

The Individual and Society

Learning social rules

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

6 lessons

Learning objectives:

- Students should understand that sociologists have a number of theories about why we have social rules; these are consensus views, conflict theory, and interactional theory.
- Students should appreciate that a number of social mechanisms and processes are involved in the creation of social and cultural identities.
- Students should recognise that there are a number of agencies of socialisation, these form the substantive areas that may be studied in more detail later in the course.

Key Concepts and vocabulary

See your lesson notes for a list of relevant vocabulary. Also you should be aware of the following concepts and ideas

- Conflict theory
- Consensus theory
- Interactional theory
- Culture
- Socialisation
- Social identity
- Cultural relativity
- Social construction

Additional reading and references

Ken Browne (1998) *An Introduction to Sociology 2nd Edition* Polity Press p 86 – 103. *This section offers a case study in gender socialisation and you should make good notes of some of the main ideas before the lessons.*

You should also have read and made notes on one of the other textbooks below and these should be in your folder.

Jorgensen *et al* (1997) *Sociology: An Interactive Approach* p 36 - 41

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus* p 11 – 19

Personal Development ideas

- What sort of view of society do you feel is most interesting? You have a choice of theory and should practice evaluation by thinking each one through. Ask other people which they feel is the best view and make notes of their ideas.
- You will do a case study of gender and socialisation. What other social identities do you have apart from your gender? How do you learn to follow the rules for those social identities?

Overview of the debate

- How do we gain a sense of our social identity?
- What do the three main sociological perspectives suggest in answer to this question?
- How do we learn how to behave?
- What happens if we do not behave as others expect?

Revision tips

- Be sure that you fully understand the differences between the three main perspectives.
- Be certain that you have a list of the main agencies of socialisation and that you understand how each has influenced you to become the person that you are.
- Do you understand the various forms of social and cultural rules that we follow?

What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Evidence that you have looked at least two textbooks and made good notes.
- Photocopies of other people's notes to supplement your own.
- Notes made in lessons.
- Notes on the acquisition of gender identity in our society.
- Evidence that you understand the difference between consensus theory, conflict theory, and interactional theory.
- Some samples that you have collected from magazines and newspapers that show evidence of social and cultural identities.