

# OxfordAQA

## International AS/A-level

### Sociology (9690)

### Command words

For teaching from September 2026 onwards  
For International AS exams in May/June 2027 onwards  
For International A-level exams in May/June 2028 onwards

# Introduction

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell students how they should answer the question. The following command words list contains words and their meanings that are relevant to this subject:

## Define

Specify meaning.

## Describe

Set out key points, features, characteristics or steps in a topic, theory or process

## Explain the view

Break down theories, methods and concepts into component elements, supporting the analysis with detailed knowledge and understanding and making connections where appropriate.

## Evaluate/ to what extent...

Provide a clear argument relating to the points raised by the question leading to a substantiated judgement or conclusion, supported with knowledge, understanding and examples drawn from your society or any society you know about.

## Identify

Name, select, or recognise one or more pieces of relevant evidence or information.

## Identify and briefly explain

Name and set out points, purposes, or reasons supported with knowledge and understanding.

## Outline

Summarise the main, essential characteristics or key points of a topic, theory, or process

## Suggest

Using data, present a possible reason for how or why something might take place.