# Introduction

## What is meant by disability?

The Equality Act 2010 states that a person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

However the term is a contested one and below are some of the differing views.

## Key Terms

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|---|---|
| Impairment | Physical and mental differences from what is seen as the norm, for example lack of vision. However not everyone can do everything as equally well as others so, for example, everyone is not a good runner so the question is at what point might they be described as having an impairment? |
| Disability | A physical or mental impairment which prevents a person from carrying out day to day activities often due to prejudice and the failures on the part of society to address the needs of people with impairments. Disability according to Scambler (2016) is culturally and historically specific. |
| Stigma | Stigma is a social process which invariably leads to social exclusion. It is a negative term. A label applied to those with a physical or mental disability. Those who have a physical or mental disability are often stigmatised or negatively labelled. Once stigmatised people are often not accepted by wider society and are therefore unable to fully participate in all societal activities. Being stigmatised increases social inequalities. |

## Task 1:

Analyse the information in the disability-prevalence fact sheet (also found on the official government website)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-facts-and-figures/disability-facts-and-figures#about-these-statistics

How many people who are disabled in the UK are:

1. Under 16?

2. Of working age?

3. Retired?

The government are continually updating data so ensure you get the latest figures.

## Task 1 extension:

Compare the numbers of disabled with the numbers of different ethnic groups.

*The data for different ethnic groups can also be found on the ONS website.*

## Task 2:

a.   Analyse biomedical and social models of health and illness and apply them to disability.

b.   Compare and contrast these models in relation to disability.