VCE Sociology (2024- 2028) Implementation
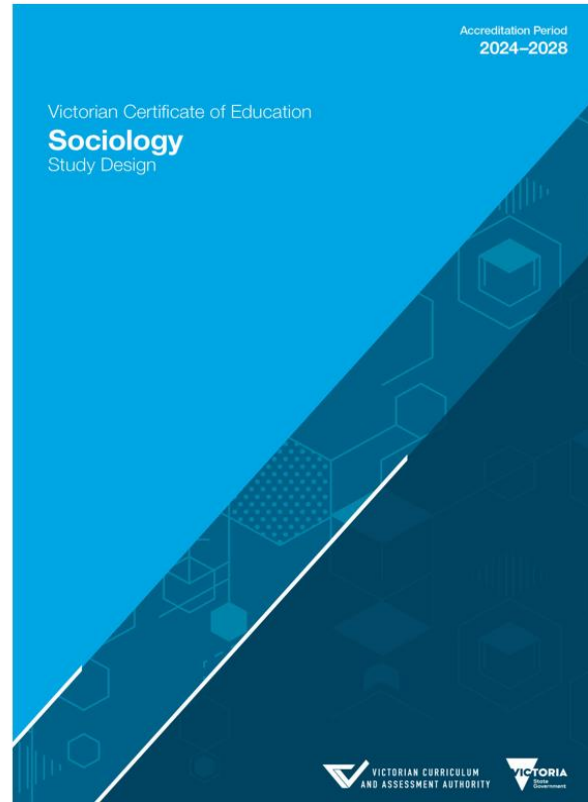
Unit 2: Deviance and crime

Acknowledgement of Country

The VCAA respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.

VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028

Important information

Safety and wellbeing

During the course of VCE Sociology students may undertake primary research.

Please refer to the Australian Sociological Association (TASA) for a formal set of ethical guidelines for conducting research

Child Safe Standards

Schools are required to comply with the Child Safe Standards made under the Victorian *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*

Refer to VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028 page 7

Unit 2   Deviance and crime

- **Sociological perspectives** on deviance and crime

- Why people are **deviant** and/or commit **crime**

- **Aims** of the Justice system in **Australia** and overseas

Area of Study 1

Deviance

- **Deviant** behaviour

- **Moral panic**

- Three **Sociological perspectives** on deviance

- **Positive deviance**

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

On completion of this unit the student should be able to **analyse** a range of sociological **theories** explaining **deviant behaviour** and the **impact** of **moral panic** on those considered **deviant**.

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- the sociological concept of **deviance**:
    - the relationship between **deviance** and **social norms**
    - deviance as a **relative concept.**

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1 –

Key knowledge

- Emile Durkheim's **functionalist** theory of deviance and its four roles of deviance:
  - **affirmation** of society's cultural norms and values
  - **clarification** of a society's moral boundaries
  - the **unification** of others in society
  - **promoting social change.**

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1 –

Key knowledge

Travis Hirschi's **social control theory** of deviance and the relationship between **weak bonds and deviance**:

- **attachment**
- **commitment**
- **involvement**
- **belief** in social values**.**

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- Howard S. Becker's **labelling theory** of deviance:

    - the **process** of labelling

    - **responses** to labelling

- the nature of **positive deviance**: altruism, charisma, innovation, supra conformity and innate characteristics.

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- Stanley Cohen's theory of **moral panics**:
    - the creation of **folk devils**
    - the **role of the media** in assisting in the creation of moral panics
- the **impact** of moral panic on **individuals** and **groups** considered to be deviant.

Area of Study 1
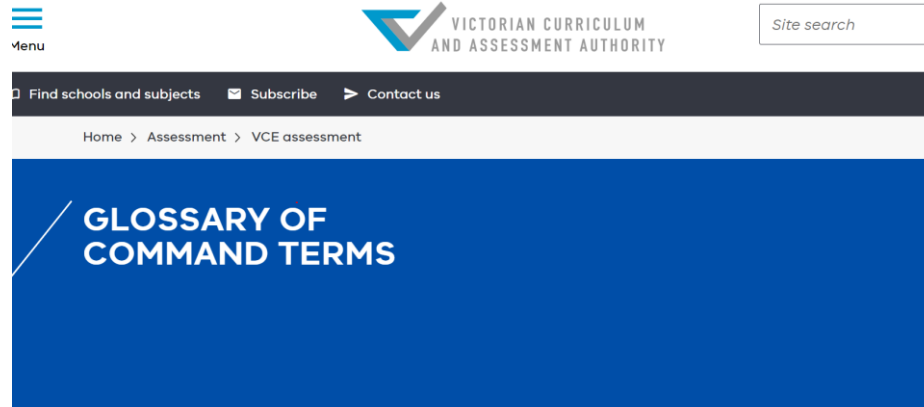
Outcome 1

Key skills

- **explain** how deviance is a relative concept

- **explain** and **apply** the functionalist, social control and labelling theories of deviance

- **outline** examples of positive deviance

- **analyse** the impact of moral panic on individuals and groups considered to be deviant.

Area of Study 1

Key skills **common** throughout the VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028 Units 1-4

- **explain** and apply sociological concepts

- **gather and use** a variety of relevant source materials to support observation and **analysis**

- **evaluate** sources and critically reflect on their own and others' approaches to understanding the social world

- **synthesise** evidence to **draw conclusions**.

VCAA Glossary of command terms

https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/Pages/GlossaryofCommandTerms.aspx

Area of Study 2

Crime

- The concept of **crime** using **Australian** data

- **International** aspects of crime

- **Aim** and rationale of **punishment** in Australia

- The **effectiveness** of **prison** sentencing, and **restorative justice** in reducing **recidivism**.

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

On completion of this unit the student should be able to **discuss crime in Australia** and **evaluate the effectiveness** of methods of **punishment** in the judicial system for shaping human behaviour.

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2 –

Key knowledge

- the sociological concept of **crime**:
    - the relationship between **norms, law and crime**
    - the various **types of crime**, such as: crimes against the person, crimes against property, victimless crime, white-collar crime and corporate crime, hate crime and organised crime
- **Australian data** related to **crime rates**, including age, gender, country of birth, seriousness of offence and types of crimes committed.

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2 –

Key knowledge

- the **international** nature of some types of crime, such as the illegal drug trade, people trafficking and terrorism

- the various ways that **other nations** deal with crime

- a range of **factors** that lead people to commit crimes, including the **strain theory of crime.**

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2 –

Key knowledge

- the sociological concept of **punishment**, including the **rationale** and **aims of punishment**: retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation, societal protection and restoration

- the concept of **recidivism**, including the effectiveness of **restorative justice** and **prison** sentencing on reducing recidivism

- the effectiveness of **alternative sentencing** models on reducing **recidivism**, such as the **Victorian Drug Court** and the **Koori Court**.

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

Key skills

- **discuss** the various types of crime

- **analyse** Australian data related to crime rates and **identify** differences according to age, gender, country of birth, seriousness of offence and types of crimes committed

- **compare** the various ways that other nations deal with crimes

- **describe** a range of factors that lead people to commit crimes

- **evaluate** the effectiveness of restorative justice and sentencing on the aims of punishment and on reducing recidivism.

Area of Study 2

Key skills **common** throughout the VCE Sociology Study Design 2024-2028 Units 1-4:

- **explain** and **apply** sociological concepts

- **gather and use** a variety of relevant source materials to support observation and **analysis**

- **evaluate** sources and critically reflect on their own and others' approaches to understanding the social world

- **synthesise** evidence to **draw conclusions**.

Assessment

To be awarded satisfactory completion of a unit, students must demonstrate the two outcomes specified for the unit.

Teachers should use a variety of learning activities and assessment tasks that provide a range of opportunities for students to demonstrate the key knowledge and key skills in the outcomes.

Assessment must be a part of the regular teaching and learning program and should be completed mainly in class and within a limited timeframe.

All assessments at Units 1 and 2 are school-based.

Assessment   Unit 1 and Unit 2

List of suitable tasks for assessment:

- a case study involving primary research
- an extended response
- a film analysis
- a media analysis
- a multimedia presentation
- a representation analysis
- a research report
- a selection of structured questions requiring short-answer responses.

Assessment

Where teachers allow students to choose between tasks, they must ensure that the tasks they set are of **comparable scope** and **demand**.

General Information

This presentation is one in a series of four On-demand videos –

- – Unit 1   Youth and family
- – **Unit 2   Deviance and crime**
- – Unit 3   Culture and ethnicity
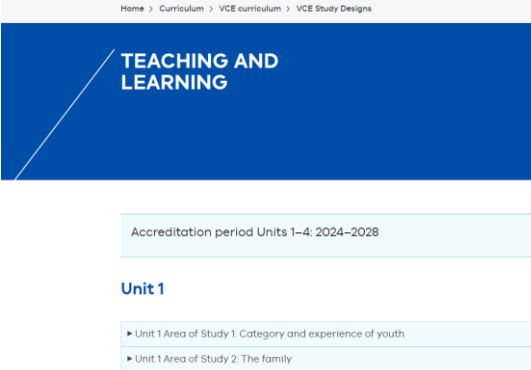- – Unit 4   Community, social movements and social change

  and one

Question and Answer Webinar covering Units 1-4 Sociology

These support materials will be located on the VCAA VCE Sociology Study page.

Resources

For ideas on planning, developing teaching and learning activities and assessment please refer to the Support materials on VCAA VCE Sociology Study page:

https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Sociology/Pages/TeachingandLearning.aspx

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