

The Mass-Observation Project

Autumn 2005 Directive

Part 1: Sex

Here are a few prompts to guide your reply but as usual with M-O, you should write what YOU feel is important and relevant. Some of these topics are ones which appeared in the 1949 survey and it will be useful to be able to make comparisons.

Early years:

Memories of childhood; learning about the facts of life; pleasant and unpleasant experiences, masturbation, impressions of adult behaviour, awareness of your own sexuality; early sexual activities.

School and adolescent years:

Awareness of sexuality again including sexual orientation and experiences with people of the same or the opposite sex, sex education at school (or elsewhere), your own sexual activities if any; general/family attitudes to sex and sexual morality during your adolescent years and how you did or didn't fit in.

Adult years:

You can write as much as you wish here: useful to cover key events and stages in your life which are relevant. In this section, you should concentrate on your own direct experiences. It is a big subject so take time to reply. There is no deadline though we like to hear from you within three months.

- sexual partners
- sexual orientation
- marriage and sex
- divorce
- celibacy
- sex as you grow older
- prostitution
- violence and sex: eg rape, child abuse
- your body and sex
- sex toys/dressing up
- sex education for children/young people
eg if you are a parent or have responsibility for children
- pleasure
- transgender experiences
- use of erotic materials/pornography
- experimentation
- sexual health
- contraception and abortion
- extra marital sexual relations
- frustrations
- your mind and sex
- sex and disability
- sexual counselling

And don't forget - the question they couldn't ask in 1949 - what turns you on?

The wider world: public and private views

Use this section to give your views and experiences on how things have changed over the years (if they have) in terms of sexual morality, sexual behaviour. Write about the way sex is handled by the media, by religious communities, by politicians, by the health and social services.

As usual, please start all three parts of your reply on a new sheet of paper with your M-O number, (NOT name), sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply.

Part 2:

Public library buildings

We have in the past asked you about your thoughts on libraries. This time we could like to find out what you think about public library buildings rather than the collections they contain, or the librarians who run them and the services they provide. However, these aspects of public libraries should not be ignored if you feel they are linked to something you want to say about the buildings. Don't worry if you don't use public libraries: we're still interested in what you think about library buildings you may have noticed.

As usual, please start all three parts of your reply on a new sheet of paper with your M-O number, (NOT name), sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply.

Could you think of the public libraries you have either been in or noticed and tell us what you think of ...

- the location of the library and how it fits in with its immediate environment
- both the exterior and interior architectural style of the library
- the entrance and other areas of the building, and how they make you feel
- what you can smell, hear and touch

Do you think older types of library buildings resemble other buildings? e.g. churches, schools, temples, railway stations, unemployment and benefit offices, banks, cinemas, theatres?

What do you think about the design of modern library buildings? Do you prefer them to older style buildings?

Have you seen older libraries renovated into more modern libraries, and what do you think of them?

Part 3:

Hurricanes in the USA

Tell us about your reactions to the recent hurricanes in New Orleans, Houston. What did you make of the relief effort and the way it was managed? Give us your comments on issues around global warming, economical situation, and the media coverage.

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The Mass-Observation Archive ~ The Library ~ University of Sussex ~ Brighton BN1 9QL
email: moa@sussex.ac.uk
