

Gender

Background

It is important not to 'lump' all women or all men together.

Remember gender means men and women.

There are big differences in relation to men and women from different social classes and from different ethnic backgrounds.

Annandale (2006) argues that until recently gender inequalities has tended to be focussed on women but that this is now changing. She argues there is now more research on male health and there is a need for a gender-inclusive approach to women's and men's health.

Gender inequalities in health may be explained by one or more of the following. One or more because at times there are overlaps between some of them.

- Artefact
- Biological
- Cultural or material

Task 1: Gender inequalities in relation to morbidity

This will be the start of revision for gender inequalities in relation to morbidity.

1. Complete the table below.

Useful sociologists in relation to gender

Sociologist	Perspective	Brief summary	Evaluation
Doyal	Marxist feminist		
Doyal and Pennell	Marxists feminists		
Graham (1984)	Marxist feminist		
Oakley			
Roberts			
Abbot and Wallace			
Bowler (1993)			

Sociologist	Perspective	Brief summary	Evaluation
Popay and Bartley (1989)			
Annandale (2008)		Questions whether the changes taking place in women's lives before last 30 years in education and employment has led to increased pressures with attendant risks to health.	
Lyng		Young men as risk takers and therefore more prone to accidents than young women.	Dolan (2011) argues not all young males engage in risky behaviours.
Katz			
O'Brien (2005)		Traditional masculinities can deter men from seeking medical help.	
Stanistreet et al (2005)		Patriarchy problematic for men as well as for women in relation to health care.	
Annandale, E and Riska, E (2009)		Argue there is a need for a new gender-inclusive approach to men's and women's health.	
Taylor, S and Field, D		Use of alcohol and drugs by young men is one of the common causes of suicide by young men.	Rise of laddism, though death by suicide not as high. Annandale, E (2008)

Task 2: Developing evaluative skills

Read the following student answer and discuss in small groups what would enable it to go from a C/D grade to an A/B grade.

HINT

As you read it:

1. Underline any evaluative words or phrases.
2. Check the accuracy of the sociologists the candidate has cited including the spelling of their names.
3. Look for the sweeping generalisations made by the candidate and consider what evidence is needed to support the claims/assertions. Are all the generalisations even accurate?
4. Do you think it is detailed enough for an extended essay?

Evaluate gender inequalities of morbidity and mortality [40]

Over the years ONS research has shown women having a longer life expectancy than men. The common excuse people make is that women live a healthier lifestyle but there is a lot more to it than that.

ONS (2014) statistics showed a much higher death rate in males from heart attacks than in females. This is caused by the boring repetitive manual labour that large numbers of working class males are forced to do. This was argued by Freund et al who further believed that the repetitiveness and general tedious jobs put a strain on them causing them to age a lot faster than females.

However Scambler et al (1981) saw that women had no general interest in visiting the doctor. In her study she found that only 1 out of 11 women visited her doctor first. Most women would either speak to their husbands, female friends, mothers or other relatives about their health problems to find out if their 'condition' is severe enough to visit the doctor.

These statistics are seen to be even worse in men with them often avoiding the doctor when a visit is needed.

ONS (2013) showed 56% of men visit the doctor less than once every five years. Men often see visiting the doctor as diminishing to their masculinity due to the fact weakness is often linked to illness.

Wilkz (1980) who is a feminist argued that women are expected to take care of their bodies much better than men due to the fact they have to take care of children and also during pregnancy and therefore are required to keep a healthy lifestyle for their children while men work.

Dixon (1998) found big gender differences in the health systems employment. While men were mostly taking up doctor and GP employment, nursing and midwifery seemed to be the only job opportunities for women. These areas were mainly dominated by women who were under the control of men.

Task 3: Applying the skills

Now have a go at rewriting it. Before you do so look back at the section on writing extended essays at the end of unit four.

You may want to consider structuring your essay in terms of the following explanations:

- Artefact,
- Biological,
- Cultural and material.

In addition in a penultimate paragraph you may want to refer to the work of Annandale (2009) on intersectionality.