

## Sociology - Key Stage 5 Grade Descriptors

	Assessment Foci 1 – A01 Knowledge	AF2 – A01 Understanding	AF3 – A02 Analysis	AF4 –A02 Evaluation
Grade A*	Significant breadth of knowledge. Able to apply this knowledge in a balanced and sophisticated manner.  <b>A* only available in A2 qualification</b>	Significant understanding of sociological issues, beyond knowing sociological studies, being able to apply and see the relevance of sociology to the real world. Understanding of the complexities and debates within sociology.  <b>Grade A* is awarded by AQA to candidates achieving grade A overall (at least 320 uniform marks) and 90% or more of the maximum uniform mark (i.e. at least 180 uniform marks) on the aggregate of the two A2 units.</b>	Interpretation and application will be thorough, accurate and comprehensive. Responses to exam questions will show greater sensitivity and sophistication both in the interpretation of the question and in the selection and application of material.	Evaluation will be balanced, presenting strengths and weaknesses. There will be a clear logic and rationale, drawing appropriate inferences, leading to a distinct conclusion in debates.
Grade A	Significant breadth of knowledge.  Able to apply this knowledge in a balanced and sophisticated manner.	Significant understanding of sociological issues, beyond knowing sociological studies, being able to apply and see the relevance of sociology to the real world. Understanding of the complexities and debates within sociology.	Interpretation and application will be thorough, accurate and comprehensive. Responses to exam questions will show greater sensitivity and sophistication both in the interpretation of the question and in the selection and application of material.	Evaluation will be balanced, presenting strengths and weaknesses. There will be a clear logic and rationale, drawing appropriate inferences, leading to a distinct conclusion in debates.
Grade B	Breadth of knowledge.  Able to apply this knowledge in a balanced manner.	Clear understanding of sociological issues, being able to apply and see the relevance of sociology to the real world. Understanding of the complexities and debates within sociology.	Interpretation and application will be thorough and accurate. Responses to exam questions will show some sensitivity and sophistication both in the interpretation of the question and in the selection and application of material.	Evaluation will be balanced, presenting strengths and weaknesses. There will be a clear logic and rationale, drawing appropriate inferences, leading to a distinct conclusion in debates.
Grade C	Some breadth of knowledge.  Able to apply this knowledge, not necessarily in a balanced manner.	Clear understanding of sociological issues.  Some understanding of the complexities and debates within sociology.	Interpretation and application is apparent. With some explicit links to exam questions, however material often presented implicitly to question set. Material applied is relevant.	Evaluation will be unbalanced, presenting some strengths and weaknesses (but not necessarily both). There will be some limited logic and rationale, drawing appropriate inferences, leading to a distinct conclusion in debates.
Grade D	Some breadth of knowledge.  Able to apply this knowledge, not necessarily in a balanced manner.	Some understanding of sociological issues.	Limited explicit links to exam questions.  Material applied has some relevance.	Limited use of evaluation, lacks understanding for the need for evaluation.
Grade E	Some limited sociological knowledge.  Able to apply this knowledge, usually descriptive and often commonsensical.	Limited understanding of sociological issues.	No explicit links to questions, material applied lacks relevance.	No real evaluation.