

Gender Prejudice

Q1 Read the definition of sex discrimination, then say whether you think each situation below is an example of sex discrimination. Answer "yes", "no" or "depends", and explain why.

"Sex discrimination is treating people unfairly because of their gender."

- a) Mark and Maeve are both trained pilots. They have the same qualifications and experience. Mark applies for five jobs, gets five interviews, and gets a job. Maeve applies for five jobs and doesn't get any interviews.
- b) For their eighth birthday the twins Fatima and Yasmin ask for remote-controlled jeeps. Their parents get them a doll's house.
- c) Martin phones Mike, Lenny and Stu to ask whether they want to play football. He doesn't ask Wendy.

Q2 Say whether each of these statements is true or false:

- a) Women can join the Army, Navy and Air Force, but they're not allowed to fight on the front line.
- b) Men get custody of the kids more often than women if they get divorced.
- c) In the UK, men and women always get the same pay for the same work.
- d) A man is entitled to time off work when his baby is born. Employers don't have to pay him while he's away, though.
- e) There are equal numbers of men and women in top management jobs in the UK.
- f) Men get less support than women if they get abused by their partners.

DISCUSSION
QUESTION

Q3 Do you agree with this statement?

"There are some jobs which are better suited to men, e.g. being a front-line soldier, and some which are better suited to women, e.g. teaching a reception class."

DISCUSSION
QUESTION

Q4 Have you ever been treated in a way you didn't like and thought it was because of your gender?

Think about little niggly things, e.g. people talking to you in a way you found a bit patronising, as well as bigger stuff, e.g. not being allowed to join the rugby/ synchronised swimming team.

Lads, this one's for you too. Gender prejudice rubs both ways.