

Suggested responses: 24 Hours

1. Write down three facts about women's work from the introduction at the beginning of the clip.

Women and men had different jobs in the factories – women packed the products and men operated the machines.

Average earnings by women in industry were about half the men's earnings in 1968.

Half of fully employed women earned less than £10 a week – two million earned less than £6 a week in 1968.

Most voters were women and a third of workers were women in 1968.

2. What is the difference between 'equal pay for equal work' and 'equal pay for work of equal value'?

Equal pay for equal work encouraged women and men to earn the same amount of money for doing the same job. However, the main conflict is over the idea of equal pay for work of equal value. This idea suggests that if men and women are doing different jobs that are of similar importance, they should earn the same wage.

3. Why do some interviewees argue that women should not be paid equally for work of equal value?

Men and women had specific roles in the factory – the women packed the products and the men operated the machines. One male describes the 32-week training that he completed to become a skilled worker. Many argued that this work was not of equal value, as the males had more responsibility. Consequently, they argued, women should not see an increase in pay.

4. Why did some males argue that men and women should continue to have different jobs?

One male argued that women should not be able to control the machines, even though they physically could, because it would take away the livelihood from a man. He emphasised the idea of traditional gender roles in that women could leave work to raise a family, whereas the male role was to make money to support the family.

5. Write down any quotes/opinions that you found surprising in the clip.

'It is a man's world' – this male went on to say that he was happy that this was the case.

One male argued that the female doing the same job as him should earn less money because she was younger/unmarried. The same male claimed that his colleague was a 'risk' because she could leave to have a family. He went on to suggest that a female could be paid the same if she could guarantee that she would not leave to have a family.

One factory owner suggested that not having equal pay might have 'good sociological consequences' because women might be more inclined to spend more time at home looking after their family.

6. What does this clip reveal about the extent of change in attitudes towards women by 1968?

The interviewer appears to be sympathetic to the women's campaign as he challenges some of the more gendered responses to his questions. For example, he challenges one male who suggests that women should guarantee that they will not have a family before taking employment. This suggests that there was popular support for the women's cause. The first male interviewee also suggests that he would give due attention to the female demands for equal pay – a progressive attitude. The first female interviewee is assertive and eloquent in arguing for equal pay and emphasising the changes that women had brought about before 1968. However, many of the male respondents continue to perpetuate outdated views about gender roles and appearances. This suggests that traditional ideas about gender roles were still deeply ingrained for some people, even in 1968.

7. The purpose of 24 Hours was to critique and analyse current events and social issues. How does this suggest that the BBC saw its role in shaping social attitudes?

The BBC seems to see its role as one that reveals attitudes. In some cases, the interviewer also appears to challenge outdated views. This suggests that the BBC believed that it had a duty to outline current events and social attitudes and provide arguments for and against the continuation of them.

8. To discuss in class: How does the fact this is a BBC news programme affect its usefulness to you in analysing 1960s society?

The source is useful as it portrays many conflicting opinions from people in different roles/positions in the factory. It is based in one factory in one area, meaning that it has limited scope, but it does outline various arguments, with some analysis indicating the interviewer's own position.