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| Title | **Evaluate sociological theories** | | |
| Level | **3** | **Credits** | **5** |

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| Purpose | People credited with this unit standard are able to evaluate sociological theories. |

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| Classification | Social Science Studies > Sociology |

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| Available grade | Achieved |

**Guidance Information**

1 Sociology is the rigorous and methodical study of society. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organisations, and societies, and how people interact in these contexts.

2 This unit standard can be awarded with an *Achieved*, *Merit*, or *Excellence* grade as specified below.

*Evaluate sociological theories* means to form a critical opinion, based on reason and evidence, of the usefulness of at least two sociological theories. The evaluation will explain the key concepts of the theories; explain how the theories are applied to an aspect(s) of society; and identify strengths and weaknesses of the theories. The evaluation could include a consideration of Māori and/or Pasifika context(s).

*Evaluate sociological theories in detail* means to: analyse and compare the theories in detail; apply the theories to an aspect(s) of society; and evaluate the theories in terms of their relative strengths and weaknesses.

*Comprehensively evaluate sociological theories* means to present a coherent, perceptive analysis, comparison and evaluation of the theories which are applied to an aspect(s) of society.

3 Definition

A *sociological theory* is a body of ideas that attempts to explain the structure of groups, organisations, and societies, and how people interact in these contexts.

4 Assessment support material related to this unit standard can be found at <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation-of-standards/assessment-of-standards/assessment-support-material/>.

**Outcomes and performance criteria**

**Outcome 1**

Evaluate sociological theories.

Range at least two theories are required.

**Performance criteria**

* 1. Sociological theories are evaluated in terms of their key concepts, their strengths and weaknesses, and their application to an aspect(s) of society.

Range same aspect(s) for each theory.

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| Planned review date | 31 December 2026 |

**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

| Process | Version | Date | Last Date for Assessment |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Registration | 1 | 6 December 1996 | 31 December 2015 |
| Revision | 2 | 7 July 1999 | 31 December 2015 |
| Review | 3 | 22 August 2014 | N/A |
| Rollover and Revision | 4 | 27 September 2018 | N/A |
| Review | 5 | XXX 2021 | N/A |

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| Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference | 0226 |

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the SSB nqs@govt.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.