

In this subject you will be expected to:

Participate in discussion, group work and make presentations to the class. You will be required to write essays using sociological concepts and perspectives. It is essential that you are willing to look at all aspects of an issue even those you do not agree with.

You will need to have an interest in:

- News and world wide current affairs.
- The way in which people live and think that are outside of your own experiences.

We cover:

Families and Households, Education and Sociological Theory and Methods (the way in which research into society is carried out) in Year 1.

Crime and Deviance and Beliefs in Society in Year 2.

Independent learning in this subject requires:

- Flipped learning – reading in preparation for the next lesson
- Researching contemporary news items for use in lessons
- Written work including essays and short answer questions
- Watching films and TV documentaries

Induction task and success criteria

All students must complete the following:

Investigate the changes that have occurred in our ideas of what childhood means.

1. You need to find two adult people (older, if possible) who are willing to be interviewed (they may live in your household or are willing to be interviewed over the phone or Skype). Explain why you wish to **interview** them. You will probably find that your interviewees are quite happy to give you detailed information if you approach the interview in a sensitive manner. Design a list of questions to ask. These should include information about the size of their families; how they spent their leisure time, such as the games they played at different ages; their education; the age at which they had their first job; what they wore and toys they owned. You will probably be able to suggest other questions to ask.
2. **Investigate** the experiences of child soldiers in Somalia or child workers in Asia. Has childhood disappeared? Investigate what childhood was like in Britain in medieval times? (Aries). Are there laws to protect children today? What does Sue Palmer mean by the term 'Toxic Childhood?'

Once you have your notes of these interviews, and completed your research you should answer the following question in a short essay (**Max 3 sides of A4**)

Applying material from your interview and your research, evaluate the view that childhood in society has improved (20 marks)

Successful essays will include:

1. Consideration of how childhood is socially constructed – that is how it is created and defined by a society at one point in time.
2. How the experience of childhood has changed over time.
3. A discussion of what has happened to childhood and an assessment of whether it has improved for all children or not?

Due In: First Sociology lesson in September 2023