

# Types of Work

## Sociology skills

- Evaluation

## Key skills

- Communication

## Stimulus materials

In Sociology, we usually refer to two different types of work that people can do if they are employed in work. There are many different names for each type of work so learn them carefully.

- **Manual work** - This is work which is based on using your hands. It is also called blue-collar work. People who do manual jobs are working class people. They are selling the skills of their hands. Manual jobs are usually lower paid and the conditions people work in are not as good as for non-manual work. Manual workers are miners, hairdressers, cleaners and mechanics.
- **Non-manual work** - This is the kind of work done by people who have gained qualifications from college. This is also known as professional work or white-collar work.

People who do non-manual work are usually referred to as middle class. They sell their skills with education or their knowledge. They are usually better paid or work in better conditions than manual workers. In our society, they tend to be looked up to a bit more so they have more status. Non-manual workers are teachers, doctors, clerks and shop assistants.

## Understanding the stimulus

1. Write down three manual work occupations.
2. Write down three non-manual work occupations.
3. What is another word for blue collar work?
4. What is another word which means professional work?
5. Which group of workers tend to be better paid?
6. Which group of workers tend not to be well paid?
7. Which group of workers will have the best educational qualifications?

## Development and Revision

1. Which type of work is more important to society - manual or non-manual?
2. Why do non-manual workers tend to get paid more? Think hard about this question!
3. List all of the differences between professional jobs and manual jobs that you can think of.