Summary
This task sheet will begin to explore what the term 'youth transition' means by considering the different types of transitions that young people go through from childhood into adulthood. It will consider why there has been an increasing emphasis upon youth transition during the last 30 years and the extent to which transitions have the way in which young people experience transition into adulthood has changed in recent times.

Keywords: Furlong and Cartmel, extended transitions, fragmented transitions, rites of passage, school-to-work, housing, family.

Questions:

1. **Understanding ‘traditional’ Youth Transitions**

   One the earliest theorists describing youth transition was sociologist Bob Coles (2004). He recognised that so called ‘traditional transitions’ were widespread until the mid-1970s in the UK. Can you briefly explain these three distinct types of youth transition?

   a) School-to-work transition

   b) Family transitions

   c) Housing transition

2. **Changing Nature of Youth Transitions**

   a) In what ways have transitions become more complex and challenging for young people growing up in today’s society? (50 words)

   b) What do Furlong and Cartmel (2007) mean when they use the metaphors of railway and car journeys in explaining the changing nature of youth transitions? (25 words)
3. Contemporary Young Transitions – more fragmented and complex
   a) What is meant by the term ‘failed’ or ‘early’ transitions? Can you provide some contemporary examples?
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   b) What is meant by the term ‘extended transitions’? Explain how this concept best describes young people’s transitions into adulthood in western societies today. (50 words)

4. Youth Policy Changes and Responses
   a) What have been the key changes in education policy related to young people’s transitions in the UK? (50 words)

   b) What is meant by the term ‘boomerang generation’ (Mitchell, 1996; Stone, et al. 2011)? (25 words)