

## AC4.2 Explain how social changes affect policy development

	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY DID THIS CHANGE?
ALCOHOL and DRIVING	<p><b>PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF DRINK DRIVING</b> - For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century drink driving was normalised for large sections of the population. It is only in recent years that it has become socially unacceptable and deviant.</p> <p><b>CHANGE IN THE POLICY</b> - there weren't any laws regulating driving of a car until 1925. The law was modified in 1930, 1960 and 1962, legal change meant penalties got progressively stiffer. 1967, saw the introduction of legal maximums for alcohol while driving and the introduction of the roadside breathalyser. Since that time various changes to the law have meant that drink driving is dealt with progressively more harshly, for example, as of 2002, drivers convicted of causing death by driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs are required to pass an extended test before being allowed to drive again and, the maximum penalty for causing death by driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs was increased to 14 years in 2004.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Technology</b> - The breathalyser was approved for use in 1968. Before this time law enforcement was little more than guesswork, the law used terms such as drunk or intoxicated but there was no way of knowing how drunk a driver actually was, the breathalyser changed all that.</li> <li>○ <b>Changing public perceptions</b> - drinking and driving came to be seen as unacceptable and anti-social. This was driven by a number of government campaigns that emphasised the dangers and harm that drink driving causes. Over time drink driving went from being 'normal' and seen as a misdemeanour to criminal, deviant and socially unacceptable.</li> <li>○ <b>Campaigns</b> - successful campaigns run on TV changed attitudes decisively - the THINK! Campaign was one such campaign - in 1979 half of all young drivers admitted to driving under the influence, by 2014 over 90% of drivers said it was wrong and they would feel shamed if they were caught doing it.</li> </ul>
RACE RELATIONS	<p><b>ATTITUDES TO RACE RELATIONS IN THE UK IN THE PAST</b> - At the start of the 1950s Britain was largely a white nation, there were estimated to be less than 20,000 non-white people living and working in the UK. Those that did come faced considerable discrimination and hostility. This was particularly true in housing and employment. A 1956 survey found that only 1.5% of people in Birmingham would rent a room to a non-white person, they could do this as there were no laws against this. A similar situation existed in the job market, many people from the Asian subcontinent or the Caribbean could only get jobs that were hard to fill, transport and medicine for example but were by and large excluded from the wider workforce.</p> <p><b>CHANGES IN POLICY</b> - the Race Relations Act was passed in 1965, this banned discrimination in public places such as bars and restaurants. The act was strengthened in 1968 by another Race Relations Act which outlawed discrimination in the fields of employment, housing, and public services. Both acts were replaced by a new act in 1976 which further strengthened the law and made both direct and indirect discrimination illegal. Finally, in 2010 the act was replaced by the equality act which made discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, and disability illegal. This was overseen by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Changing Attitudes to Race</b> - the attitudes of British people have been transformed in recent decades. In 1987 39% of British people admitted to being prejudiced but by 2017 this had fallen to 26%; amongst younger people the fall was greater. The proportion of white respondents who say they would mind "a little" or "a lot" if a close relative married someone who was black or Asian fell from more than 50% in 1989 to about 25% in 2013. Racial prejudice is now widely seen as wrong, unacceptable, and indicative of a poor education. In short, as well as being against the law it is now deviant, this is particularly true of the young.</li> <li>○ <b>Changes in Demography</b> - One reason for the changes in attitude that we have seen is that this has been the increasingly mixed nature of the British population, many people now have a non-white relative, even the Queen's grandson married a woman of mixed heritage, which seems unthinkable a generation or so ago. Mixed race friendships are increasingly the norm. Also, the numbers of non-whites and mixed heritage have grown and now number about 15% of the population.</li> </ul>

<p><b>SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS</b></p>	<p><b>SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS IN THE PAST -</b> Nowadays we tend to take it for granted that people who are attracted to same sex relationships will be treated equally by the law but that was not always the case, in the not-too-distant past, same sex relationships were illegal and punishable by prison terms and even death. In fact, it was only in 2020 that same sex relationship attained equal status as heterosexual relationships in all parts of the UK</p> <p><b>SOME CHANGES IN SAME SEX RIGHTS/LAWS (POLICY)</b></p> <p><b>1861</b> The Offences Against the Person Act downgraded the punishment to life imprisonment in England and Wales.</p> <p><b>1967:</b> The Sexual Offences Act 1967 stipulated that private sex acts between consenting men over the age of 21 would no longer be a criminal offence in England and Wales</p> <p><b>2003:</b> Section 28 was repealed, and from English, Welsh and Northern Irish law.</p> <p><b>2004:</b> The Civil Partnership Act allowed same-sex couples to enter into same-sex unions with the same rights as married couples.</p> <p><b>2014:</b> The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, which recognised same sex marriages, entered into law in England and Wales.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The Wolfenden Report (1957)</b> - The Wolfenden committee published its report, based on three years of testimony from police, psychiatrists and gay men themselves. The report strongly recommends the decriminalisation of sexual acts between adult men.</li> <li>○ <b>Changing Attitudes to Issues of Personal Morality</b> - Alongside this there has been a change in social attitudes – this is most obvious in the 1960s when attitudes to personal morality began to change and the laws surrounding marriage (and divorce), abortion and homosexuality changed in many societies.</li> <li>○ <b>Secularisation</b> - The laws on homosexuality changed because religion began to lose its dominance in the UK – the UK moved from being a religious society to a 'secular' society, laws on morality no longer reflected what the church thought about an issue.</li> </ul>
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