

# Developing reading skills in relation to the Social Sciences



## About this free course

This free course provides a sample of Level 2 study in Sociology

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# Introduction

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This course looks at developing reading skills in the context of using Social Science materials. This material is primarily an audio file, originally 11 minutes in length and recorded in 1988.

This OpenLearn course provides a sample of Level 2 study in [Sociology](#).

# Learning Outcomes

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After studying this course, you should be able to:

- read Social Science materials critically and effectively.

# 1 Developing reading skills

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John Clarke and course team member Ross Fergusson, look at developing reading skills in the context of Social Science resources, with suggestions on how to read such materials critically and effectively. The material is primarily an audio file, 11 minutes in length and recorded in 1998.

Participants in the audio programme were:

- **John Clarke** Professor of Social Policy at The Open University;
- **Ross Fergusson** Social Sciences lecturer at The Open University;
- **Gordon Hughes** Social Sciences lecturer at The Open University.

## Activity 1

To prepare for this critical reading of Social Science texts you should now listen to the audio file, *Developing Reading Skills*, in which Ross Fergusson talks to John Clarke about reading original texts and extracts.

On this audio programme, Ross Fergusson highlights three main kinds of questions that are worth keeping in mind as you work on Social Science texts and extracts. These are:

- 1 What is the *context* in which the text needs to be understood?
- 2 What *assumptions* does it make about the way society is organised, about appropriate forms of welfare, and so on?
- 3 What *discourses* does it draw on – or contribute to?

Developing reading skills (11 minutes 5 MB)

Audio content is not available in this format.

[Developing reading skills](#)

## Conclusion

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This free course provided an introduction to studying sociology. It took you through a series of exercises designed to develop your approach to study and learning at a distance and helped to improve your confidence as an independent learner.

## Keep on learning

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