and effective manner.</p>	<p>Demonstration of skills of application, analysis, interpretation and evaluation as indicated in paragraphs 3.3 a), b) and c).</p>
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate accurate knowledge and understanding of a range of sociological theories, methods and concepts, supported by evidence. b) present appropriate material in a logical, accurate and coherent manner, with few errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate an ability to select, apply and interpret, accurately and appropriately, different types of sociological evidence from a range of sources b) make some analysis and evaluation of evidence and arguments that have relevance to the question paper.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, methods and concepts with limited evidence b) present some sociological material with limited coherence and some errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate a limited ability to select, apply and interpret different types of sociological evidence b) make a limited analysis and evaluation of evidence and arguments relevant to the question paper.

A2 performance descriptions for sociology

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2
Assessment objectives	<p>Knowledge and understanding of the theories, methods, concepts and various forms of evidence outlined in paragraphs 3.2 a), b) and c), and of the links between them.</p> <p>Communication of knowledge and understanding in a clear and effective manner.</p>	<p>Demonstration of skills of application, analysis, interpretation and evaluation as indicated in paragraphs 3.3 a), b) and c).</p>
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate full, detailed, accurate and wide ranging knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, methods and concepts and the connections between them, citing wide ranging evidence b) present sociological material in a logical and coherent manner, where spelling, grammar and punctuation are largely accurate. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate an ability to select, apply and interpret, accurately and appropriately, different types of sociological evidence from a wide range of diverse sources b) make detailed and accurate analysis and evaluation of sociological evidence and arguments on a variety of issues that are highly relevant to the question paper.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of sociological theories, methods and concepts, with some limited evidence of understanding of the connections between them, supported by some evidence b) present some sociological material that displays a basic structure with limited coherence and some errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling. 	<p>Candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate a basic ability to select, apply and interpret different types of sociological evidence from a limited range of sources b) make basic analysis and evaluation of evidence and arguments that have some relevance to the question paper.