VCE Sociology 2024–2028

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). [VCAA examination rules](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/Pages/ExaminationRules.aspx) will apply.

There will be 15 minutes of reading time and 2 hours of writing time.

The examination will be assessed by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Sociology Study Design 2024–2028* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of short-answer and extended-answer questions, including questions with multiple parts. There will be four extended-answer questions – one for each area of study – worth 10 marks each. These questions will not have multiple parts.

Questions may refer to visual and/or written material.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 80.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Criteria

The extended-answer questions worth 10 marks will be assessed against the following criteria, as appropriate:

* explanation and application of sociological concepts, theories and methods
* knowledge and/or analysis and/or evaluation of sociological experience, perspectives and change
* use and/or evaluation of a range of relevant evidence/sources
* synthesis of evidence to draw conclusions

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following resources should be referred to in relation to the VCE Sociology examination:

* VCE Sociology Study Design 2024–2028
* [Sociology – Support Materials](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/sociology/Pages/Index.aspx)
* VCAA Bulletin

Advice

During the 2024–2028 accreditation period for VCE Sociology, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

The community that students choose to write on in response to examination questions relating to Unit 4, Area of study 1 – Community must not refer to any Australian Indigenous community studied in Unit 3, Area of study 1 – Australian Indigenous cultures or the specific ethnic group studied in Unit 3, Area of study 2 – Ethnicity.

Students should use [command/task words](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/Pages/GlossaryofCommandTerms.aspx), other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing sample questions will be published on the VCE Sociology [Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/Sociology.aspx) webpage.

The sample questions provide an indication of the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample questions.

Members of Australian Indigenous communities are advised that the sample examination may contain the names and images of deceased people. Certain words, terms or descriptions may be culturally sensitive and may be considered inappropriate today but may have reflected that author’s/creator’s attitude or that of the period in which the words, terms or descriptions were produced.