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**Definitions of Abnormality: Page 134-137**

List the four definitions of abnormality that you need to know.

1

2

3

4

**Outline the definition of deviation from social norms:**

**Identify some behaviours that would be considered socially normal.**

**Can social norms, change? Explain your answer using an example.**

Watch the following video and read the text book to complete the questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfHo-HJObU8>

1. What is anti-social personality disorder?
2. What are the symptoms of anti social personality disorder?
3. What is considered prosocial behaviour?
4. Under the deviation from social norms definition, why do we class someone as abnormal?

Click on the link in the online text book to find the three key points for deviation of social norms. Outline them below.

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**Cultural Relativism**

What does the term above mean?

Using the information on cultural relativism create a peel evaluation point. This will require you to think about the information and not just copy.

***P:***

***E/E:***

***E:***

***Why is it suggested that the definition 'deviation from social norms; can lead to human rights abuse? Explain using full sentences.***

***Why is the definition not a sole explanation for abnormality? How else can some behaviours be explained?***

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### ***Statistical Infrequency***

Statistical norms	Any commonly seen behaviour or characteristic.
Deviation	Any unusual behaviour or characteristic, e.g. fear of buttons.
Real-life example	Intellectual disability disorder requires an IQ in the bottom 2% of the population.

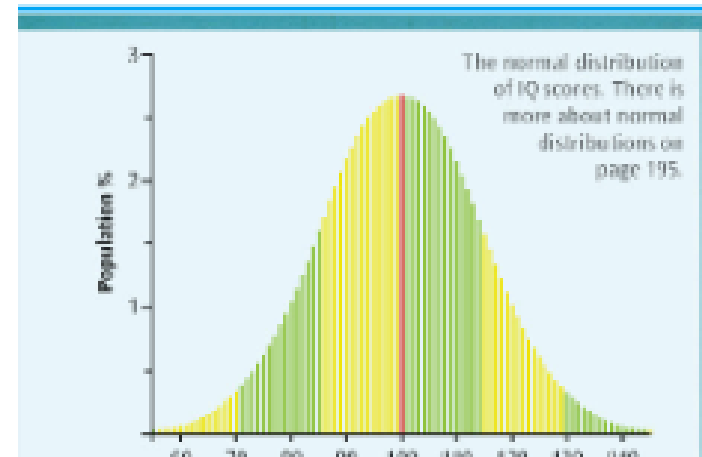
Why does statistical infrequency occur?

What is the definition of statistical infrequency?

What is a given example of statistical infrequency?

***What is a normal distribution?***

***Why would someone with an IQ under 70 be classed as having a learning difficulty? Use the graph to answer the question.***



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Explain two problems with using statistical infrequency as a definition of abnormality.

1

2

Explain a strength of using the statistical infrequency definition.

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**Apply it** Methods: **Amanda**

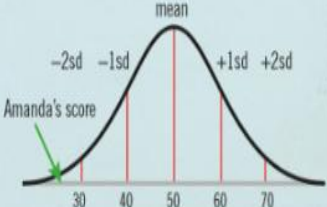
Human characteristics are normally distributed, with most people clustering around the **mean** and small numbers of people at the extremes.

Amanda is referred to a clinical psychologist for poor social skills. The psychologist assesses her and shows her where her skills fall on the normal distribution. The mean score on this test is 50. Amanda scores 21.

SD stands for standard deviation.

About 68% of the population lies between +1 and -1 SD.

About 95% of the population lies between +2 and -2 SD.



**Questions**

1. Estimate where Amanda's social skills fall in the population. (2 marks)
2. Based on this statistical distribution should Amanda be considered abnormal? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

**Apply it: Amanda**

**Apply it** Concepts: **Mark**

Mark is a practising Pagan (i.e. a follower of a pre-Christian religion). He lives alone and works as an IT consultant, doing most of his work at home and communicating via the Internet. His IQ is 145 (placing him in the top 1% of the population) and measures of depression are around average.

**Questions**

1. Based on statistical infrequency and deviation from social norms, would you say that there is a case for judging Mark to be abnormal? Explain your answer.
2. Why is there a good case for not classifying Mark as abnormal at all?

**Apply it: Mark**

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***Task: Using the information in your text book, including links, make a poster to explain ideal mental health. As a minimum it should include a definition, example and evaluation points. These will be photocopied and made into a wall display.***

**Failure to function adequately.**

Outline the definition of failure to function adequately.

What is an example of someone failing to function adequately?

Explain how the failure to function adequately is a supportive definition of mental health.

Why is the subjective nature of the definition an issues? Explain.

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How does the failure to function adequately definition differ from deviation of social norms? Explain

### Apply it Concepts: Paraphilias

One thing that has changed over time is that psychologists have generally become less inclined to classify people as abnormal simply on the basis of one definition. For example, we used to define *paraphilias* (unusual sexual behaviours) on the basis that they were deviations from social norms. This meant, for example, that when homosexuality was less socially acceptable it was classified as a paraphilia.

This would not happen now. In the **DSM-5** system paraphilias are only classified as mental disorders if they involve harm or distress to the person themselves or other people. So exhibitionism (flashing), paedophilia (attraction to children) and frotteurism (rubbing up against people in public) are still considered abnormal because they cause harm and distress *as well as being* deviations from social norms. Consensual sadomasochism and transvestitism (cross-dressing) are no longer classified as abnormal simply because they deviate from social norms.

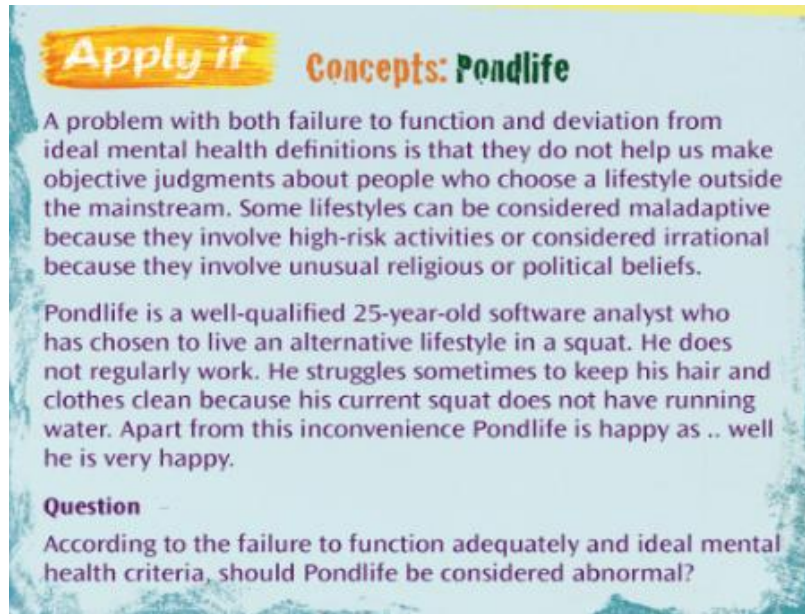
#### Question

Explain how our modern understanding of paraphilia is based on several of the definitions considered on this spread and the previous spread.

#### Apply it: Paraphilias

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**Apply it** **Concepts: Pondlife**

A problem with both failure to function and deviation from ideal mental health definitions is that they do not help us make objective judgments about people who choose a lifestyle outside the mainstream. Some lifestyles can be considered maladaptive because they involve high-risk activities or considered irrational because they involve unusual religious or political beliefs.

Pondlife is a well-qualified 25-year-old software analyst who has chosen to live an alternative lifestyle in a squat. He does not regularly work. He struggles sometimes to keep his hair and clothes clean because his current squat does not have running water. Apart from this inconvenience Pondlife is happy as .. well he is very happy.

**Question**

According to the failure to function adequately and ideal mental health criteria, should Pondlife be considered abnormal?

***Apply it: Pondlife***

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