An introduction to the unit

Unit 2 considers the development of the concept and academic study of risk. It looks at different approaches to risk, factors which affect our perception of risk and the idea of the 'risk society'.

Guidance on how to study this unit

The unit is organized in a similar manner to a book, with pages you can turn and a contents system. You will find that all of your units operate on a similar learning unit system.

Learning outcomes for this unit

The following learning outcomes are expected to be achieved by the end of the unit:

- an appreciation of the difficult of defining risk

- an understanding of the changing perceptions of risk and the role of the media

- an understanding of the development of the academic study of risk

- an awareness of the history and development of risk and security as a business

Resource 1: Introduction

An Introduction to the Presentation

This presentation, provided by the Department of Criminology, aims to help you to understand the way in which ideas about risk have developed, through academic study and business practice.

The presentation has been developed using Adobe Presenter. This is an audio visual presentation and you will need either headphones or speakers to listen.

You are encouraged to watch the presentation several times. During the first viewing of the presentation just listen carefully. On the second and subsequent viewings please make notes on what the Lecturer is saying. Identify areas which you find interesting or where you need to search for readings to understand the ideas in more detail.

Click here to watch the presentation https://connect.le.ac.uk/presentation221

Note: your browser may warn you that you are accessing a secure site, this is because the tutorials are hosted on a secure server, just click accept/OK.

Now Consider

Identify three events in the last five years which have changed your own perception of risk. These may be world events or personal experiences. Try to work out how they have changed your attitude to risk.

Resource 2: Popular Understandings of Risk

An Introduction to the Presentation

This presentation, provided by the Department of Criminology, aims to help you to understand how our perceptions of risk are affected by our own experiences and by the media.

The presentation has been developed using Adobe Presenter. This is an audio visual presentation and you will need either headphones or speakers to listen.

You are encouraged to watch the presentation several times. During the first viewing of the presentation just listen carefully. On the second and subsequent viewings please make notes on what the Lecturer is saying. Identify areas which you find interesting or where you need to search for readings to understand the ideas in more detail.

Click here to watch the presentation https://connect.le.ac.uk/presentation222/

Note: your browser may warn you that you are accessing a secure site, this is because the tutorials are hosted on a secure server, just click accept/OK.

Now Consider

Click on the link below to read an article published in the Daily Mail

http://tinyurl.com/7tat34

How do you think this might affect someone's perception of the safety of the injection? Are there any contradictory messages or information that is difficult to understand?

Resource 3: Risk as an Inter-Disciplinary Subject

An Introduction to the Presentation

This presentation, aims to help you to understand the interdisciplinary nature of the study of risk. The presentation has been developed using Adobe Presenter. This is an audio visual presentation and you will need either headphones or speakers to listen.

You are encouraged to watch the presentation several times. During the first viewing of the presentation just listen carefully. On the second and subsequent viewings please make notes on what the Lecturer is saying. Identify areas which you find interesting or where you need to search for readings to understand the ideas in more detail.

Click here to watch the presentation https://connect.le.ac.uk/presentation223/

Note: your browser may warn you that you are accessing a secure site, this is because the tutorials are hosted on a secure server, just click accept/OK.

Now Consider

Consider how the study of either geography or history could contribute to our understanding of risk. Here are two websites which might give you some ideas.

The Geographical Association - http://www.geography.org.uk/

 Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) - http://www.rospa.com/

Enhance your learning
HSE Social amplification of risk. The media & the public.pdf (547.471 Kb)
http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/crr_pdf/2001/crr01329.pdf

Additional Resources

You will have by this point in your studies watched and considered the key resources provided for this unit. It is now necessary to develop the issues and ideas raised in this unit a little further. Below you will find a series of resources to enable you to realise the learning outcomes for this unit.

Required Reading

1. Borodzicz, E. (2006) *Risk, Crisis & Security Management.* Chichester: Wiley Ch.1

Further Reading

Health and Safety Executive (2001) Social amplification of risk: the media and the public: **Click here** **http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/crr_pdf/2001/crr01329.pdf**

This is a long document and you might want to focus on Chapters 3 & 4

External Weblinks

A selection of links to external webpages which will prove helpful to your studies.

UK Government National Risk Register (2008)
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/national_risk_register.aspx

This is an attempt by the UK Government to provide a picture of the risks which people living in the UK face.

Goldacre, B. *Bad Science:* **Click here** http://www.badscience.net/

This is a 'popular science' website which is written by a journalist. It is of interest because he does point out some of the ways in which statistics and media reports can be misleading and make it difficult to assess risks

US Department of Homeland Security http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm

This is the homepage of the US Dept of Homeland Security. It reflects the attitude of the US Government to risk and the messages that are given to people who live in the USA. Try clicking on 'Check the Threat Level' which is on the homepage.

Reflect, Connect & Discuss

Discuss your ideas

You will have encountered a number of new ideas and theories in this unit. Try to reflect on how these ideas offer a perspective on your current job role, your organisation or perhaps even the broader socio-political environment. Share your insights and discuss the ideas of others through the Module discussion forum. The discussion board can be found on the main page for this Module.

Have you completed the unit?

Once you have undertaken the necessary readings, review your progress against the learning outcomes set for this unit. You will find the learning outcomes on the first page of this learning unit. If on reviewing the learning outcomes you find that you cannot satisfy one of the requirements, review what further work is necessary.