

24 hours

1 Look at the graph and complete the text with the phrases in the box.

are eating are having a shower are sleeping are working

How do people in the UK spend their time?

According to National Statistics Online, the answer is sleeping, working and watching television. These activities occupy over half the day. People spend around a third of the day sleeping. The statistics look at a snapshot of each hour of a 24-hour day so we can imagine that it is that particular time 'now'. They show the percentage of the population doing one of six activities at different times – sleeping; employment and study; travel; housework; eating and personal care; and free time.

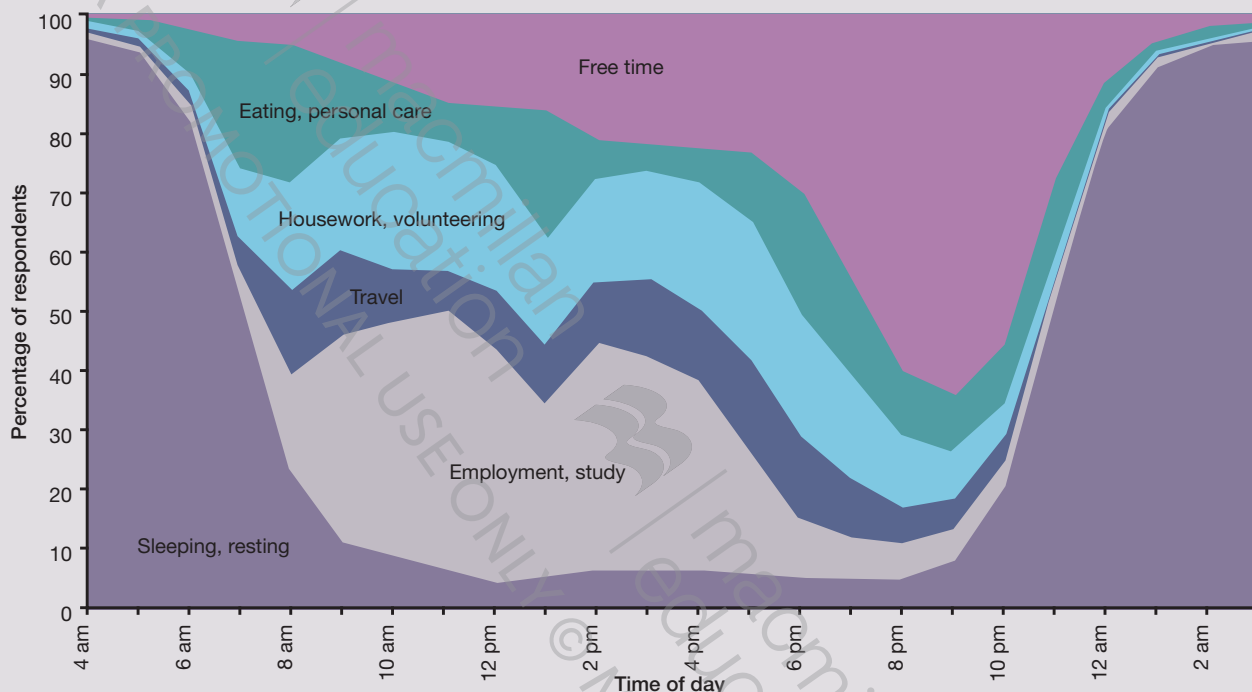
For example:

8 am On weekdays, 77% of adults are awake and out of bed by 8 am. They (a) _____, having breakfast or going to work. Some are already working or doing the housework.

11 am Forty-five per cent (b) _____ or studying. They continue to work until at least 3 pm.

6 pm The majority of people (c) _____, or doing the housework or things like watching TV, or are online.

12 midnight Eighty-one per cent of adults (d) _____, while 12% are still enjoying free time and 4% are working or travelling.



2 According to the information in 1, say what people in the UK are doing right now. About 20 per cent are ... Most people are ... Not many people are ...

Do you think it is similar in your country?

3 Match the questions (a–f) to the answers (1–6).

- a What do you do?
- b What are you doing now?
- c What are you thinking about?
- d What do you think about on your journey to work?
- e Where are you sitting?
- f Where do you sit in the office?

- 1 My holidays last summer.
- 2 I work in a transport agency.
- 3 Next to Johan, opposite the teacher who is on the other side of the table.
- 4 I'm writing a letter.
- 5 About all the things I need to do that day.
- 6 At my desk in the corner by the window.

4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions a–f in 3.

Is life improving?

1 Complete the text with the words in the box.

are buying are changing are dying are getting are living are recycling
are spending are working is getting is going is improving is rising

Social trends

Britons are healthier and live longer than ever before. Life in Britain (a) *is improving*, but people are not happier as a result. The Office of National Statistics publishes figures on health, wealth and life satisfaction in their report 'Social Trends'. The latest report indicates:

- The population (b) _____ poorer on average because of the recession and unemployment. However, compared to 20 years ago, people are twice as rich.
- People (c) _____ more of their time online for communication, shopping and entertainment.
- People (d) _____ longer and the population is getting older. Fewer people (e) _____ from heart disease and strokes.
- Partnerships (f) _____; people live together, but there are fewer marriages and more children are born outside marriage.
- More people are living in flats, not houses. The number of people who live on their own (g) _____ and domestic energy consumption (h) _____ up as a result.
- More women (i) _____. The differences between men and women (j) _____ smaller.
- Households (k) _____ more of their rubbish, but people still find it difficult to live more ecologically.
- People (l) _____ nearly all their music online.



2 Work with a partner or your teacher. Discuss the questions.

- Are the social trends described in 1 the same in your own country?
- How is your country different from Britain? What other social trends are there?
- What are the trends in other areas like business and technology?

3 A company wants to make business investments in your country. It needs information about the social conditions. Use 1 as a model to write a short report.