

# **SOCIAL SCIENCE QUALIFICATIONS**

## *Summary Brochure*

Our specifications for Social Sciences are up to date and relevant to today's society, recognising theories and ideas that have shaped our understanding of each other and the world in which we live.



# WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

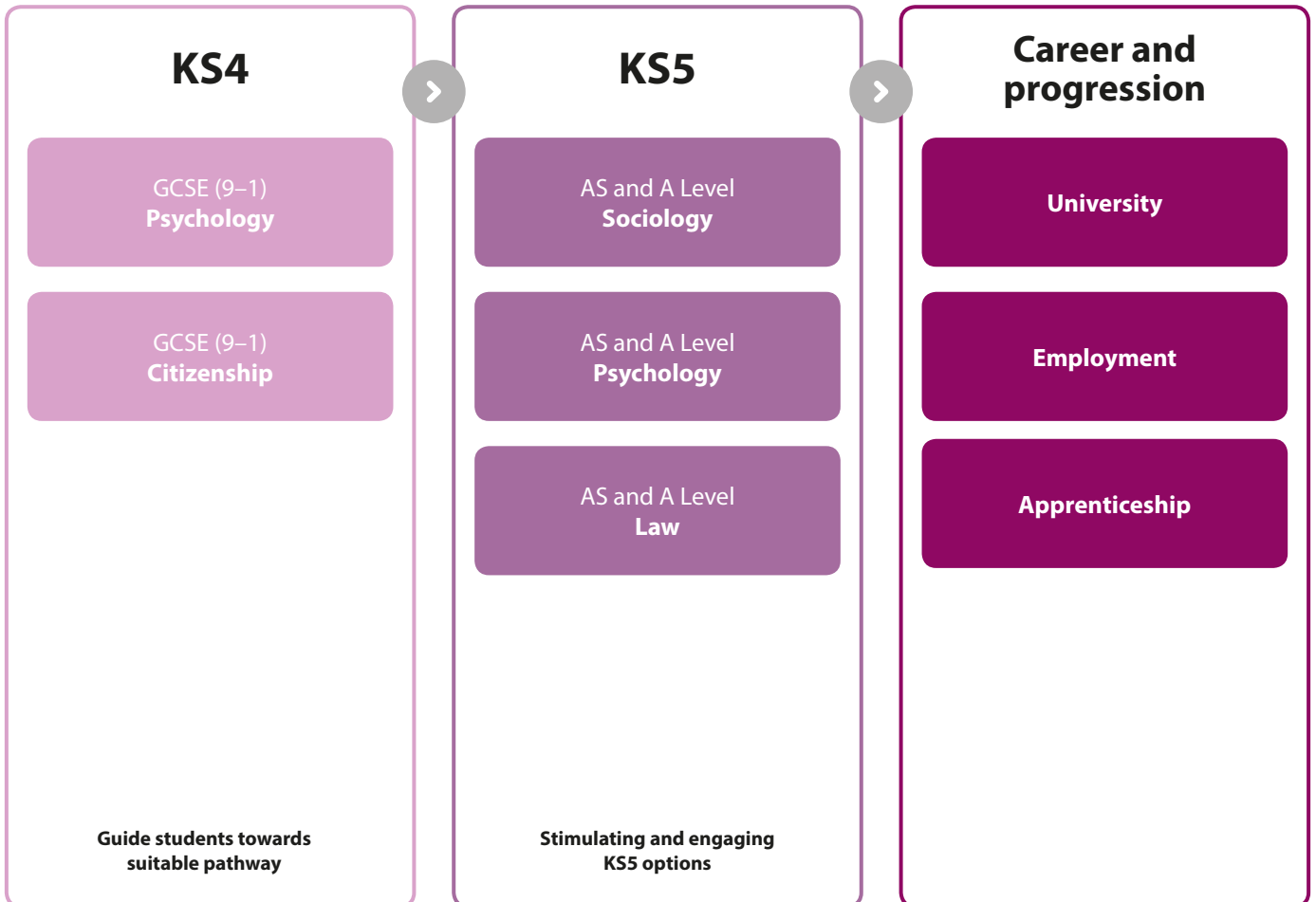
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## ***A range of qualifications for 14–19 year olds***

At OCR, we believe in developing specifications that help you bring this subject to life, and that encourage your students to get involved and achieve more. We listen to schools and colleges that teach our specifications, so we can improve and update qualifications continually, ensuring you and your students get as much as possible from them.

You'll receive full support when teaching these Social Science qualifications. We're offering more free training than ever before at venues near you – plus adaptable schemes of work you can download, and lesson plans drawn up by teachers who teach the specification. You'll also have access to cluster support networks and e-communities, where there are plenty of opportunities to give feedback and share your thoughts with other teachers.

# PATHWAYS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE





# AS AND A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY

## KEY INFORMATION

### SPECIFICATION CODE:

AS Level – H180

A Level – H580

### IDEAL FOR:

Students who want a deeper understanding of the world around them. Students will develop strong critical thinking skills and it will allow them to consider issues with a global outlook

### PROGRESS TO:

Study of Sociology or related courses (such as Criminology, Law or Social Work) or directly into employment

### FINAL AWARD:

A\* (highest) to E (lowest)

### PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

## THE QUALIFICATION

These straightforward specifications focus on Sociology's key themes: socialisation, culture and identity; and power, control and inequality. They provide your students with the exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them and reflect on social issues that are often relevant to their own social experiences. They open up the possibility for fascinating discussions, for example, 'what impact do digital forms of communication have on social relations?', 'how do sociologists investigate inequality in society?' and 'what are the patterns and trends of religion in relation to social class?'

Through the specifications, students can acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of contemporary social processes and social changes. They have the opportunity to develop a broad set of key desirable skills, including the ability to analyse and formulate clear, logical arguments with scope for extensive evaluation from a range of theoretical perspectives.

We've integrated sociological theories and methods into each component. Although not directly assessed, we encourage students to carry out their own small-scale research projects as a way of enhancing their sociological understanding of methodology, substantive topic areas and core themes.

## ASSESSMENT

### AS Level

Students must complete both components:

- Socialisation, culture and identity (01)
- Researching and understanding social inequalities (02)

The assessment consists of two written examinations externally assessed by us at OCR.

### A Level

Students must complete all three components:

- Socialisation, culture and identity (01)
- Researching and understanding social inequalities (02)
- Debates in contemporary society (03)

The assessment consists of three written examinations externally assessed by us at OCR.

### READ MORE:

[ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/sociology-h180-h580-from-2015](https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/sociology-h180-h580-from-2015)



# GCSE (9–1) PSYCHOLOGY

## KEY INFORMATION

### **SPECIFICATION CODE:**

J203

### **IDEAL FOR:**

Students who want to go on to AS/A Levels, higher education or a career choice that can be varied, from working in the NHS to the Police force to Clinical Practitioner

### **PROGRESS TO:**

Study of Psychology at AS/A Level or related courses (such as Criminology, Law or Health and Social Care)

### **FINAL AWARD:**

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

### **PERFORMANCE POINTS:**

Yes

## THE QUALIFICATION

This inspiring subject content provides a balance of classic and modern psychological theory and research that's relevant to young people today. There's an emphasis on the importance of practical work and 'doing psychology', and there are research studies on the specification that can be replicated. It provides applications to the real world, increasing students' psychological understanding.

This is a specification with a focus on mental health, encouraging greater awareness in young people and therefore reducing stigma and discrimination. It's been developed in partnership with Time to Change, England's biggest programme to challenge mental health stigma and discrimination, run by the charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness.

This carefully-planned specification will also help your students to:

- Use specialist vocabulary, psychological concepts, terminology and conventions to engage in the process of psychological enquiry
- Understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology... and more.

## ASSESSMENT

Students take both components 01 and 02, which are each assessed by a written paper.

### **Content overview**

Studies and applications in psychology 1 (01)

- Criminal Psychology
- Development
- Psychological Problems
- Research Methods

Studies and applications in psychology 2 (02)

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Research Methods

### **READ MORE:**

[ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/psychology-j203-from-2017](https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/psychology-j203-from-2017)



# AS AND A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

## KEY INFORMATION

### **SPECIFICATION CODE:**

AS Level – H167

A Level – H567

### **IDEAL FOR:**

Students who want a deeper understanding of the scientific study of Psychology and the practical research methods used to investigate behaviour

### **PROGRESS TO:**

Study of Psychology or related courses (such as Sociology, Criminology, Law or Social Work) or directly into employment

### **FINAL AWARD:**

A\* (highest) to E (lowest)

### **PERFORMANCE POINTS:**

Yes

## THE QUALIFICATION

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and the mind. It offers a unique educational experience that develops a distinctive and broad set of skills. It's located in scientific method and allows scope for extensive evaluation from a range of perspectives.

Stimulating content is at the heart of these engaging qualifications, which will encourage students to think like psychologists and gain a deeper understanding of psychology.

There's a practical approach to the study of research methods. This should prove popular with students, enabling them to gain hands-on experience of a range of different methods while developing evaluation skills and an understanding of research.

Our AS Level Psychology qualification is co-teachable with the first year of the A Level. The specification content is taken from components 1 and 2 of the full A Level qualification. For A Level, you and your students can also choose areas of specific interest to you from an exciting list, which includes criminal and child psychology.

## ASSESSMENT

The specifications have a straightforward structure and assessment.

### **AS Level**

Students must complete both components (01 and 02). The assessment consists of two written examinations externally assessed by OCR.

### **A Level**

Students must complete all components (01, 02 and 03). The assessment consists of three written examinations externally assessed by OCR.

The three components are:

- Research methods (01)
- Psychological themes through core studies (02)
- Applied psychology (03)

### **READ MORE:**

[ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/psychology-h167-h567-from-2015](https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/psychology-h167-h567-from-2015)



# GCSE (9–1) CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

## KEY INFORMATION

### **SPECIFICATION CODE:**

J270

### **IDEAL FOR:**

Students who want to go on to AS/A Levels, higher education or a career choice

### **PROGRESS TO:**

Further Education such as A Levels or Vocational qualifications in Law, Business Studies and Economics

### **FINAL AWARD:**

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

### **PERFORMANCE POINTS:**

Yes

## **THE QUALIFICATION**

We've designed this qualification to enable students to understand and appreciate key citizenship issues at home, in school and as young citizens in their wider community. It also aims to deepen their knowledge of democracy and government, the law, rights and responsibilities and how we live together in society.

Our unique approach to subject content enables your students to learn with confidence from the start. The specification's first section is both familiar and interesting, and the content is organised thematically and progressively to motivate them and build on their existing knowledge and experience.

Our straightforward specification comprises three inter-related components:

- Citizenship in perspective (01)
- Citizenship in action (02)
- Our rights, our society, our world (03)

There's clear and comprehensive guidance to support your delivery.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Students must complete all components (01, 02 and 03), each of which is externally assessed.

While you're free to plan your own route through the specification, our approach provides a clear, coherent package with built-in progression and continuity.

The subject content is split into four key sections. Each content section is supported by optional examples and suggestions for Citizenship Action. For this, students should participate in action in a real out-of-classroom context. Citizenship Actions should be carefully planned practical activities that aim to deliver a benefit or change for a particular community or wider society. Questions on Citizenship Action will account for 15% of the marks for the GCSE (9–1) and it's assessed in component 02.

## **READ MORE:**

[ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/citizenship-studies-j270-from-2016](https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/citizenship-studies-j270-from-2016)





# AS AND A LEVEL LAW

## KEY INFORMATION

### **SPECIFICATION CODE:**

AS Level – H015

A Level – H415

### **IDEAL FOR:**

Students who want to go on to higher education or make Law their career choice

### **PROGRESS TO:**

Further study of law or related courses or directly into apprenticeships or employment

### **FINAL AWARD:**

A\* (highest) to E (lowest)

### **PERFORMANCE POINTS:**

Yes

## THE QUALIFICATION

These engaging qualifications have been developed following the input of teachers and higher education stakeholders, and you'll find that there's a wide range of legal subjects covered. We've designed the content to inspire your students, and foster their interest and enjoyment in law.

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the English legal system and areas of both private and public law within the law of England and Wales. They'll also develop an awareness of law in a European and global context.

The qualification will also help them learn how to apply the techniques of legal method and reasoning to analyse and offer answers to problems, based on legal principles, legislation and case law. They will also explore the changing nature of law and more in this broad programme of study.

## ASSESSMENT

These are clear specifications with a straightforward assessment model, backed up by specialist support and quality resources.

AS and A Level Law are assessed by written examinations.

- The AS qualification consists of two exam papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- The A Level qualification consists of three exam papers, each 2 hours long.

There's a variety of exam questions including essay and legal scenario questions.

The two components that students take at AS Level are:

- The legal system and criminal law (01)
- Law making and the law of tort (02)

At A Level, students take the same two components, plus further law (03), including the option of human rights law or law of contract.

## READ MORE:

[ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/law-h015-h415-from-2017](https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/law-h015-h415-from-2017)



# SUPPORTING YOU IN QUALIFICATION DELIVERY

Our aim is to support you on your journey with us from initial enquiry right through to results. To help you get going, support you through delivery and allow you to develop professionally, we provide a massive range of support to help secure your students' futures.



## SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

### EXPERT SUBJECT ADVICE

Our subject advisors provide information and support to schools, including specification and non-exam assessment advice, updates on resource developments and a range of training opportunities. You can reach them through our Customer Support Centre on **01223 553998** or by email at **sociology@ocr.org.uk | psychology@ocr.org.uk | citizenship@ocr.org.uk | law@ocr.org.uk**. You can also find teacher support on the subject web pages.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

- **Lesson Elements**  
Task sheets and accompanying instructions for some of the activities in the delivery guide.
- **Skills Guides**  
A range of generic skills guides providing knowledge and tips covering topics such as communication, research skills and exam techniques.
- **Topic Exploration Packs**
- **Teacher and Delivery Guides**  
A range of lesson ideas with associated activities that you can use with students to deliver the contents of the qualifications.
- **Transition Guides**
- **Scheme of Work Builder**  
Create and export your own schemes of work based on specification statements and our new teaching and learning resources.

### SAMPLE LEARNER WORK

We've created sample learner work across the majority of our qualifications that will support you in understanding the expectations of the mark schemes.

### PARTNER RESOURCES AND TEXTBOOKS

Our Social Sciences qualifications are supported by endorsed textbooks and resources published by leading publishers. You can find more details about our publisher partners and the resources they're providing at **ocr.org.uk/publishing-partners**

### SOCIAL SCIENCES COMMUNITY

If you want to interact with other teachers/lecturers, our online community is the place to go. Our virtual communities are grouped by subject area and offer an opportunity to ask for advice, swap resources and suggest ideas for teaching and lesson planning.

Sign up at: **social.ocr.org.uk**

or join us on Twitter:

**@OCR\_Sociology | @OCR\_Psychology | @OCRexams**

### BLOGS

Read our blogs and gain interesting insights from our Subject Advisors and other leading figures from the world of education.



## ASSESSMENT

### **ACTIVE RESULTS**

This is a **free** online A Level, GCSE and Cambridge Nationals results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and students.

Find out more at [ocr.org.uk/activeresults](https://ocr.org.uk/activeresults)

### **ASSESSMENT MATERIALS**

Sample question papers and sample candidate work.

### **PAST PAPERS**

Previous examination papers for each subject with which you and your students can practise.

### **PRACTICE PAPERS**

Create mock exams and help students get a clearer picture of the qualification requirements. We put all our practice papers through exactly the same long and detailed processes as the live papers to ensure that they match the style and rigour of the live assessments.

### **CANDIDATE EXEMPLARS**

A selection of candidate style answers and work with associated examiner commentary.

## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND EVENTS**

All our qualifications are supported with comprehensive training. Check out [ocr.org.uk/professionaldevelopment](https://ocr.org.uk/professionaldevelopment) to find out what's available for face-to-face or online training courses.



For more information visit  
[ocr.org.uk/sociology](http://ocr.org.uk/sociology)  
[ocr.org.uk/psychology](http://ocr.org.uk/psychology)  
[ocr.org.uk/citizenship](http://ocr.org.uk/citizenship)  
[ocr.org.uk/law](http://ocr.org.uk/law)

or call our Customer Support Centre on  
**01223 553998**

Alternatively, you can email us on  
[sociology@ocr.org.uk](mailto:sociology@ocr.org.uk)  
[psychology@ocr.org.uk](mailto:psychology@ocr.org.uk)  
[citizenship@ocr.org.uk](mailto:citizenship@ocr.org.uk)  
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