

## A'Level Sociology: An Introductory Lesson

The Lifeboat Game/5/9/96/P.Covington/

### Exercise One: The Lifeboat Game:

A passenger liner is **wrecked** at sea and these **15** people find themselves together in a lifeboat. The lifeboat however, can **only** support **9** people. If six are not eliminated everyone will die. If you were in command of the lifeboat, *whom would you choose to survive?*

You are required in-groups of **2** to reach a **joint decision** as to which passengers will be eliminated.

1. A doctor. GP. He is addicted to drugs, and very nervous, aged 60
2. A black Minister, Protestant, Age 27
3. A prostitute, no parents. She is an excellent nurse. Has already saved a drowning child. Aged 36
4. A male criminal. Charged with murder. He is the only one capable of navigating the boat. Aged 37
5. A man mentally disturbed, who carries important government secrets in his head, aged 41
6. A salesman. He sells automatic washing machines. Member of the local Rotary Club. Aged 51.
7. A disabled boy, paralyzed since birth. He cannot use his hands, or do anything for himself, so must be fed by others. Aged 8.
8. A married couple. He is a construction worker, who drinks a lot. Aged 27. She is a housewife with two children at home. Aged 23
9. A Jewish restaurant owner married with three children at home, aged 40.
10. A teacher considered one of the best in Essex! Aged 32.
11. A Catholic Nun. Supervisor of girls school, Aged 46.
12. An unemployed man, formerly a professor of literature. He has a great sense of humour, showed courage in the last war, and was in a concentration camp for three years, aged 53.
13. A married couple deeply in love, but no children yet. Both Irish. He is studying to be a pharmacist. Aged 24. She is a housewife, helps with a playgroup. Aged 21.

You are asked to write down you surviving passengers on the whiteboard. You will be expected to give reasons for your choices.

### Exercise Two

Write a report about this exercise. What have you learnt by performing this task?

### Exercise Three

For homework students are asked to construct an autobiographical account of their education from the age of 5.

Here are a few ideas to start you off...

- What were the most important stages of your education?
- The affect of teachers, peer groups (friends)
- Your relationship with the organization.