

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

**Topic:** Changing gender roles in society

**Addressee:** 4th class secondary schools

**Timing:** 4 – 5 hours

**Type of activities:** reading, listening, text completion, speaking, project work

**Key vocabulary:** gender, stereotyping, recession, employment, breadwinner, domestic sphere, raise children, household chores

**Useful language:** While/whereas/on the other hand                      look/seem  
perhaps/maybe    could/might                      have the impression

### **Changing gender roles in society.**

#### **Lesson 1** (1 hour)

**Warm up:** 2 short cuts of 'vintage' videos (20 mins)



Three Men and a Baby



Full House

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'FullHouse: Changing Michelle's diaper' (USA 95)<br/><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXSzfOGC2WM">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXSzfOGC2WM</a></li><li>- Scene from the 80s film '3 Men and a Baby' (USA 87)<br/><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGFCNHtSbpo">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGFCNHtSbpo</a></li></ul> |
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#### **Before watching**

- Look at both titles and photos, what do you think is going to happen?
- Watch and see if you were right.

#### **After watching**

- Why do you think the men were having such difficulty?
- Focus on a short part of the dialogue and see if you can note down what the two men are saying.... (20 seconds)
- Focus on the last sentence

"I build 50 storey skyscrapers, I assemble cities for the future, sure I can put together a (...) diaper

- But can he? Why not?

**Working in more detail** (10 mins)

**Speaking and vocab:** (part 4 First Cert)

• **Pre-reading discussion:**

*In pairs discuss the following points*

- *Who used to look after you when you were small? Take notes and list the people who did this in order (from who you used to spend more time with)*
- *Describe the relationship you used to have with these people, note down next to their names what they used to do with you (play, read stories, take care of your physical needs: feed you change your nappy, bath/shower you, dress you etc)*
- *Are/were the male relatives in your family like the men in the clips? In your opinion have gender roles changed much over the last 30 years?*
- *In what ways?*

• **Pre-reading vocabulary activity: match the sentence halves**

1	the economic downturn had led	A	the domestic sphere.
2	to take care	B	of primary caregiver
3	to govern	C	with problems and issues
4	to raise/bring up	D	outside the home
5	pursuing careers	E	to a change in traditional gender roles
6	spend time	F	the bulk of the housework or childcare
7	take on the role	G	children / a family
8	struggle or deal	H	of the home
9	pick up	I	doing household chores

**Reading** (30 mins)

- *Read the article quickly and underline the sentences which tell you in what ways gender roles are changing then compare your answers*

**Are men and women's roles in society changing?**

Among the many news stories dedicated to the recession that gripped the United States in the late 2000s were several pieces that asked whether the economic

downturn had led to a change in traditional gender roles. More than 80 percent of the jobs lost during the recession had belonged to [men](#), which led to women holding the majority of jobs in the United States for the first time ever. Men who lost their jobs were employed in fields like construction and finance, whereas the [women](#) had been in slightly steadier fields like teaching and health care, fields where there will always be a demand for workers. With their husbands unemployed, women would now take on the role of breadwinner, while the men would take care of the home.

The tipping of the employment scales due to the recession isn't expected to be permanent, and the recession wasn't the only catalyst in changing gender roles. Men and women's roles in society have been changing for decades now. Traditionally, men have worked outside the home and served as the sole breadwinner for the family. They held some of the most powerful jobs in society, including doctor, lawyer and politician. Women, on the other hand, governed the domestic sphere. They were expected to stay home, raise children and have an evening meal waiting for their husbands. If they did work, it was as a secretary, a nurse or another stereotypically female profession. \*

Women in the U.S. got one of their first tastes of the working world during World War II. The men went to war, and the women went to the factories and offices. Though the women returned to their homes after the war, they didn't remain there for long. The social changes of the 1960s and 1970s\*\* caused a cultural revolution that found many women pursuing careers outside the home. In recent years, more men have expressed a desire to take on the role of primary caregiver to the children.

That doesn't mean these changes have been easy. Men have had to struggle with what masculinity means to them if they're not the sole breadwinner. Women have to deal with making less than men in wages and a difficult time advancing to the highest positions within a company. Women are also subjected to the "Mommy Wars" -- a set of battles between working moms and stay-at-home moms in which each side declares that the other side is irreparably harming their children.

And while the recession may have forced more men to stay home, they didn't necessarily pick up the bulk of the housework or childcare. The New York Times reported that unemployed dads spent about as much time caring for their children as their working counterparts did; the laid-off dads made finding a new job their foremost priority. This state of affairs is probably not unfamiliar to working moms, who have long dealt with the so-called "second shift," in which they come home from their stint in the professional world only to spend just as much time cooking, cleaning and caring for children.

Though change is still in the air, there's no doubt that men and women's roles have become less strictly defined, and many families have made the male and female roles more egalitarian when it comes to jobs, housework and childcare.

*Now read the article again and answer the following questions, then discuss your answers with your partner*

1. In what way did the recession play a major role in changing gender roles?
2. Why did more men lose their jobs than women?
3. What is meant by the word 'breadwinner' in line 8?
4. What other factors besides the recession have influenced gender role changes?
5. What main difficulty do men have to cope with when they lose the role of main earner?
6. List the difficulties for working women today.
7. According to the New York Times when dads are unemployed who becomes more involved in looking after the children? Why?
8. In your personal opinion are these changes here to stay? Why/ Why not?

*Report back to the class with your answers*

### **Writing task**

(start in class and to be completed at home and handed in next time)

*Write a couple of short paragraphs saying what difference you think it makes to the children who stays at home. Give reasons for your answers using the text and your own personal experience and ideas*

## **Househusbands and Housewives**

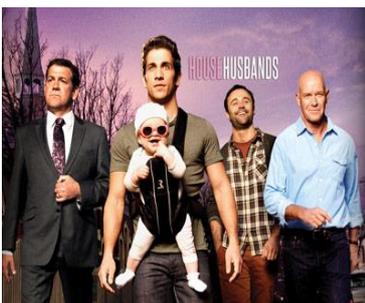
**Lesson 2** (1 hour)

(**Revision** of last lesson: one or two students put their pieces of writing on IWB, whole class feedback – 15 mins)

**Warm up** (15 mins)

- *What do you call a woman who stays at home to look after the children and take care of the home full time? (Elicit 'housewife')*
- *What do you call a man who does the same? (Write all suggestions on the board but elicit 'househusband')*
- *Do you think this exists?*
- 

(show them the picture of an Australian TV series called 'Househusbands, followed by one of the American TV series )



- Listen to the trailer for each show and say what these programmes are about
- Do they represent traditional roles? Why/ Why not?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEx26h7OF\\_EZDCUID8qg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEx26h7OF_EZDCUID8qg)

- Listen to the trailer of Househusbands again.
- What is being a 'stay at home husband' (SAHH) compared to?

Look back to the article and answers from last lesson, and remind yourselves what problems for men and women were listed in the article?

**Speaking** (30 mins) (First Cert. part 2)

- Look at the pictures below and describe them in pairs



**Comparing, contrasting and guessing.**

- Complete the sentences with words from the box

While/whereas/on the other hand	look/seem	perhaps/maybe
could/might	have the impression	

1. The first picture shows a man in a suit ..... in the second the woman is wearing the suit
2. In both pictures the couples ..... happy to see each other
3. .... the women in both pictures have been working hard
4. The man in the first picture..... more relaxed than the one in the second
5. I ..... that the man in the second picture has had a hard day

(Divide the class into pairs. Name each pair A or B. All pair As work on the first grid all pair Bs work on the second)

PAIR A

- *What would be difficult if you were....*

the woman in picture 1?	The woman in picture 2

PAIR B

- *What would be difficult if you were....*

the man in picture 1?	The man in picture 2

(Now put pairs together (A+B) to make groups of 4.)

- *Discuss your findings.*

(Revise structure and use of 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional if necessary)

(First Certificate Exam Part 2)

- *Look at the pictures again. You have to speak about them for one minute.*

Student A (first 2 pics)

- *Compare the pictures and say what you think might be difficult for the people in each one*

Student B

- *Compare the pictures and say what you think might be difficult for the people in each one*

**Listening and watching** (20 mins)

**A Social Experiment**

**Before watching**

- *Do you think that any of the jobs traditionally associated with men are impossible for women?*
- *Which ones would be the most difficult for a woman? Why?*
- *Why do you think we associate certain jobs with men or women?*

Article and video taken from The Mail Online 29 May 2016

They say gender stereotyping begins at a young age, and that was certainly the case when a group of primary school children were asked to draw people doing different jobs.

A **video** shows a group of five to seven-year-olds at Whitstable Junior School, Kent, being told to draw pictures of what they think a firefighter, surgeon and fighter pilot look like.

Nearly all the drawings feature men with names like Gary or Simon, with one child adding: 'He's big and strong'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3606869/Children-stunned-meet-female-firefighters-surgeons-RAF-pilots-drawing-MEN-doing-jobs.html#ixzz4q01quknJ>

### **After watching**

- Can you think of other ways society and family life influence our attitudes on gender differences. Think about advertising, childrens books and stories, tv programmes, families.

## **Essay writing**

### **Lesson 4** (1 hour)

What do remember about essay writing for First Certificate? Make a list of 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' below

<i>Do.....</i>	<i>Don't.....</i>
<i>Write in paragraphs</i>	<i>Write less than 120 words</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Divide your work into paragraphs</li> <li>- Write less than 120 words</li> <li>- Write an introduction to your essay</li> <li>- Write more than 180 words</li> <li>- Use informal language and slang</li> <li>- Give your opinions in all the paragraphs</li> <li>- Brainstorm the essay topic before you begin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forget to write a plan before you start</li> <li>- Forget to check your work for grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes</li> <li>- Write a rough copy first</li> <li>- Give your opinions in the conclusion</li> <li>- Give reasons and examples to support you ideas</li> <li>- Connect your paragraphs with linking expressions</li> </ul>
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Useful language: ordering points or reasons; adding information  
Put the following linking expressions in the right place

<i>In conclusion</i>	<i>Last but not least</i>	<i>To sum up</i>	<i>On balance</i>	<i>To conclude</i>
<i>Next</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Secondly</i>	<i>Finally</i>	<i>Firstly</i>
<i>Lastly</i>	<i>First of all</i>			<i>To begin with</i>

For the first point	For further points
For the last point	In the conclusion

Look at the following linking expressions

<i>What's more</i>	<i>So</i>	<i>For instance</i>	<i>In addition</i>	<i>Many people</i>
<i>Although</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>On the other hand</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>All in all</i>
<i>Personally</i>	<i>However</i>	<i>Even though</i>	<i>Nevertheless</i>	<i>also</i>
<i>Furthermore</i>	<i>Therefore</i>			
<i>Thus</i>	<i>As a result of</i>	<i>On the whole</i>	<i>In conclusion</i>	<i>In spite of</i>
<i>Despite</i>				

Which of them are used to.....

1. Introduce a general statement about what people think?.....
2. Introduce your own opinion?.....
3. Add a similar piece of information?.....
4. Add a contrasting piece of information?.....
5. Introduce the reason for something?.....
6. Introduce an example of something?.....
7. Summarise what has been said?.....

**Lesson 5: (1 hour) Assessment**

*ESSAY WRITING*

Choose **one** of the following statements and write your essay. Write between 160 – 200 words

*A woman's place is always in the home*

*or*

*There are some jobs that just aren't suitable for women*

*or*

*'Are men and women's roles in society changing?'*