

Happiness in Stability or Change?

If you need help with this idea see:

Mrs. Hayes

Over the last century, society has changed in so many ways. Changes have occurred in technology, culture, attitudes and risk-taking behaviour.

Human behaviour has changed too. But in what aspects?

Research Question

Does happiness (life satisfaction) depend on social stability?

Your task

Research and analyse the individual concepts of 'happiness' and 'social stability'.

You will need to explore at least one sociological theory (see Emile Durkheim) and survey people from different ages and if possible, cultural backgrounds.

Your report could cover the following:



- diverse concepts of 'happiness', 'change' and 'social stability' – compare your own research with the responses given by people you interview
- reference to sociologist Emile Durkheim's ideas on change and social stability. Are Durkheim's theories still relevant in today's world?
- whether happiness differ between cultures
- whether people in the same age group (teenagers, working adults or senior adults) measure happiness in the same way? What are their examples of happy experiences?

Present your report in different sections, and include a conclusion.

Success Criteria:

A description of Durkheim's theory on social stability or social structure	Clear explanation and references to Durkheim's theory
Definition of 'happiness' or 'life satisfaction'	Collection of different people's definition of happiness through a survey
Comparison of findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparison of 'happiness' between different cultures (based on survey results)• Description of key changes people have experienced in their lifetime• Explanation of how changes have impact people (have these changes led them to be more satisfied or less satisfied)
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclusion on whether people are more happy or less happy amidst social change. Explain any exceptions.