

Do Now

# How does gender equality benefit everyone in society?



Omar and Shanice are debating.  
'My fave TikToker says, 'there are no personality differences between males and females – it's all a social construct.' Says Shanice.  
'Well, the YouTuber I always watch says that males and females have completely different personality traits. We're born that way.'  
Replies Omar. Neither have questioned their sources.

**Discuss: Who do you think is right here, Omar or Shanice? Maybe you think something else? Be ready to share your ideas.**



Some social commentators think we are currently undergoing an online 'war of the sexes'. Why?

*CLUE: misinformation*  
*CLUE: clickbait + distraction*  
*CLUE: societal pressures*



## Learning outcomes:

Describe the average similarities and differences among people of different genders.

Explain why gender equality is so important for a healthy, functioning society which benefits everyone.

**Social constructs (created by nurture):** A social construct exists as a result of human interaction. Humans came up with the idea, and it caught on in society.

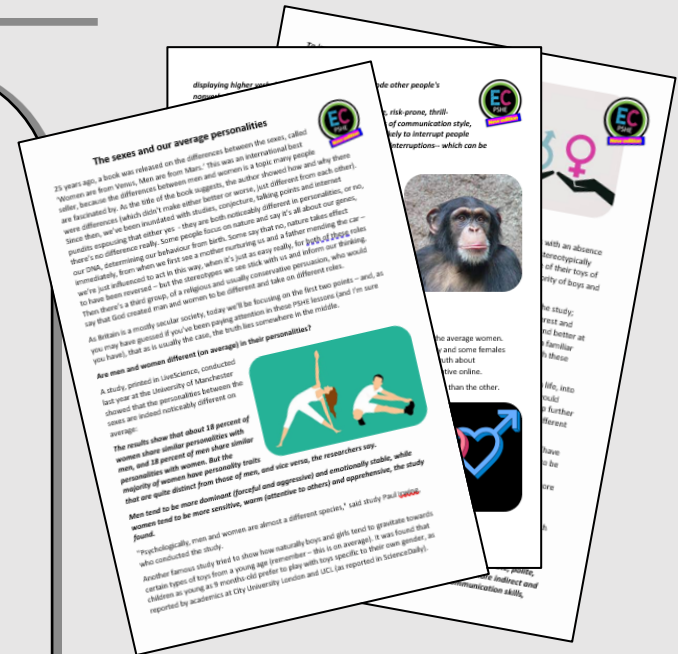
**Inherited traits (our nature):** These are traits that scientists think come more directly from genes, rather than being constructed from the world around us.

**Gender equality:** the state of equality between men and women in society.

# Are men and woman all that different? Investigating gender

Before we delve into how gender equality benefits us all, let's first find out what scientists have recently published in their research regarding personality differences between males and females.

**THORNDEN THREE READING!**  
Follow the text in your booklet closely





# The Sexes, Our Personalities and Why We Need to Work Together

For decades, people have debated whether men and women are different in their personalities. Some believe it is mostly nature (our genes and biology), while others argue it is nurture (what we learn from the world around us). Many researchers now think it is a mix of both.

A University of Manchester study found that most men and women do have different personality traits on average. About 18% of women have personalities more like the average man, and 18% of men have personalities more like the average woman. The majority, however, fit the patterns usually linked with their sex.

On average, men tend to be more dominant, forceful, competitive, risk-taking and emotionally stable.

On average, women tend to be more sensitive, warm, caring, cautious and more likely to experience fluctuating emotions such as anxiety.



# The Sexes, Our Personalities and Why We Need to Work Together

Studies on toy preferences also suggest early differences. A study by City University London and UCL found that babies as young as 9 months often prefer toys linked with their own sex — for example, boys chose cars, balls, and diggers, while girls chose dolls and cooking pots. Researchers suggested this may link to biological traits such as boys’ stronger spatial skills and girls’ focus on faces and fine motor skills.

Critics of this study argue that by 9 months, babies may already have been influenced by their parents or surroundings. However, similar studies with apes and monkeys showed the same patterns, suggesting that at least some differences may be biological.

Other large studies have found similar patterns across many countries. Women are generally more agreeable, sociable, cautious, and better at decoding emotions. Men are generally more assertive, thrill-seeking, and more likely to interrupt in conversation.

Importantly, these are averages, not rules. There are many men with traditionally “feminine” traits and many women with traditionally “masculine” traits. No group is “better” — we simply have different strengths, and society benefits most when we work together and value all these qualities.

# Are men and woman all that different? Investigating gender



1. Identify, on average, traits which are common in the personalities of males.
2. Identify, on average, traits which are common in the personalities of females.
3. What percentage of both tend to have more of the average personality traits of the opposite sex?
4. Does this research surprise you? Why / why not?
5. Why is it important to be aware of this?
6. Explain the conclusions of researchers from two of the scientific studies.
7. Explain why the studies have been criticised.
8. Why is it harder for some men and women to find their perfect partners?
9. Why do men and women need to work together in society?



# Are men and woman all that different? Investigating gender



It's very important that we know that there are personality differences, on average, between men and women. It's important that we recognise this, not just because it's fact, but because this is the foundation that extremists will use to then suggest that this means the sexes should be treated differently.

This is where you can be part of the solution. Don't argue that men and women are exactly the same. Agree with the facts - BUT - now present the evidence about why our differences do not mean we should be treated differently – in fact, **all evidence suggests** we absolutely need to work together, in an equal society, because this benefits everyone – both men and women.

**Here's why...**



**As we've just read – in order for society to benefit, improve and progress, we need men and women to work together and bring out the best in each other. Not convinced? Here are just a few of the facts regarding the benefits of gender equality.**



**BELONG CARE ASPIRE SUCCEED**

Countries with the highest levels of gender equality tend to amongst the richest countries in the world, with usually a higher GDP per person, e.g Denmark, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden.

Countries with the lowest levels of gender equality tend to amongst the poorest countries in the world, with usually a much lower GDP per person, e.g. Haiti, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria

Gender imbalances around stereotypically 'women's work' like housework and child-raising leads to relationship friction and increases the likelihood of break-ups and divorce.

Businesses with at least 30% women in leadership positions are 15% more profitable.

Societies that value women and men as equal are safer and healthier for everyone and have less violent crime (safer for men, women and children).

Males in very repressive countries don't truly know if their partners want to be with them or are just scared of violence/pressured by societal expectations and want to leave. In gender equal countries, males know if a female wants to be with them or not and have happier relationships, not living a lie.

Societies with gender equality have far better healthcare, having another 50% of the population who can be doctors, surgeons and more.

Societies with gender equality have far higher literacy rates, meaning there is another 50% of the population who can gain work benefiting to the society at a higher level such as education, policing and more.



# How does gender equality benefit everyone in society?



Complete the mind map and add additional ideas about why gender inequality simply doesn't make sense if we want our societies to improve.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4viXOGvuu0Y>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvPuXHjOVh8>

**Solutions +  
benefits**

**Problems**

Why doesn't  
gender  
inequality make  
sense on any  
level?



# How do you report something you are concerned about?

- It is important to us that all of you feel safe, happy and belong at Thornden.
- We also know that sometimes it is not as easy as simply telling a member of staff
- It could be:
  - A friend you are worried about
  - Someone being unkind to you
  - Something you have heard and think we should know



## How can you report anything you are worried about?

- Speak to a member of staff or parent / carer
- Visit the Well Being Den or Head of Year area
- On Satchel each week you will be sent a link to a form to share any worries you have
- On our school website homepage there is a 'Report a Concern' link.
- In the Student Bulletin there is a 'Report a Concern' link
- On all school desktops there is a 'Report a Concern' logo to click and report anything

# Need Support? You're Not Alone

If anything in today's lesson has affected you, or you want to talk to someone, there is help available.



## **Mental Health & Low Mood**

YoungMinds – <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>

Kooth – <https://www.kooth.com>

Mind – <https://www.mind.org.uk>

## **Talk to Someone**

Your Tutor or Head of Year – We're here to help.

Wellbeing Team and School Nurse

Report a Concern on Satchel

Safeguarding Team with the Purple lanyards

## **Healthy Lifestyle**

NHS Every Mind Matters – <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters>

Change4Life – <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

## **Apps That Can Help**

Calm – For mindfulness and sleep.

Headspace – Meditation and stress relief.

Clear Fear – Manage anxiety (designed for young people).

MeeTwo – Anonymously talk to other teens, moderated by experts.

## **Eating Concerns**

Beat Eating Disorders –

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk>

NHS Live Well – Eating Disorders –

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/eating-disorders/>