



## Course Report 2014

Subject	Sociology
Level	National 5

The statistics used in this report have been compiled before the completion of any Post Results Services.

This report provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers/lecturers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding. It would be helpful to read this report in conjunction with the published assessment and marking instructions for the examination.

## **Section 1: Comments on the Assessment**

### **Component 1: Assignment**

The assignment produced answers in line with expectations. There were some areas where marks from different parts of the marking instructions could be attributed to more than one part of the candidates' response. This resulted in generous marking and will be addressed for the next cohort.

### **Component 2: Question paper**

The question paper was representative of the course assessment specification and sampled from across the course. The level demanded of candidates was, for the most part, of the standard expected at this level, though greater prominence will, in the future, be given to higher-order thinking skills, appropriate to the level.

## **Section 2: Comments on candidate performance**

### **Component 1: Assignment**

The assignment was generally completed to a high standard by candidates. Some candidates had difficulty with expressing a commonsense view, but overall candidates interpreted the task well.

### **Component 2: Question paper**

Candidates answered most questions very well. Those requiring the application of sociological concepts were the most varied in the quality of the response.

## **Section 3: Areas in which candidates performed well**

### **Component 1: Assignment**

Most candidates knew how to select and summarise the main points from the sources. Most candidates were also able to communicate sociologically informed views to a high standard.

### **Component 2: Question paper**

Question 1: Most candidates were able to respond well to the participant observation parts of the question.

Question 2: The terms 'culture' and 'identity' were generally well understood by candidates, as was the socialisation part of the question.

Question 3: Social inequality and research evidence were both well handled by most candidates.

## **Section 4: Areas which candidates found demanding**

### **Component 1: Assignment**

Some candidates had difficulty in correctly identifying what the common sense view of the issue was.

### **Component 2: Question paper**

Question 1(c)(i): Some candidates had difficulty in using the action perspective as demanded by the question.

Question 3(d): Some candidates had difficulty using a structural theory to explain the social issue.

## **Section 5: Advice to centres for preparation of future candidates**

### **Component 1: Assignment**

All candidates should be familiar with advice given on completion of the assignment.

Candidates should show understanding of the difference between a common sense view of the social issue and the evidence-based sociological view.

The assignment should be capable of being read as a piece of work that has an overall coherency.

### **Component 2: Question paper**

Candidates should be prepared to apply their knowledge in different contexts as required in the course assessment specification.

Candidates who are able to show real sociological understanding by using knowledge gained in one area and then using it appropriately in another, will demonstrate the qualities required for high achievement.

The use of sociological terms throughout answers should be encouraged.

Centres should also be aware of the need for candidates to use knowledge and understanding of research and evidence to support explanations.

## **Further information**

2014 was the first year of the new N5 qualifications. Overall the course assessment for Sociology proved to be easier than intended and each grade boundary was adjusted accordingly by an increase of 5 marks. Insufficient questions in the QP permitted grade discrimination which was attributed to the lack of testing on higher order skills. Similarly, in the Assignment, there was a lack of testing on higher order skills and it was also considered that some marks were gained too easily.

It was agreed that a review of the 2015 QP will be undertaken for consistency with SCQF level 5, especially the higher order skills. The Marking Instructions and documentation for the Coursework are to be reviewed/revise for clarity and to realign the marks with the skills expected at SCQF level 5. This work will take place for implementation in the academic year 2014/15. It was also agreed that the requirements for this Course will be reviewed after the 2015 examination diet.

## Statistical information: update on Courses

Number of resulted entries in 2013	0
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Number of resulted entries in 2014	70
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## Statistical information: Performance of candidates

### Distribution of Course awards including grade boundaries

Distribution of Course awards	%	Cum. %	Number of candidates	Lowest mark
Maximum Mark 80				
A	18.6%	18.6%	13	61
B	35.7%	54.3%	25	53
C	25.7%	80.0%	18	45
D	2.9%	82.9%	2	41
No award	17.1%	-	12	-