



## Transition Material

# Sociology A-level – Session 5

### Key term 7: IDENTITY

#### **TASK**

***What are the distinctive characteristics that make you who you are? And where do you think you have got these from? Family? Peers? Etc.***

Your identity is what makes you who you are – everything that contributes to how you see yourself and how others see you. A person's identity is shaped by their values – whether something is an important part of your identity can be affected by what you believe to be significant. For example, for some people their job is a large part of their identity, while for others it is only a small part of who they are.

Aside from our hobbies, interests and personality, our identities are shaped by several sociological concepts. Our family, education, work, peers, religion and entertainment choices all have an effect on our identity, as well as our gender, ethnicity, sexuality, age, body shape and sense of nationality. A good way to think about your identity is to think about how you would introduce yourself. Two important sociological concepts linked to identity are social roles and social status.

Sometimes we can construct different identities for different social situations, including online. And to further complicate matters, how we see ourselves is not always how others see us.

#### **TASK**

***Are there any things that you change about the identity that you project to others, depending on the social situation? Do you present a different identity to your family than you do to your friends?***