

What is sociology? – Knowledge Organiser 1.3

What is sociology?			
Sociology	The study of the human world, relationships & patterns of behaviour		
Social Science	The study of humans in a scientific manner. Sociology is a social science. Psychology and politics are other examples		
Theory	Explains the relationship between two things	Perspective	A way of seeing something
What is society?			
Society	Living in a particular area and sharing a language or traditions, having a distinct identity from those around them		
Social structures	The parts or institutions that make up society e.g. families, education system, criminal justice system		
Social processes	Processes that involve interaction between groups and individuals. E.g. socialisation, social control, social change		
Social issue or problem	E.g. racism, violent crime, unemployment, poverty		
Social stratification	The way that society is structured or divided into layers e.g. class system		
Social control	Control of people's behaviour		
Culture	A way of life for a particular society includes norms, language and values		
Norms	A normal and expected way to behave		
Shared values (in the UK)	Democracy, the rule of law, tolerance and respect		
Positive sanctions	Rewarding those who conform to norms e.g. through norms		
Negative sanctions	Punishing those who do not conform to norms (via social processes)		
Socialisation			
Nature	Intelligence is inherited or genetic		
Nurture	We learn, from the moment we are born how to fit in with the norms of the society we find ourselves in		
Socialisation	The process by which people learn the culture, norms and values of the group or society they are born into		
Primary socialisation	Takes place in later childhood and continues through our adult lives		
Secondary Socialisation	Beginning in later childhood and continuing through adulthood, learning norms & values		
Political socialisation	The process by which people acquire political beliefs		
Agents of socialisation	Family, school, religion, mass media, workplace, peer group		
Secularisation	The influence of religion in society declines		
Gendered expectations	Men and women are treated differently and behave differently as a result of gendered expectations. Socially constructed differences between men and women – feminine & masculine identities		
Labelling	When the behaviour or identity of individuals is used to classify them – put them into categories (boxes)		
Theories			
Conflict theory	Groups in society are often fighting each other.	Consensus theory	Shared beliefs help us to organise society.
KEY CONCEPTS IN SOCIOLOGY			
Discrimination	Less favorable treatment based on age, ethnicity, sexuality, status or gender	Status	Social positions (e.g. teacher, unemployed youth). The amount of prestige given by society to a particular social position
Power	The dominance or control of one individual group over others	Class	UK traditionally divided into upper, middle & working class. Now thought to be much more complicated with many different levels
Capitalism	An economic system that generates extreme wealth for the bourgeoisie	Prestige	The reputation someone has
Poverty	Low or very low income		