

Gender Socialisation and Reading

Sociology skills

- Reading a table
- Analysing and evaluating a table

Key skills

- Application of number

Stimulus materials

Participation in reading by age and gender by % age							
	16 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 44	45 -59	60 - 69	70 +
males	55	58	56	60	61	59	58
females	75	70	70	71	71	74	67

Source: adapted from *Social Trends 1997*

Understanding the stimulus

1. What % age of males aged 16 - 19 read books?
2. What % age of females aged 16 - 19 read books for pleasure?
3. Which gender is more likely to read books?
4. What female age group is most likely to read for pleasure?
5. What male age group is most likely to read for pleasure.
6. What difference do you notice in the pattern of reading by age between males and females?
7. Suggest two reasons to explain either the male or the female pattern of reading for pleasure.
8. Draw a graph to represent the information on the table.

Development and Revision

1. It has been found in recent studies that girls are tending to do better than boys in school. Can you suggest a reason based on information in this table?
2. Suggest reasons why more women tend to read books than men.
3. If you were a publisher of books, what sort of books would you publish to make most sales, based on information in this table and your own sociological knowledge?
4. Suggest strategies to encourage boys to read more books.
5. What other types of reading could people become involved with, apart from books?
6. People over 60 years of age watch more television than other age groups. Suggest sociological reasons for this fact.