

Mass-Observation in the 1990s

Summer Directive 1997

Part One: Doing a job....

Please remember to start with a brief (2-3 line) autobiography: M-O number (NOT name), sex, age, town or area where you live, occupation or former occupation

The theme this time is paid work. You may be retired from paid employment now but please tell us about your working life. Alternatively you may only be at the start of your working life, in which case we would like to hear about your hopes and plans.



(1) Your own experience

Can you remember what you wanted to be when you grew up? How does the way things have turned out fit with your childhood hopes?

What jobs did your parents have? How does what you do compare with their work?

Please describe your working life so far, starting with your first paid job if you had one. It would be helpful if you gave rough dates and described what kind of place you worked in.

If you have been a freelance worker, or self-employed, unemployed or at home caring for dependents, please describe this too.

Please include any qualifications you have gained and any training you have undergone.

(2) Your views in general

Do you feel the world of paid work has changed over your lifetime? What are your thoughts on the notion of a "job for life"? *(When I first planned this directive, I wrote out a list of issues that you might want to cover, but it made the directive very long and possibly off-putting so I am leaving it up to you to write as much or as little as you feel able on the subject, covering the questions you feel are the most important).*

(3) Images of jobs

Below are six professions. Please turn over to the next page for some questions about them.

teacher

taxi driver

secretary

nurse

fire fighter

police officer

PTO

- What image comes to mind immediately? Give **your own perception** and say what you think it is based on (direct experience of real people of your acquaintance, for example), and also give what you see as the **public image** (give examples from the media - real or fictitious).
- Are these images positive/negative, male/female, black/white, gay/straight, young/old, working/middle class, northerner/southerner - anything else? Please say for each job.
- What kind of people do you think choose these jobs?
- Do you think the public image of these jobs has changed over the years? If you think so, please say how, and describe what you think the most important influences are over how people thinking of people in these jobs.

Part Two: Being overweight

Please remember to start on a new page with a brief (2-3 line) autobiography: M-O number (NOT name), sex, age, town or area where you live, occupation or former occupation

This section has been suggested by Erika Borkoles, a postgraduate student at Exeter University, who is researching the way society thinks about overweight people. We would be very grateful if you could reply in as much detail as possible, with examples from your own experience - either yourself or other people who you know.

1. How do you feel about people who are overweight?
From personal experience at any age - perhaps give an account of your experiences if possible from childhood through adulthood.

How do you regard others who are overweight?
2. How do you think society deals with overweight people?
3. How do you think society will cope with the prospect of more people, children as well as adolescents and adults, becoming overweight?
4. What do you think about the idea that anyone, but particularly women, can only be happy by being a particular size and shape?
5. Which health or diet messages, if any, do you think are the most sensible? Please consider any government campaigns or advice from books, videos or medical sources when you answer this.
6. What are you feelings about being physically active?



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