**APPLYING THE SOCIOLICAL IMAGINATION TO ISSUES FACING INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

Since colonisation by Europeans in 1788, Indigenous Australians have been forced to deal with a whole raft of social issues. Some of these issues are shared with non-indigenous Australians, some not. Others are issues shared with indigenous people in other colonised countries of the world.

Below is a list of some of the issues that Aboriginal Australians face or are perceived to face in contemporary Australian society:

- Literacy
- Life expectancy
- Negative social attitudes
- Alcoholism
- Sexual Assault
- Death of Language
- Over-representation in the justice system
- Health
- Remoteness
- Infant mortality
- Unemployment
- Child Abuse
- Erosion of cultural identity

**YOUR TASK: APPLYING THE IMAGINATION:**

On the reverse of this sheet, you will find four case studies; each discussing and dealing with an Indigenous person and the issue/issues that are impacting negatively on their lives.

Using the diagram modelled below, apply your own sociological imagination and theorise about the ways in which you can see ‘the public in the private’. Be sure to take into account which wider social forces might have contributed to the factors that are currently impacting upon your four subjects.

By using this model, we are able to ‘step back and look at all of the social forces that have influenced the lives of the people involved.

When writing your mini case studies, create a diagram and provide a written response for each. Take your explanations as far as they can go; if you can link a dozen social factors (or ‘cogs’) together, then do so!

There is no word limit: display your understanding as best you are able.