

APPROVED

**at a meeting of the Academic Council
of NJSC «KazNU named after al-Farabi»
Protocol № 11 from 23. 05. 2025 y.**

The programme of the entrance exam for applicants to the PhD for the group of educational programs D061 – “Sociology”

I. General provisions

1. The programme was drawn up in accordance with Order No. 600 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, dated 31 October 2018, 'On approval of the model rules for admission to education in educational organisations implementing educational programmes of higher and postgraduate education' (hereinafter referred to as the “Model Rules”).

2. The entrance examination for doctoral studies consists of writing an essay, sitting an exam in the subject area of the educational programme, and attending an interview.

Block	Scores
1. Interview	30
2. Essay	20
3. Exam according to the profile of the group of the educational program	50
Total admission score	100/75

3. The duration of the entrance exam is 3 hours 10 minutes, during which the applicant writes an essay and answers the electronic examination ticket. The interview is conducted at the university premises before the entrance exam.

II. Procedure for the entrance examination

Applicants to the doctoral programme in the educational programme group D061 “Sociology” must write a problem-based or thematic essay. The essay should be between **250 words** in length.

The purpose of the essay is to assess applicants' analytical and creative abilities, demonstrated through their capacity to construct a coherent argument based on theoretical knowledge as well as personal and social experience.

Types of essays include:

- A motivational essay revealing the applicant's motivation for engaging in research activities;
- A scientific and analytical essay justifying the relevance and methodology of the proposed research;

- A problem-based or thematic essay reflecting various aspects of scientific knowledge in the field of sociology.

2. The electronic exam form includes three questions.

Topics for Preparation for the Profile Examination of the Educational Programme Group:

Discipline: “Sociological Theories”. Main directions of sociological theory development. Theories of the classical stage in the development of sociology. A sociological analysis of the theories of the following classical sociologists: Émile Durkheim, Max Weber, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx and Georg Simmel. Naturalism in sociology: main trends. The Chicago School of Sociology. Industrial sociology and the “human relations” doctrine. Critical theory of society. Neo-Marxism. P. Sorokin's modern interpretation of the theory of social stratification and social mobility.

Macrosociological and microsociological paradigms.

Structural functionalism, as developed by T. Parsons and R. Merton. Systems theory. The system and the social environment. The autopoiesis theory of N. Luhmann. Conflict theory. Modern methodology of conflict research. Theories of symbolic interactionism. Symbolic interactionism: basic principles.

Exchange theory, network theory, and rational choice theory.

Exchange theory by J. Homans and P. Blau. Max Weber's theory of rationalisation as a methodology for understanding contemporary sociocultural processes. Rational choice theory by J. Coleman.

The main directions of the latest contemporary theories.

Postmodern social theory. Theories of A. Schutz, T. Lukman, P. Berger and G. Garfinkel. The characteristics of globalisation according to I. Wallerstein's theory. Theories of the information society by Alvin Toffler and Franco Ferrarotti. Theories of social change. Analysis of the monograph: P. Sztompka, “Sociology of Social Change”. Theories of globalisation (A. Giddens, U. Beck and Z. Bauman).

Discipline: “Organisation and Planning of Scientific Research”

Science and Social Development. The role of science in social development. Criteria for scientific knowledge. The structure of scientific knowledge. Scientific problems, hypotheses and theories as forms of theoretical knowledge. The dynamics of science. The value of scientific rationality and its historical types.

Methodology of science. The methodology of scientific knowledge. The methodology and methods of the social sciences and humanities. The specific features of social knowledge according to W. Dilthey, H.-G. Gadamer, M. Weber, W. Windelband, G. Rickert and others. The role of modelling and forecasting in sociology. Conceptual models. Problems of constructing new models. Sociological forecasting as a form of social forecasting.

Scientific research. The stages of scientific research. Selecting a research direction. The ethics of scientific research. Scientific information: searching for, accumulating and processing it. Analysis of theoretical and experimental research, and formulation of conclusions. Planning scientific research. The structure of scientific research work. Writing and formatting a scientific article.

The course “Organisation and planning of sociological research”. The theoretical and methodological foundations of sociological research. The concept of sociological research. Content and methods of developing the introductory part of the programme. The programme of sociological research: its functions, structure, the logic behind its construction, its purpose, and an overview of its main elements. Procedures for constructing the theoretical part of the programme. Procedures for constructing the theoretical and methodological part of the programme of sociological research. Conceptualisation of the object and subject of sociological research. Construction of hypotheses in sociological research.

The main stages of sociological research. The scientific organisation of sociological research and the conditions for obtaining reliable social information. Sociological research as a type of cognitive activity. Implementing the main modelling techniques in the structure of sociological research. Classification of sociological research: fundamental and applied; theoretical and empirical. The preparatory, main and final stages of sociological research. The continuity between different research procedures and successive stages of sociological research. Theoretical and philosophical worldview prerequisites of research. The methodology and research methods are interrelated and complementary parts of a research programme.

Planning sociological research. Strategic research plans. Exploratory, descriptive and experimental research plans. Research strategies. Tools for conducting sociological research. Selecting respondent selection methods. Sample construction. Documentation in sociological research. The main stages of organising and planning the fieldwork stage of sociological research.

Discipline: “Modern Methods of Sociological Research”. The theoretical and methodological foundations of quantitative research. Quantitative methods in sociology: their classification and role in understanding social reality. Classical studies conducted using quantitative methods. The problem of quantitative measurement in sociology. Practical exercises in measuring social characteristics. Measurement, validity and reliability. Scaling. Types of scales. Coding in sociology and its features.

Qualitative research methodology and data analysis.

Strategies for researching the public sphere and social communication within a qualitative framework. Historical and comparative analysis in the social sciences. Interviews as a qualitative research method. Expert interviews. In-depth interviews. Interviews with “extreme” categories of consumers who either know everything or nothing about the subject of research. Practical interview techniques within institutional, organisational and psychological frameworks. Interview planning. Tool development. Focus groups. The Delphi diary method. Brainstorming. The projection method. The associative method. Situation completion. Methods of constructing situations. Experiment: features of the method. Content analysis. Ethnographic research. Ethics and validity of qualitative research.

Coding and processing sociological information in modern sociological research using the SPSS computer programme. The theoretical foundations of processing and analysing sociological information, and SPSS's capabilities. The main features of the programme and how to prepare for working in SPSS. Entering data into SPSS and

working with data files. Modifying and transforming data. Methods of descriptive statistics and measures of central tendency and dispersion.

Application of mathematical methods for analysing and interpreting empirical information. Analysis of two-dimensional dependence. Contingency tables. Comparing mean values of indicators in groups. Dispersion analysis. Correlation analysis. Regression analysis. Factor analysis. Cluster analysis. Syntax in SPSS. Building indexes in SPSS. Presenting analysis results in SPSS.

3. List of References

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