You must choose one from the following contemporary topics from the module:

• Sexual health and contraception (you could also draw on critical perspectives)

• Sexuality and sport

• Bisexuality and/or pansexuality (and perhaps including other plurisexualities)

• Asexuality (and the asexual spectrum)

We also expect that you will draw on some of the other ideas you have learnt on the module in relation to methodologies and perspectives on human sexuality, and/or themes from across the 2 module (e.g., key ideas and concepts including from other topics or from the early lectures on the module).

Details of what is required for each section:

The assessment has two parts: Part 1:

A list of recommendations for sex researchers, practitioners, or cultural producers.

For the first part, you should develop a list of recommendations and you will need to decide who you are making these recommendations for.

They could be for:

Sex researchers: includes anybody who is doing research around sex/sexual practices and/or sexuality.

Practitioners: include groups like sex therapists, sex educators, sexual health promoters – anyone who works practically with human sexuality.

Cultural producers: are people like filmmakers, journalists, and advertisers who create representations of human sexuality. Recommendations for cultural producers should centre on how they can more meaningfully, inclusively, and/or effectively represent human sexuality. NB This is moving into the area of media – you will need to include specific examples of representations in media sources.

If you decide to make recommendations for researchers or practitioners:

This could be for researchers or practitioners generally (e.g., general recommendations to improve practices in relation to your topic for those researching sex and sexuality) OR It could be for more specific researchers or practitioners (e.g., those working in a particular subject area; or those using a particular method, intervention, or theoretical approach, or to overcome methodological limitations in a particular research area).

You can either:

1. Develop your own recommendations; or

2. Draw on recommendations in existing academic and ‘grey’ literature (see below for an explanation of grey literature) to develop your work - but you must indicate your sources and provide references; or

3. Do a mixture of both

If you decide to draw on existing recommendations, please remember that originality is a criterion for this assessment. Therefore, taking your recommendations from a single source alone is unlikely to result in a high mark. We would expect that if you use existing recommendations, then you will be selecting some from multiple sources and perhaps adapting them, and perhaps even including some of your own. These types of strategies to integrate or develop existing sources would help ensure that you had put work in to make them your own.

How to present your recommendations

The recommendations should be presented as list of bulleted or numbered points at the start of the essay.

The aim of the essay will be to make an argument to justify / make the case for why your set of recommendations are so important to your selected audience in relation to your topic. In order to be able to justify these within 1,000 words, we suggest around 3-5 recommendations.

You do not need to include citations in the bulleted or numbered list of recommendations – but if these are drawn from existing sources, please indicate this and cite the relevant sources in your essay/reference list.

Part 2: An essay which provides an argument to explain your recommendations (1,000 words) For the second part, you should write an absolute maximum 1,000-word essay, which provides an argument drawing on relevant evidence from the human sexuality literatures to justify / make the case for your recommendations. This will involve explaining them and developing an evidenced argument that they are important and necessary. Your essay should address the following types of questions:

• Why are these recommendations important?

• What is the rationale or justification for these recommendations (and for each individual recommendation)?

• Why are they necessary?

• What problem(s) are they intended to solve?

• How might they change things?

• You should also address who the recommendations are for and/or who are they intended to influence?

A successful essay will convince the reader that the recommendations are appropriate, justified, and likely to positively influence changes and improvements in practice (hypothetically of course!).

Essay title

The essay should have the title: Making the case for my list of recommendations for sex researchers/practitioners/cultural producers [delete as appropriate] regarding … [specify your focus here].

Here are some examples of the way you might set out your question:

- Making the case for my list of recommendations for cultural producers regarding avoiding heteronormativity in public health messages about sexual health and contraception

- Making the case for my list of recommendations for sex educators regarding asexual/aromantic young people and ensuring meaningful and inclusive sex and relationships education in schools

- Making the case for my list of recommendations for researchers regarding overcoming methodological limitations when researching bisexuality and pansexuality

- Making the case for my list of recommendations for cultural producers regarding representations of non-monogamies in popular culture

Essay structure

**Introduction**

The essay should have an opening paragraph like any other essay – introduce your focus, concisely explain what the essay will cover, and how it is structured, and outline your overall argument and the conclusion you draw.

**Main body**

The main body of the essay should be used to present your case for your recommendations, split into logical paragraphs, and drawing on relevant theory and research. You will need to read and review relevant literature (see below) in your chosen area to identify pertinent problems and potential solutions. You will also need to ensure that your essay refers to your recommendations in justifying them and that you frame and signpost your content.

**Conclusion**

The conclusion should be used to draw out and sum up overarching points and state your overall conclusion.

**Literature**

The primary sources for the essay should be academic literature (e.g., empirical research and theoretical arguments published in academic papers, chapters, and books), But you can supplement this by drawing on relevant grey literature. Grey literature is literature published by non-academic organisations and institutions (e.g., charities, government bodies, privately funded ‘think tanks’ and so on) and encompasses reports of various kinds (including reports of surveys and research), working papers, consultation documents, policy statements and so on.

**What does the word count include and exclude?**

The overall word count includes:

• Your list of recommendations (there is no word count - try to make them clear and concise whilst ensuring they are meaningful and capture the points you are trying to convey)

• The essay (1000 words maximum) to include the essay title, essay content, and citations of references within your essay (e.g., when you write author names and the year of publication to indicate your sources). Note that the word count does include citations in text

Module specification criteria

Text

Description automatically generated

Text

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