

What are your preconceptions?

Answer these questions about yourself:

1. Do you have siblings?
2. Did you grow up with 2 parents or 1?
3. Are you married?
4. Do you have children?

Now write down your answers to these questions about the population:

1. What percentage of children do you think grow up with 2 married parents?
2. How many children does the average family have?
3. How old are first time mothers on average?
4. What percentage of couples have fertility issues?
5. What percentage of couples live together without children?

Now look at the answers overleaf and think how your own background affected your answers. Did you estimate that the average was closer to your own personal experience than it really is?

The answers:

1. What percentage of children do you think grow up with 2 married parents. (71% in 2011 according to the BBC)
2. How many children does the average family have? (1.8)
3. How old are first time mothers on average? (27.8 according to the ONC)
4. What percentage of couples have fertility issues? (1 in 7 according to the HFEA)
5. What percentage of couples live together without children? (25%)