



Transition work
Week 2

Look at this photograph; not everything is as it seems!

There is usually another way of looking at things – and that is what we do as sociologists.

We take normal, taken-for-granted life and turn it upside down, looking for meanings. And very often we end up seeing things very differently.

Social Change

The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. The important point to grasp is: society does not remain static over time; it constantly changes - through decades and centuries and across countries, societies.

Task 1

Think of 3 different ways society has changed over the last 100 years. Try to be specific about the change eg. homosexuality is no longer illegal.

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Now, name 3 ways in which British society is different to another (America, Italy etc.)

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Task 2

Why do you think has society changed? Why are societies different?

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Identity

Who are you? Are you part of a group, an individual, a student, a sister, a brother, a friend?

Identity is about how we see and define ourselves – our personalities – and how

other people see and define us. Many aspects of our individual identity are influenced by **agencies of socialisation**. These are structures, or groups of people.



Task 3

Suggest four examples of structures or groups of people that impact upon you, outline how they influence you:

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Individuals are like moulded putty, squished and squashed by society and its **structures**, but there are decisions we make that are driven by internal motivations. Behaviour that comes from **within us** – decisions we make in order to do things - is called **agency**. Agency behaviour is meaningful and a reflection of self-will. Sometimes we can challenge and oppose structures, and in this way we help construct a part of our identity.

Task 4



List three agency decisions you have made or will make today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Task 5

Make a poster or mood board of how your identity is shaped by factors in your life.

Consider **agency** factors and **structural** factors. Structural factors are things that exist outside of yourself eg family, the media, school, sports clubs, music, the arts, fashion etc

Brainstorm some ideas first on what you can include in your poster/mood board.

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