

The Individual and Society

Norms, values, socialisation and culture

Name and date begun:

Time allocation:

4 lessons

Learning objectives:

- Students should understand human beings are the creation of their culture.
- Students should appreciate that our cultural beliefs are central to our morality, norms, and values.
- Students should recognise that there are a number of agencies of socialisation which form part of our culture.
- Students should recognise that we are socialised into our cultural beliefs.

Key Concepts and vocabulary

See your lesson notes for a list of relevant vocabulary.

- Norm
- Value
- Morality
- Culture
- Socialisation
- Agency of socialisation
- Cultural relativity
- Anthropology
- Socio-biology

Additional reading and references

It is recommended that you buy a good easy introduction text.

Ken Browne (1998) *An Introduction to Sociology 2nd Edition* Polity Press

The ISBN for ordering this book is 0 7456 20213

Other GCSE textbooks may also prove useful at this stage of your work.

Personal Development ideas

- Talk to as many people as you can and ask them what they feel are the most important moral rules for society.
- Practice some participant observation in the student common room. Discover what pressures people are facing by joining the Sixth Form. How are they learning the new rules of behaviour? What things are they saying to each other about how to cope? What difficulties are they facing? What are teachers doing to help them?
- List a lot of beliefs that you feel are really important to you. How many people share those beliefs or ideas?

Overview of the debate

- How do we separate the individual person from the collective person?
- What is culture?
- What cultural rules do we share?
- 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 nature and processes of socialisation and that you can offer relevant examples of socialisation.
- Be sure that you understand why sociologists reject biological and common sense explanations of human behaviour and culture.
- Consider why people need society. What purpose does it serve for them to be members of society?
- 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.
- Evidence that you have considered the question of what society is and what it means to people in terms of their daily lives.