

SOCIOLOGY
Advanced Higher

Third edition – published November 2003

**NOTE OF CHANGES TO ADVANCED HIGHER ARRANGEMENTS
THIRD EDITION PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2003**

COURSE TITLE: Sociology (Advanced Higher)

COURSE NUMBER: C074 13

National Course Specification

Course Assessment clarified.

All Units No Changes

National Course Specification

SOCIOLOGY (ADVANCED HIGHER)

COURSE NUMBER C074 13

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course comprises one mandatory unit and a choice of two units from three optional units:

Mandatory units

D435 13 *Sociology: Themes and Issues (AH)* *1 credit (40 hours)*

Optional units

D460 13 *Analysing Human Society 1 (AH)* *1 credit (40 hours)*

D436 13 *Analysing Human Society 2 (AH)* *1 credit (40 hours)*

D437 13 *Sociology: Research (AH)* *1 credit (40 hours)*

In common with all courses, this course includes 40 hours over and above the 120 hours for the component units. This is for induction, extending the range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation, integration of learning and preparation for external assessment. This time is an important element of the course and advice on its use is included in the course details.

The units may be taught concurrently or sequentially. It is recommended, however, that Sociology: Themes and Issues be offered first to establish the sociological perspective.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained a course or units in Higher Sociology particularly unit Studying Human Society - The Sociological Approach and Higher English or Communication at Higher.

Administrative Information

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National Course Specification: general information (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

CORE SKILLS

Core skills for Advanced Higher remain subject to confirmation and details will be available at a later date.

For information about the automatic certification of core skills for any individual unit in this course, please refer to the general information section at the beginning of the unit.

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, publication code BA0906).

National Course Specification: course details

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

RATIONALE

A general rationale for the study of Sociology by candidates over the age of 16 is given in the Introduction to the Arrangements Document and applies to all levels of Sociology.

The aims of Advanced Higher Sociology are to develop critical evaluation and analytical skills in the discipline of Sociology and to develop a greater depth of knowledge and understanding of the discipline and practice of Sociology and the issues which feature within it. The synthesis of these skills may be demonstrated in an optional research unit which will require planning, researching, analysing and presenting a piece of independent sociological research conducted by the candidate.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is constructed with one mandatory unit and a choice of two units from three optional units. The mandatory unit introduces candidates to some of the main challenges which face the discipline of Sociology. It focuses upon the divisions which exist between approaches and the new developments which attempt to overcome them. It also examines some of the challenges which face the discipline today.

The choice of two units gives the opportunity to study further substantive topics in sociology. One group of topics encompasses the sociologies of development, race and ethnicity, gender. The second group of topics encompasses the sociologies of power and politics, religion, organisation. The final optional unit gives candidates the opportunity to design, test and evaluate an independent piece of sociological research.

The context and content within the units are described below and, though they may be attempted separately, they should be seen as complementary. The order in which the units are tackled is at the discretion of the centre, though it is recommended that when the research unit is chosen it should be undertaken as the last component of the course.

It is recommended that the main context of all sociology should be British Society, but other societies should be used for comparative purposes or where it is appropriate to use sociological data/studies from other societies.

Sociology: Themes and Issues (AH)

This unit provides an introduction to some of the broad philosophical debates concerning the nature of knowledge and to which Sociology makes a contribution. Sociology itself is characterised by a range of major debates which relate to the ontological, epistemological and methodological aspects of the discipline in the production of sociological knowledge. This unit seeks to examine the debates which divide Sociology and to consider some of the new challenges to the discipline. The unit should be approached in the following way:

- science and Sociology – positivism versus interpretivism
- structuration – the resolution of the structure versus action debate?
- ‘challenges’ to Sociology – candidates should choose at least **two** from: feminism, ethnomethodology, sociobiology, globalisation, post-modernism

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

Analysing Human Society 1 (AH)

This unit focuses on the sociological understanding of two substantive areas of human social behaviour. Candidates must study **two** topics chosen from three options.

Within each topic candidates must relate each topic to at least one broad area of social life (Outcome 1) and examine at least one aspect of the topic (Outcome 3). The table below indicates possible areas and aspect. This is not an exhaustive list and centres may use other appropriate areas and aspects.

Optional topics

Topic 1

Sociology of development

- Sociological understanding of the concept of development
- Sociological theories of development
- Connections and changes between societies
- One area of social life related to the sociology of development – see table overleaf
- One aspect of the topic of development –see table overleaf

Topic 2

Sociology of race and ethnicity

- Sociological understanding of the concepts of race and ethnicity
- Sociological perspectives on racism and ethnic minority inequality
- Immigration and racism in Britain, Britain's ethnic minorities, diversity and change
- One area of social life related to the sociology of race and ethnicity – see table overleaf
- One aspect of the topic of race and ethnicity – see table overleaf

Topic 3

Sociology of gender

- Nature and meaning of gender and gender differences
- Sociological perspectives on gender
- Gender inequality in contemporary British and other societies
- One area of social life related to the sociology of gender – see table overleaf
- One aspect of the topic of gender – see table overleaf

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

Analysing Human Society 1: Suggestions for areas related to, and aspects within topics

Topic:	Development	Race and ethnicity	Gender
Area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Work • Education • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Work • Health • Stratification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Family • Work • Mass media • Health • Crime
Aspect:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalisation • Industrialisation • Urbanisation • Technology • Multinationals/ Transnationals • Environmental issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life chances • Attitudes, prejudice and discrimination • Nationalism and identity • Culture and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conjugal roles • Life chances • Gender and ethnicity

Analysing Human Society 2 (AH)

This unit focuses on the sociological understanding of two substantive areas of human social behaviour. Candidates must study **two** topics chosen from three options.

Within each topic candidates must relate each topic to at least one broad area of social life (Outcome 1) and examine at least one aspect of the topic (Outcome 3). The table below indicates possible areas and aspect. This is not an exhaustive list and centres may use other appropriate areas and aspects.

Optional topics

Topic 1

Sociology of power and politics

- Meaning and sources of power and authority
- Theories of the distribution of political power
- Political socialisation and other factors affecting political behaviour
- One area of social life related to the sociology of power and politics – see table overleaf
- One aspect of the topic of power and politics – see table overleaf

Topic 2

Sociology of religion

- Nature and meaning of religion
- Religion in society using different sociological perspectives
- Religious organisations – their diversity, growth and change
- One area of social life related to the sociology of religion – see table overleaf
- One aspect of the topic of religion – see table overleaf

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

Topic 3

Sociology of organisations

- Sociological understanding of the concept of organisation, types of organisations
- Sociological theories of organisations
- Development and change in organisations
- One area of social life related to the sociology of organisations – see table below
- One aspect of the topic of organisations – see table below

Analysing Human Society 2: Suggestions for areas related to, and aspects within topics

Topic:	Power and politics	Religion	Organisations
Area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state • Stratification • Mass media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state • Family • Education • Stratification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state • Power • Work
Aspect:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social movements • Pressure groups • Voting behaviour and patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secularisation • Cults, sects and New Religious Movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureaucracy • Social control • Managerialism • Ownership • Total institutions

Sociology: Research (AH)

This unit will give candidates the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding of the relationship between sociological perspectives and the methods of research within the discipline of Sociology. The topic chosen for research will be drawn from topics covered in the Higher or Advanced Higher Sociology. It will develop the investigative skills of planning, research, analysis and presentation.

The study will take the form of a sociological investigation based upon a research design created by the candidate and will use primary and/or secondary sources of data. Whatever methods are used, the study must address the theoretical issues by drawing upon existing sociological literature which underpin all sociological research. Emphasis will be on the quality of the design, testing and evaluating of the research, rather than the quality or type of data collected. Research methods chosen should be appropriate to the subject under investigation but may include one, or a combination, of the following:

Observation	Diaries
Participant observation	Letters
Oral histories	Personal accounts
Comparative or historical material	Case studies
Documentary research	Official and other statistics and data
Questionnaire	
Interviews (structured/unstructured)	

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

ASSESSMENT

To gain the award, candidates must pass all the unit assessments as well as the external assessment. External assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the course award.

When units are taken as component parts of a course, candidates will have the opportunity to achieve at levels beyond that required to attain each of the unit outcomes. This attainment may, where appropriate, be recorded and used to contribute towards course estimates and to provide evidence for appeals. Additional details are provided, where appropriate, with exemplar assessment materials. Further information on the key principles of assessment are provided in the paper *Assessment*, published by HSDU in May 1996.

At Advanced Higher, the three key elements of knowledge and understanding, analysis and interpretation, and evaluation are assessed in the following ways.

Knowledge and understanding

Candidates should be able to make effective use of wide-ranging, detailed and in-depth knowledge of Sociology – its concepts, theories, methods, studies and literature. This sound and substantive knowledge should extend to the major debates and contemporary issues which characterise Sociology today. References and descriptions should be detailed, extensive and relevant.

Analysis and interpretation

Candidates should be able to offer critical analysis of sociological material, including concepts, theories, methods, issues and sociological research. Candidates should offer an informed and balanced view, which reflects a clear understanding of wider sociological themes. Analysis of issues should be critical and based upon sound understanding and synthesis of sociological knowledge. It should also reflect familiarity with, and confidence in dealing with, complex arguments.

Evaluation

Candidates should demonstrate an ability to make clear and balanced evaluations of relevant and complex sociological material and should be able to base evaluations upon justified and sustained arguments. Candidates should be sufficiently confident in their sociological understanding to be both critical and innovative in their reasoning and to draw conclusions which are logical, coherent and focused.

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

DETAILS OF THE INSTRUMENTS FOR EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

The external assessment will consist of one question paper.

Paper – 3 hours – 90 marks

The paper will comprise four sections.

Section A – assesses the mandatory unit Sociology: Themes and Issues. Candidates will be given a number of questions which require extended responses from which they will select **one**. 30 marks will be allocated to this part of the paper.

Sections B,C and D – assess the optional units Analysing Human Society 1 and 2 and Sociology: Research. Candidates will be given a number of questions which require extended responses for each optional unit. They will choose **one** question from each of the two optional units they have studied. **30** marks will be allocated to each question.

Evidence of attainment in the form of coursework and/or internal unit assessment may be used in relation to course estimates and appeals.

GRADE DESCRIPTIONS

Course assessment will require candidates to:

- demonstrate wide-ranging and in-depth knowledge and detailed understanding of Sociology and the issues which feature within it
- use critical and analytical skills to analyse, interpret and evaluate issues and topics covered in the units
- select, compare and evaluate the relevance of sociological evidence used to support arguments and form conclusions
- draw from, synthesise and apply a large volume of sociological information

The following descriptions are of expected performances at grade C and grade A. They are intended to assist candidates, teachers/lecturers and users of the certificate and to help establish standards when question papers are being set. The grade of the award will be based on the total score obtained in the examination.

To achieve a C grade in Advanced Higher Sociology, candidates should be able to use relevant knowledge and understanding of a variety of sociological concepts, theories, methods and some of the major issues which characterise the discipline today. Analysis should be relevant, balanced and competent and should offer critical interpretation of the issues and topics. The ability to present clear and logical argument, backed with relevant references to sociological evidence, should be displayed. Candidates should be able to draw conclusions which are apposite and valid. Evaluation should be based upon clear insights and understanding of Sociology.

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

To achieve a grade A in Advanced Higher Sociology, candidates should be able to demonstrate high-level and very detailed knowledge and in-depth understanding of Sociology. Critical analysis and clarity of argument with reasoned, well-supported and developed conclusions are key features for this grade. Candidates should display a high and sophisticated level of competence in the subject and be

able to draw widely from a variety of sociological sources, perspectives and studies. Key theoretical and empirical issues relating to topics should be evaluated. Answers should be well organised and expressed logically and coherently. A sustained focus on the question should be maintained. Use of references will be relevant, varied and up to date. Critical abilities should be paramount, together with the confidence to use originality or sociological imagination.

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

Relationship of course to component units

The course consists of three component units plus an additional 40 hours study. The external assessment tests the candidates' knowledge and understanding of the content covered in all three units and their ability to demonstrate and integrate sociological skills acquired throughout the course. The criteria for a grade C in this course reflect closely the level of competence required for success in its component units.

APPROACHES TO LEARNING AND TEACHING

Learning and teaching approaches should reflect the aims and rationale of the subject as outlined previously. The learning experience should be varied and interesting and should place due emphasis on independent study at an advanced level.

The following learning experiences are essential to the course and the additional 40 hours allowed in the course should be used to develop the appropriate learning and teaching strategies.

Candidates should:

- develop sociological understanding
- use key sociological concepts and perspectives to understand and interpret human society
- develop investigative sociological skills
- understand and interpret sociological themes and issues
- display high-order evaluative skills
- understand the interdependence of individuals, groups, institutions and societies
- take part in debate regarding the nature of Sociology
- develop high-level transferable skills

A variety of teaching approaches is critical and candidates should be given every opportunity to participate in whole-class activity, in small groups or as individuals. The approach should be candidate-centred and activity-based, but whole-class teaching can play a part in a flexible programme as a means of establishing understanding.

In this process it will be essential that there is a wide range of up-to-date, interesting stimulus materials and approaches; these should include audio-visual materials, invited speakers, visits, paper-based resources and IT resources. The resources should be interesting, manageable and appropriate for this level of Sociology and should allow candidates to develop sociological skills.

Candidates should have a clear notion of targets and should experience ownership of the planned programme. Regular opportunities for remediation and review should be included in the programme. Opportunity should also be given to candidates to:

- set learning objectives
- review progress
- assess and develop existing knowledge
- seek and receive learning support

National Course Specification: course details (cont)

COURSE Sociology (Advanced Higher)

SPECIAL NEEDS

This course specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).

SUBJECT GUIDES

A Subject Guide to accompany the Arrangements documents has been produced by the Higher Still Development Unit (HSDU) in partnership with the Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum (SCCC) and Scottish Further Education Unit (SFEU). The Guide provides further advice and information about:

- support materials for each course
- learning and teaching approaches in addition to the information provided in the Arrangements document
- assessment
- ensuring appropriate access for candidates with special educational needs

The Subject Guide is intended to support the information contained in the Arrangements document. The SQA Arrangements documents contain the standards against which candidates are assessed.

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Sociology: Themes and Issues (Advanced Higher)
NUMBER	D435 13
COURSE	Sociology (Advanced Higher)

SUMMARY

This is a mandatory component unit of Advanced Higher Sociology. It can also be undertaken as a free-standing unit.

This unit is designed to develop candidates' breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of Sociology as a discipline and to encourage analytical and evaluative skills, which will be applied to some of the major and more complex issues which feature within Sociology today. It is intended to deepen understanding of Sociology and the explanations it gives about the nature of society, individuals and the relationships between the two. The themes and issues it covers are intended to serve as an introduction to the tensions implicit within sociological theory.

The unit is designed to meet the needs of:

- candidates undertaking an Advanced Higher course in Sociology
- candidates undertaking a Scottish Group Award at Advanced Higher
- candidates who wish to gain a grounding in current sociological debates

OUTCOME

Evaluate issues which feature within Sociology.

Administrative Information

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Sociology: Themes and Issues (Advanced Higher)

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained a course or units in Higher Sociology and Higher English or Communication at Higher.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Advanced Higher.

CORE SKILLS

Core skills for Advanced Higher remain subject to confirmation and details will be available at a later date.

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, publication code BA0906).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Sociology: Themes and Issues (Advanced Higher)

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Sociological issues to be covered in this unit

- science and Sociology: positivism versus interpretivism
- structuration: the resolution of the structure versus action debate?
- ‘challenges’ to Sociology: choose at least **two** from:
feminism, ethnomethodology, sociobiology, globalisation,
post-modernism.

OUTCOME 1

Evaluate issues which feature within Sociology.

Performance criteria

- (a) Sociological issues are discussed clearly and accurately.
- (b) Sociological issues are analysed fully and appropriately taking account of different arguments.
- (c) The discussion and analysis of issues uses relevant selected evidence and references.
- (d) Conclusions are well developed, coherent and take account of the relevance of issues to Sociology as a discipline.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence which covers the performance criteria.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Sociology: Themes and Issues (Advanced Higher)

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

Sociology is characterised by major debates. This unit seeks to examine these debates and to consider some of the new challenges to the discipline. The unit should be approached in the following way:

- science and Sociology – positivism versus interpretivism
- structuration – the resolution of the structure versus action debate?
- ‘challenges’ to Sociology – choose **two** from feminism, ethnomethodology, sociobiology, globalisation, postmodernism

These themes and issues are interconnected and should be approached in an appropriately integrated and flexible way, which should be interesting, stimulating and suitable for candidates working at this advanced level. The themes and issues which are the focus of this unit are complex and therefore should be approached in an introductory way and as part of a critical understanding of Sociology as a discipline.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Learning and teaching approaches should reflect the aims and rationale of the subject as outlined in Advanced Higher Sociology course specification. The learning experience should be varied and interesting and should emphasise independent study.

The following are essential to the unit and should be used to develop the appropriate learning and teaching strategies.

Candidates should:

- develop sociological understanding
- use key sociological concepts and perspectives to understand and interpret human society
- develop investigative sociological skills
- understand and interpret sociological themes and issues
- display high-order evaluative skills
- understand the interdependence of individuals, groups, institutions and societies
- take part in debate regarding the nature of Sociology
- develop high-level transferable skills

A variety of teaching approaches is critical and candidates should be given every opportunity to participate in whole-class, in small groups or as individuals. The approach should be candidate-centred and activity-based, but whole-class teaching can play a part in a flexible programme, as a means of establishing understanding.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Sociology: Themes and Issues (Advanced Higher)

In this process it will be essential to include a wide range of up-to-date, interesting stimulus materials and approaches; these should include audio/visual materials, invited speakers, visits, paper-based resources and IT resources. The resources should be interesting, manageable and appropriate for this level of Sociology and should allow candidates to develop sociological skills.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The National Assessment Bank will provide assessment instruments and guidance on implementation. This does not preclude teachers/lecturers from devising their own assessment tasks. Evidence of attainment of the outcomes for this unit may be provided through a variety of methods of assessment. However, at this level, extended essay responses are considered to be most appropriate and should be planned and written as open book exercises, to allow candidates to draw upon a wide range of references and to apply sociological skills and understanding developed earlier in the course.

If the evidence is gathered towards the end of the unit, care should be taken to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for remediation and reassessment if required.

Where assessments are set which allow candidates to demonstrate performance beyond the minimum standard required, evidence gathered for internal unit assessment may also be used for grade prediction and for appeals for external course assessment. For information on the grade descriptions for external assessment, refer to the Sociology Advanced Higher course details.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Analysing Human Society 1 (Advanced Higher)
NUMBER	D460 13
COURSE	Sociology (Advanced Higher)

SUMMARY

This is a component unit of Advanced Higher Sociology. It can also be offered as a free-standing unit.

This unit focuses on the sociological understanding of substantive topic areas relating to human society – the sociologies of development, race and ethnicity, gender. Candidates must study two topics chosen from three options. It is designed to develop further the candidates' ability to apply sociological perspectives in the analysis of aspects of society and to use relevant sociological understanding, studies and evidence in that analysis. The unit broadens and deepens knowledge and understanding of sociological topics and develops further the ability to select and use sociological evidence in the explanation of substantive areas of Sociology.

The unit is designed to meet the needs of:

- candidates undertaking an Advanced Higher course in Sociology
- candidates undertaking a Scottish Group Award at Advanced Higher
- candidates who wish to gain a grounding in the analysis of human society

OUTCOMES

- 1 Explain key features of sociological topics and their relationship with other areas of human society.
- 2 Analyse how sociological perspectives contribute to an understanding of human society.
- 3 Analyse selected aspects of sociological topics by using different sociological perspectives.
- 4 Evaluate sociological evidence and complex arguments related to selected aspects of sociological topics.

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 1 (Advanced Higher)

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained a course or units in Higher Sociology (or a course or units in another social subject or social science) and Higher English or Communication at Higher.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Advanced Higher.

CORE SKILLS

Core skills for Advanced Higher remain subject to confirmation and details will be available at a later date.

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, publication code BA0906).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Analysing Human Society 1 (Advanced Higher)

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Sociological topics to be covered in this unit

Choose **two** from development, race and ethnicity, gender.

OUTCOME 1

Explain key features of sociological topics and their relationship with other areas of human society.

Performance criteria

- (a) Key features of the topics are explained succinctly and correctly.
- (b) Changes relating to topics are described correctly.
- (c) The relationship of topics with other areas of human society is explained clearly.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for each of the chosen topics.

OUTCOME 2

Analyse how sociological perspectives contribute to an understanding of human society.

Performance criteria

- (a) Relevant and contrasting sociological perspectives are applied to topics correctly.
- (b) Issues relating to the application of different sociological perspectives to topics are analysed clearly and correctly.
- (c) Conclusions regarding the use of contrasting sociological perspectives to illuminate the topics are relevant and well developed.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for each of the chosen topics.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 1 (Advanced Higher)

OUTCOME 3

Analyse selected aspects of sociological topics by using different sociological perspectives.

Performance criteria

- (a) Selected aspects of the topics are analysed in a balanced way, taking account of different sociological studies and contrasting sociological perspectives.
- (b) Appropriate evidence is drawn from a range of sociological studies to support the analyses.
- (c) Sustained arguments are developed, based on evidence and examples drawn from relevant sociological studies.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for the chosen topics.

Only one aspect or issue should be selected for analysis and evaluation from each of the two sociological topics.

OUTCOME 4

Evaluate sociological evidence and complex arguments related to selected aspects of sociological topics.

Performance criteria

- (a) Evaluations are balanced and refer to evidence and complex arguments made by sociologists.
- (b) Relevant and developed conclusions are reached regarding aspects of the topics.
- (c) Evaluations draw relevantly upon wider themes and issues in Sociology.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for the chosen topics.

Only one aspect or issue should be selected for analysis and evaluation from each of the two sociological topics.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Analysing Human Society 1 (Advanced Higher)

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

Each substantive topic area of Sociology included in this unit serves to broaden and deepen sociological understanding.

There is a choice of **two** from three optional sociological topics – development, race and ethnicity, gender.

The main emphasis of this unit is on the Sociological analysis and evaluation of the chosen topics. Outcome 1 should be seen, therefore, as an opportunity to introduce, give an overview and contextualise the topic and should not be allocated a disproportionate amount of time or attention. For this outcome there is an opportunity to select **one** area of social life to which this topic relates. Suggestions for this are given below but this list is not exhaustive and centres can choose other relevant areas.

Within each topic, there is also an opportunity to select *for sociological analysis and evaluation*, aspects or issues associated with that topic (Outcomes 2 and 3). Suggestions for this are given below but this list is not exhaustive and centres can choose other relevant aspects/issues.

Topic 1: Sociology of development

Areas: Poverty
 Work
 Education
 Health

Aspects: Globalisation
 Industrialisation
 Urbanisation
 Technology
 Multinationals/Transnationals
 Environmental issues

Topic 2: Sociology of race and ethnicity

Areas: Education
 Work
 Health
 Stratification

Aspects: Life chances
 Attitudes, prejudice and discrimination
 Nationalism and identity
 Culture and identity

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 1 (Advanced Higher)

Topic 3: Sociology of gender

Areas: Education
 Family
 Work
 Mass media
 Health
 Crime

Aspects: Conjugal roles
 Life chances
 Gender and ethnicity

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Learning and teaching approaches should reflect the aims and rationale of the subject as outlined in Advanced Higher Sociology course details. The learning experience should be varied and interesting and should emphasise independent study.

The following are essential to the unit and should be used to develop the appropriate learning and teaching strategies.

Candidates should:

- develop sociological understanding
- use key sociological concepts and perspectives to understand and interpret human society
- develop investigative sociological skills
- understand and interpret sociological themes and issues
- display high-order evaluative skills
- understand the interdependence of individuals, groups, institutions and societies
- take part in debate regarding the nature of Sociology
- develop high-level transferable skills

A variety of teaching approaches is critical and candidates should be given every opportunity to participate in whole-class activity, in small groups or as individuals. The approach should be candidate-centred and activity-based, but whole-class teaching can play a part in a flexible programme as a means of establishing understanding.

In this process, it will be essential to include a wide range of up-to-date, interesting stimulus materials; these should include audio-visual materials, invited speakers, visits, paper-based resources and IT resources. The resources should be interesting, manageable and appropriate for this level of Sociology and should allow candidates to develop sociological skills.

The outcomes are interconnected and should be approached as such. It is recommended that, wherever possible, outcomes should be covered in an integrated way, for example by using the chosen sociological topic to bring the outcomes together. An outcome-by-outcome approach, which could lead to a compartmentalised view of Sociology, should be avoided.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 1 (Advanced Higher)

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The National Assessment Bank will provide assessment instruments and guidance on implementation. This does not preclude teachers/lecturers from devising their own assessment tasks. Evidence of attainment of the outcomes for this unit may be provided through a variety of methods of assessment. However, at this level, extended essay responses are considered to be most appropriate and should be planned and written as open book exercises, to allow candidates to draw upon a wide range of references and to apply sociological skills and understanding developed earlier in the course. The nature of the unit is such that an outcome-by-outcome approach is not appropriate and a more holistic strategy should be used. Where an integrated strategy is adopted, it will be necessary to identify, in the candidate's response, where each outcome has been met.

If the evidence is gathered towards the end of the unit, care should be taken to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for remediation and reassessment if required. Where a candidate has failed to achieve one or more of the outcomes it is only necessary to reassess those outcomes which the candidate has failed to achieve.

Where assessments are set which allow candidates to demonstrate performance beyond the minimum standard required, evidence gathered for internal unit assessment may also be used for grade prediction and for appeals for external course assessment. For information on the grade descriptions for external assessment, refer to the Sociology Advanced Higher course details.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Analysing Human Society 2 (Advanced Higher)
NUMBER	D436 13
COURSE	Sociology (Advanced Higher)

SUMMARY

This is an optional component unit of Sociology Advanced Higher. It can also be undertaken as a free-standing unit.

This unit focuses on the sociological understanding of substantive topic areas relating to human society – the sociologies of power and politics, religion, organisations. Candidates must study two topics chosen from three options. It is designed to develop further the candidate's ability to apply sociological perspectives to the analysis of aspects of society. The unit broadens and deepens knowledge and understanding of sociological topics and develops further the ability to select and use sociological evidence in the explanation of substantive areas of Sociology.

This unit is designed to meet the needs of:

- candidates undertaking an Advanced Higher course in Sociology
- candidates undertaking a Scottish Group Award at Advanced Higher
- candidates who wish to gain a grounding in the analysis of human society

OUTCOMES

- 1 Explain key features of sociological topics and their relationship with other areas of human society.
- 2 Analyse how sociological perspectives contribute to an understanding of human society.
- 3 Analyse selected aspects of sociological topics using different sociological perspectives.
- 4 Evaluate sociological evidence and complex arguments related to selected aspects of sociological topics.

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 2 (Advanced Higher)

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained a course or units in Higher Sociology (or a course or units in another social subject or social science) and Higher English or Communication at Higher.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Advanced Higher.

CORE SKILLS

Core skills for Advanced Higher remain subject to confirmation and details will be available at a later date.

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Analysing Human Society 2 (Advanced Higher)

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Sociological topics to be covered in this unit

Choose **two** from power and politics, religion, organisations.

OUTCOME 1

Explain key features of sociological topics and their relationship with other areas of human society.

Performance criteria

- (a) Key features of the topics are explained succinctly and correctly.
- (b) Changes relating to topics are outlined correctly.
- (c) The relationship of topics with other areas of human society is explained clearly.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for each of the chosen topics.

OUTCOME 2

Analyse how sociological perspectives contribute to an understanding of human society.

Performance criteria

- (a) Relevant and contrasting sociological perspectives are applied to topics correctly.
- (b) Issues relating to the application of different sociological perspectives to topics are analysed clearly and correctly.
- (c) Conclusions regarding the use of contrasting sociological perspectives to illuminate the topics are relevant and well developed.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for each of the chosen topics.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 2 (Advanced Higher)

OUTCOME 3

Analyse selected aspects of sociological topics by using different sociological perspectives.

Performance criteria

- (a) Selected aspects of the topics are analysed in a balanced way, taking account of different sociological studies and contrasting sociological perspectives.
- (b) Appropriate evidence is drawn from a range of sociological studies to support the analyses.
- (c) Sustained arguments are developed, based on evidence and examples drawn from relevant sociological studies.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for the chosen topics.

Only one aspect or issue should be selected for analysis and evaluation from each of the two sociological topics.

OUTCOME 4

Evaluate sociological evidence and complex arguments related to selected aspects of sociological topics.

Performance criteria

- (a) Evaluations are balanced and refer to evidence and complex arguments made by sociologists.
- (b) Relevant and developed conclusions are reached about aspects of the topics.
- (c) Evaluations draw relevantly upon wider themes and issues in Sociology.

Evidence requirements

Written or oral evidence to ensure coverage of the performance criteria for the chosen topics.

Only one aspect or issue should be selected for analysis and evaluation from each of the two sociological topics.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Analysing Human Society 2 (Advanced Higher)

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

Each substantive topic area of Sociology included in this unit serves to broaden and deepen sociological understanding.

There is a choice of **two** from three optional sociological topics – power and politics, religion, organisations.

The main emphasis of this unit is on the Sociological analysis and evaluation of the chosen topics. Outcome 1 should be seen, therefore, as an opportunity to introduce, give an overview of and contextualise the topic and should not be allocated a disproportionate amount of time or attention. For this outcome there is an opportunity to select **one** area of social life to which the topic relates. Suggestions are given below but this list is not exhaustive and centres can choose other relevant areas.

Within each topic there is also an opportunity to select *for sociological analysis and evaluation*, aspects or issues associated with that topic (Outcomes 2, 3 and 4). Suggestions for this are given below but this list is not exhaustive and centres can choose other relevant aspects/issues.

Topic 1: Sociology of power and politics

Areas: The state
 Stratification
 Mass media

Aspects: Social movements
 Pressure groups
 Voting behaviour and patterns

Topic 2: Sociology of religion

Areas: The state
 Family
 Education
 Stratification

Aspects: Secularisation
 Cults, sects and new religious movements

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 2 (Advanced Higher)

Topic 3: Sociology of organisations

Areas: The state
 Power
 Work

Aspects: Bureaucracy
 Social Control
 Managerialism
 Ownership
 Total institutions

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Learning and teaching approaches should reflect the aims and rationale of the subject as outlined in Advanced Higher Sociology course details. The learning experience should be varied and interesting and should emphasise independent study.

The following are essential to the unit and should be used to develop the appropriate learning and teaching strategies.

Candidates should:

- develop sociological understanding
- use key sociological concepts and perspectives to understand and interpret human society
- develop investigative sociological skills
- understand and interpret sociological themes and issues
- display high-order evaluative skills
- understand the interdependence of individuals, groups, institutions and societies
- take part in debate regarding the nature of Sociology
- develop high-level transferable skills

A variety of teaching approaches is critical and candidates should be given every opportunity to participate in whole-class activity, in small groups or as individuals. The approach should be candidate-centred and activity-based, but whole-class teaching can play a part in a flexible programme as a means of establishing understanding.

In this process it will be essential to include a wide range of up-to-date, interesting stimulus materials; these should include audio-visual materials, invited speakers, visits, paper-based resources and IT resources. The resources should be interesting, manageable and appropriate for this level of Sociology and should allow candidates to develop sociological skills.

The outcomes are interconnected and should be approached as such. It is recommended that, wherever possible, outcomes should be covered in an integrated way, for example using the chosen sociological topic to bring the outcomes together. An outcome-by-outcome approach, which could lead to a compartmentalised view of Sociology, should be avoided.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Analysing Human Society 2 (Advanced Higher)

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The National Assessment Bank will provide assessment instruments and guidance on implementation. This does not preclude teachers/lecturers from devising their own assessment tasks. Evidence of attainment of the outcomes for this unit may be provided through a variety of methods of assessment. However, at this level, extended essay responses are considered to be most appropriate and should be planned and written as open book exercises, to allow candidates to draw upon a wide range of references and to apply sociological skills and understanding developed earlier in the course. The nature of the unit is such that an outcome-by-outcome approach is not appropriate and a more holistic strategy should be used. Where an integrated strategy is adopted, it will be necessary to identify, in the candidate's response, where each outcome has been met.

If the evidence is gathered towards the end of the unit, care should be taken to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for remediation and reassessment if required. Where a candidate has failed to achieve one or more of the outcomes it is only necessary to reassess those outcomes which the candidate has failed to achieve.

Where assessments are set which allow candidates to demonstrate performance beyond the minimum standard required, evidence gathered for internal unit assessment may also be used for grade prediction and for appeals for external course assessment. For information on the grade descriptions for external assessment, refer to the Sociology Advanced Higher course details.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Sociology: Research (Advanced Higher)
NUMBER	D437 13
COURSE	Sociology (Advanced Higher)

SUMMARY

This is an optional component unit of Advanced Higher Sociology. It can also be undertaken as a free-standing unit.

This unit is designed to enable candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the relationship between theory and method in Sociology and to develop investigative, planning, analytical and evaluative skills. The study should focus on an area of Sociology which interests the candidate and should be drawn from any topic offered in the Higher or Advanced Higher courses. Emphasis will be upon the quality of research design and the evaluation of it rather than the quantity or type of data collected.

The unit is designed to meet the needs of:

- candidates undertaking an Advanced Higher course in Sociology
- candidates undertaking a Scottish Group Award at Advanced Higher
- candidates who wish to gain a grounding in sociological research methodology

OUTCOMES

- 1 Design a sociological investigation.
- 2 Collect and analyse data to test the design.
- 3 Report on the testing of the research design.
- 4 Evaluate the design and its methodology.

Administrative Information

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Sociology: Research (Advanced Higher)

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained a course or units in Higher Sociology particularly the unit – Approaches and Methods, and Higher English or Communication at Higher.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Advanced Higher.

CORE SKILLS

Core skills for Advanced Higher remain subject to confirmation and details will be available at a later date.

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, publication code BA0906).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Sociology: Research (Advanced Higher)

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Evidence requirements for the unit

A report, of between 2,500 and 3,000 words should provide evidence of all outcomes and performance criteria for this unit.

Written evidence may be supplemented by oral evidence.

Methods of data collection may be chosen from the following:

Observation	Diaries
Participant observation	Letters
Oral histories	Personal accounts
Comparative or historical material	Case studies
Documentary research	Official and other statistics
Questionnaires	
Interviews (structured/unstructured)	

OUTCOME 1

Design a sociological investigation.

Performance criteria

- (a) The central issue, question or hypothesis of the investigation is stated clearly.
- (b) The design, using either primary and/or secondary sources of data, is explained and justified.
- (c) The design is appropriate to the aims of the sociological investigation.

OUTCOME 2

Collect and analyse data to test the design.

Performance criteria

- (a) Data gathered should be appropriate to the research design.
- (b) The analysis of data should be accurate and be made in terms of the methodology of the research design.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Sociology: Research (Advanced Higher)

OUTCOME 3

Report on the testing of the research design.

Performance criteria

- (a) The presentation of evidence and analysis is clear.
- (b) Results are clear and accurate and appropriate conclusions are drawn.

OUTCOME 4

Evaluate the design and its methodology.

Performance criteria

- (a) The strengths and weaknesses of the research design are evaluated in terms of the aims of the investigation.
- (b) The data collected is evaluated in relation to the aims of the investigation.
- (c) The outcome of the exercise is assessed in terms of the research experience, knowledge of sociological theory and associated methods.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Sociology: Research (Advanced Higher)

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This unit gives candidates the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding of the relationship between sociological perspectives and the methods of research within the discipline of Sociology. The topic chosen for research is drawn from topics covered in the Higher or Advanced Higher Sociology. The unit develops the investigative skills of planning, research, analysis and presentation.

The study takes the form of a sociological investigation based upon a research design created by the candidate and uses primary and/or secondary sources of data. Whatever methods are used, the study must address the theoretical issues by drawing upon existing sociological literature which underpin all sociological research and demonstrate a good understanding of sociological issues and theories as related to the research as well as sociological research processes. Emphasis should be upon the quality of the design and the testing and the evaluating of it rather than the quality or type of data collected. Research methods chosen should be appropriate to the subject under investigation but may include one or a combination of the following:

Observation	Diaries
Participant observation	Letters
Oral histories	Personal accounts
Comparative or historical material	Case studies
Documentary research	Official and other statistics
Questionnaires	
Interviews (structured/unstructured)	

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

A considerable level of independent work is expected for this unit. It should be conducted in an area of Sociology which is of genuine interest to the candidate and can be managed in the time available. Choice of topic should arise naturally from the candidate's previous experience of Sociology and interests but tutors should offer guidance and support to candidates in the choice of topic. Candidates should be reminded of the legal and ethical principles that govern all social research – the British Sociological Association's Statement of Ethical Practice should be used as a guide. Tutors may also, where necessary, offer advice on the proposed research design, selection of source material and they may support the planning of work. Time management is a critical feature of this unit and candidates should be prepared to set clear targets in agreement with tutors. While outcomes are clearly interconnected, they should be approached in order and at every stage candidates should be given guidance to ensure that the research remains manageable and focused.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Sociology: Research (Advanced Higher)

Resources for this unit will centre upon access to current sociological literature in either paper-based or IT form. In addition, invited speakers (such as researchers or users of research) would help candidates to anticipate some of the problems they may encounter. While a high level of independent work is expected, tutor input should be present at every stage and a candidate support pack could be developed to enhance that support.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The National Assessment Bank will provide assessment instruments and guidance on implementation. This does not preclude teachers/lecturers from devising their own assessment tasks. Evidence of attainment of the outcomes will be contained in a report submitted towards the end of the unit. The outcomes should be presented in order. Although the report is not produced under examination conditions, tutors should be satisfied, by regular interviews with candidates, that the submission is the candidate's own work.

Where assessments are set which allow candidates to demonstrate performance beyond the minimum standard required, evidence gathered for internal unit assessment may also be used for grade prediction and for appeals for external course assessment. For information on the grade descriptions for external assessment, refer to the Sociology Advanced Higher course details.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).