

Task 2: Structured questions – the vital statistics!

A. Address:

How many people lived in Nailor's Row?

How many people live at an address which includes their own surname?

What does this imply about their family?

How do you know that Eastfield was an estate of one family but consisting of three separate properties?

B. Family position:

How many heads of family are there in total?

How many of these are women?

What do each of these women have in common that explains why they are regarded as the head of their family?

How many lodgers are in the town?

Why do you think there are so many?

C. Marital Status:

Who is the youngest married person? Why do you think they married so young?

Who is the youngest widow? What could have happened to their partner?

D. Age:

Who is the oldest person in the village?

Are most of the population 'young' (under 40) or 'old' (over 40)?

Why might this be the case?

Who was the (a) youngest and (b) oldest person in full time work?

Who was the youngest lodger in the town?

How many people were aged between 10-16?

How many of these were still at school (ie 'scholars')?

Who was the oldest person still at school?

E. Family Size / House Size:

What was the largest family size in Coalbrookdale? Give some details about this family.

How many people lived alone in Coalbrookdale? Why do you think there were there so few?

How many people lived in overcrowded conditions (i.e. houses smaller in size than their families)?

F. Sex / Occupation:

What proportion of the population aged over 15 work in the iron industry?

How many of these are men, and how many of these are women?

What proportion of people aged over 15 work as servants?

How many of these are men, and how many are women?

How many of these servants are unmarried? Why was this?

Were the jobs of women in Coalbrookdale generally high- or low-paid? Explain your answer by giving examples.

What proportion of women aged over 15 did not work at all? What do these women tend to have in common to explain this fact?

Using a search engine such as google, or an online dictionary, see if you can find out what the following jobs involved:

- (a) Chaser;
- (b) Sawyer;
- (c) Char woman;
- (d) Crumpet Maker;
- (e) Roll Collector.

G. Town / County of Birth:

How many people living in Coalbrookdale were not born in Salop?

What proportion of these people are women?

What sorts of professions do people who weren't born in the town have?

Why do you think they moved into this area?

Were these effects likely to be positive or negative?