



CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CAPE[®] Sociology

**SYLLABUS
SPECIMEN PAPER
MARK SCHEME
SUBJECT REPORTS**

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Sociology

Sociology is a scientific study of social interactions, social institutions, social patterns and social change of human society guided by sociological theories and methods. Caribbean society has been shaped by historical forces which have led to the emergence of several small diverse and divided societies, each unique in many respects but sharing a common history of colonialism, slavery and indentureship. Despite evidence of socio-economic transformation and the influence of globalisation, the region still maintains a distinct identity. In this regard, sociology can equip students with the necessary knowledge, orientation and skills for understanding society in general and Caribbean Society in particular.

The syllabus introduces students to theories and research methods of sociology, the sociological perspective and the processes of social structural change with specific emphasis on the development and modernisation of societies. Students will acquire a set of sociological competencies that will enable them to use the practical and problem-solving approaches to the analysis of society.

The syllabus consists of two Units, comprising three Modules.

UNIT 1: THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Module 1 – Sociological Concepts, Perspectives and Methods
- Module 2 – Social Institutions: Family, Religion, Education
- Module 3 – Social Stratification

UNIT 2: DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

- Module 1 – Population and Development
- Module 2 – Crime and Deviance
- Module 3 – Caribbean Social Issues: Poverty, Health and Environment



CARIBBEAN
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Proficiency Examination®

SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGY

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Correspondence related to the syllabus should be addressed to:

The Pro-Registrar
Caribbean Examinations Council
Caenwood Centre
37 Arnold Road, Kingston 5, Jamaica

Telephone Number: + 1 (876) 630-5200

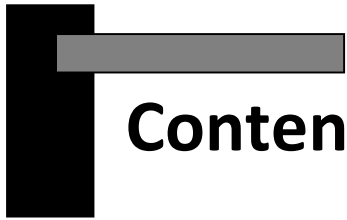
Facsimile Number: + 1 (876) 967-4972

E-mail Address: cxcwzo@cx.org

Website: www.cxc.org

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Please note that the syllabus has been revised and amendments are indicated by italics.

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CAPE®

CXC A27/U2/13



Introduction

The Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) is designed to provide certification of the academic, vocational and technical achievement of students in the Caribbean who, having completed a minimum of five years of secondary education, wish to further their studies. The examinations address the skills and knowledge acquired by students under a flexible and articulated system where subjects are organised in 1-Unit or 2-Unit courses with each Unit containing three Modules. Subjects examined under CAPE, may be studied concurrently or singly.

The Caribbean Examinations Council offers three types of certification. The first is the award of a certificate showing each CAPE Unit completed. The second is the CAPE Diploma, awarded to candidates who have satisfactorily completed at least six Units including Caribbean Studies. The third is the CXC Associate Degree, awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed cluster of seven CAPE Units including Caribbean Studies and Communication Studies. For the CAPE Diploma and the CXC Associate Degree, candidates must complete the cluster of required Units within a maximum period of five years.

Recognised educational institutions presenting candidates for the CXC Associate Degree in one of the nine categories must, on registering these candidates at the start of the qualifying year, have them confirm, in the required form, the Associate Degree they wish to be awarded. Candidates will not be awarded any possible alternatives for which they did not apply.



Sociology Syllabus

◆ RATIONALE

Sociology is a scientific study of social interactions, social institutions, social patterns and social change of human society guided by sociological theories and methods.

Caribbean society has been shaped by historical forces which have led to the emergence of several small diverse and divided societies, each unique in many respects but sharing a common history of colonialism, slavery and indentureship.

Despite evidence of socio-economic transformation and the influence of globalisation, the region still maintains a distinct identity. In this regard, sociology can equip students with the necessary knowledge, orientation and skills for understanding society in general and Caribbean Society in particular.

The syllabus introduces students to theories and research methods of sociology, the sociological perspective and the processes of social structural change with specific emphasis on the development and modernisation of societies. Students will acquire a set of sociological competencies that will enable them to use the practical and problem-solving approaches to the analysis of society.

Based on the attributes of the Ideal Caribbean Person as articulated by CARICOM, this course of study in CAPE Sociology can contribute to the development of a Caribbean person who is emotionally secure with a high level of self-confidence and self-esteem; see ethnic, religious and other diversity as a source of potential strength and richness; has an informed respect for our cultural heritage; values and displays the creative imagination in its various manifestations and nurtures its development in economic and entrepreneurial spheres in all other areas of life. Based on UNESCO Pillars of Learning, this course of study will also contribute to a person who will learn to know, learn to do, learn to live together, learn to be and learn to transform oneself and society.

◆ AIMS

The syllabus aims to:

1. *equip students with the sociological concepts, theories/perspectives and methods to better understand human society;*
2. *develop an awareness of the cultural heritage and identity of Caribbean people;*
3. *develop an appreciation of family and kinship values, community cohesion, moral and social responsibility and commitment to the Caribbean;*
4. *develop an understanding of Caribbean social issues;*



5. *develop an appreciation of the dynamics of Caribbean society, focusing on socio-cultural continuity and change, diversity and similarity, consensus and conflict.*

◆ **SKILLS AND ABILITIES TO BE ASSESSED**

The skills and abilities that students are expected to develop on completion of this syllabus have been grouped under three headings:

1. *Knowledge and Understanding;*
2. *Interpretation and Application;*
3. *Analysis and Evaluation.*

Knowledge and Understanding

The examinations will test candidates' skills and ability to:

1. *define the terms and concepts that are relevant to sociology;*
2. *explain sociological principles and perspectives;*
3. *discuss the social issues that impact on development in the Caribbean;*
4. *describe various methods of sociological research;*
5. *discuss the findings from relevant sociological studies and research data.*

Interpretation and Application

The examinations will test candidates' skills and ability to:

1. *interpret and make inferences from qualitative and quantitative data;*
2. *distinguish between facts, opinions and value judgements;*
3. *use various methods of investigation;*
4. *use concepts, theories or perspectives;*
5. *select and apply sociological perspectives to a Caribbean context.*

Analysis and Evaluation

The examinations will test candidates' skills and ability to:

1. *analyse different forms of data;*
2. *analyse sociological and non-sociological evidence and arguments;*
3. *recognise limitations and bias in evidence;*
4. *evaluate the strengths and limitations of sociological perspectives;*



5. *assess the relevance of various sociological perspectives for understanding issues in the Caribbean region;*
6. *draw reasoned conclusions based on sociological evidence or data findings.*

◆ PRE-REQUISITES OF THE SYLLABUS

Any person with a good grasp of the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Social Studies, History or Geography syllabuses or the equivalent, should be able to pursue the course of study defined by this syllabus. However, success in the course of study will also depend on possession of good verbal and written communication skills.

◆ STRUCTURE OF THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus consists of two Units of 150 hours each, comprising three Modules of 50 hours each. Each Module is compulsory. Together the two Units provide a comprehensive introduction to the field of Caribbean and mainstream Sociology.

UNIT 1: THE SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Module 1 - Sociological Concepts, Perspectives and Methods*
- Module 2 - Social Institutions: Family, Religion, Education*
- Module 3 - Social Stratification*

UNIT 2: DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

- Module 1 - Population and Development*
- Module 2 - Crime and Deviance*
- Module 3 - Caribbean Social Issues: Poverty, Health and Environment*