

Sociological Perspectives

Attitudes - fixed beliefs or ways of looking at issues

Biomedical model of health - the identification of health as the "absence of disease" with a focus on diagnosing and curing individuals with specific illnesses and other medical conditions

Birth rate - the number of live births per thousand of the population over a given period, normally a year

Bourgeoisie - the powerful social class who own the factories, land and other capital and are able to organise the economy and other important social institutions to their own advantage

Capitalist - another word for a member of the bourgeoisie

Census - a compulsory, official and detailed count of the population in the UK, held every 10 years. It includes demographic information about households

Complementary medicine - an approach to improving health and wellbeing not usually prescribed by the medical profession. Complementary medicine is sometimes used as an alternative to and sometimes alongside, standard medical treatments. Some examples of complementary medicine include acupuncture or aromatherapy

Conflict model - a sociological approach, first associated with Karl Marx, which sees the institutions of society as being organised to meet the interests of the "ruling classes"

Culture - values, beliefs, language, rituals, customs and rules associated with a particular society or social group, and seen as normal

Death rate - the number of deaths per thousand of the population over a given period, normally a year

Demography - term used to describe the study of changes in the size and structure of the population

Deviant - an individual who does not conform to the norms of a society or social group

Disability - restrictions that arise for a person with an impairment because of attitudes and lack of appropriate services and facilities to meet their needs

Disabling environment - a social context where adaptations and other necessary facilities are not in place to ensure that people with impairments can take a full part in social life