Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

Established 1580

Sociology

Summer Task

Culture, Norms & Values

This booklet is designed to introduce you to some of the key concepts that you need to know.

Work through this booklet, answering all questions in full sentences and in as much detail as possible. **Use other resources to help you if there are things that you do not understand.**

Bring the booklet with you for the first lesson in September.

Name _____

Mentor Group _____

Culture:

Culture is simply the way of life of a particular society or social group. It includes beliefs, values, and attitudes, norms of behaviour, customs, traditions and rituals.

Activity 1: Jot down features of British culture. What are considered typically British or English things?

Ralph Linton argues "The culture of a society is the way of life of its members: the collection of ideas and habits which they learn, share and transmit from generation to generation."

There are 2 essential qualities of culture:

1. It is **learned**
2. It is **shared** (otherwise we would have confusion and disorder)

Activity 2: What differences have you noticed, in terms of behaviour or way of life, between Britain & other countries?

Socialisation:

Socialisation is the process whereby individuals learn the culture of their society.

Activity 3: How do we learn this and who from? Jot some ideas down:

A lot of what we take for granted as 'normal behaviour' is a result of **primary socialisation.** Primary socialisation takes place during infancy, where children learn language and basic norms and values, mainly from their parents and immediate family.

Activity 4: What do you think a child would be like in terms of behaviour and ability to communicate, if he/she had been deprived of any human contact:
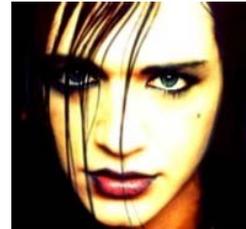
Secondary socialisation is carried out by other institutions outside of the family, and continues through the rest of our lives.

Activity 5: Think of as many other places (NOT the family) where we learn society's norms and values throughout our lives:

Norms:

Norms are specific rules, or guides to action, which define acceptable and appropriate behaviour in particular situations.

Activity 6: We have certain norms of appropriate clothing. Give an example:

Activity 7: Norms of behaviour vary over time and between different cultures. Some aspects of behaviour we now accept as normal but which were once considered deviant (or wrong). Jot some ideas down:

Can you think of any examples of things which are acceptable in one society, but not in another?

Think about what/who is considered attractive in our culture. How is this 'ideal' different in other cultures, or different from the past?

Social control: norms are enforced through sanctions, i.e. rewards & punishments.

Values:

A value is a belief that something is good and desirable, important and worthwhile. Every society has its own value system, and these values are the general beliefs which underpin our (more specific) norms, e.g. we value human life, so we have norms that say taking a life is wrong (murder etc.).

Activity 8: What other values do we have in our society?

Status:

All members of a society are given a social position by their culture. These positions are known as statuses. Some positions are **ascribed** (i.e. fixed at birth), others are **achieved** by the individual themselves through their own efforts.

Activity 9: Give an example of a) an ascribed status and b) an achieved status:

Roles:

Throughout our lives we play various roles. Society expects those of a certain status to behave in a particular way. A set of norms go with any particular status. These are collectively known as a **role**.

Activity 10: List the various roles you play e.g. friend, sibling:

Activity 11:

To introduce you to one of the topics in sociology you should complete some research on families in different parts of the world. Choose two or three countries and research what 'family' means in those countries. Write a 500-word essay comparing them. The essays should be ***handwritten and proof-read*** before handing in.