



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **7th Grade** | Unit 5

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 705

Sociology—Man In Groups

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Sociology—Man In Groups

Introduction

Sociology is a science that studies groups of people having common interests or belonging to the same institutions. The sociologist is an observer. He observes social conditions such as crime and poverty, and social institutions such as the family and the church. The sociologist records his observations and attempts to draw conclusions from his observations that will help other human beings.

Because the sociologist is a scientist, he uses scientific methods to study the attitudes, behavior, and relationships in society. Scientific methods, however, cannot always record the changing nature of human beings accurately. As a result, many sociological studies are less accurate than similar studies in such sciences as biology or physics.

In this LIFEPAAC® you will learn what sociology is, how the sociologist studies society, and how to apply sociology.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Define *sociology*.
2. Explain the relationship between sociology and other subjects.
3. Outline briefly the historical development of sociology.
4. Identify the major interests of sociology.
5. Explain the importance of sociology to Christians.
6. Explain the methods sociologists use to study groups of people.
7. Apply sociology in everyday life.
8. Describe your findings accurately.

Survey the LIFE PAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.

A large rectangular area with horizontal green lines, intended for writing questions. The lines are evenly spaced and cover the entire width of the box.

1. AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Before you can apply sociology, you must first understand what sociology is and how it works. In this section you will study the definition of sociology, the relationship of sociology to other

subjects that you study, the development of sociology, the major themes of sociology, and the importance of sociology to Christians.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Define *sociology*.
2. Explain the relationship between sociology and other subjects.
3. Outline briefly the historical development of sociology.
4. Identify the major interests of sociology.
5. Explain the importance of sociology to Christians.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

anthropology (an' thru pol' u jē). The study of man.

cultural accumulation (kul' chur ul u kyü' myu lā' shun). The taking on of new traits by a culture.

cultural assimilation (kul' chur ul u sim' u lā' shun). One culture dominates another until one has nearly disappeared.

culture (kul' chur). Civilization of a given people; customs, arts, and conveniences of that people.

diffusion (di fyü' zhun). The spread of cultural traits from one culture to another.

economic determinism (ē' ku nom' ik di tēr' mu niz um). The view that all social institutions and changes are controlled by economic forces.

emotional contagion (i mō' shu nul kun tā' jun). Shared or common emotional experience or mood.

epistemology (i pis' tu mol' u jē). How we know what we know.

ethnocentrism (eth' nō sen' triz um). Too high an opinion of one's own culture.

folkway (fōk' wā'). Customs long held whose origins are unknown.

futurology (fyü' chu rol' u jē). Analyzing society's present and past to determine where it is headed in the future.

mores (mōr' āz). Customs that stem from absolute right and wrong.

positivism (poz' u tu viz' um). Conclusions based upon observation of facts and not upon reason or revelation.

propaganda (prop' u gan' du). Systematic efforts to spread opinions or beliefs.

real income (rē' ul in' kum). How many goods money can buy.

socialization (sō' shu lu zā' shun). The process by which an individual is made a part of society.

theory (thē' ur ē). Hypothesis proposed as an explanation; reasonable guess.

utopia (yü tō' pē u). An ideal society.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

DEFINITION

Sociology could be defined broadly as *the study of society*. Society refers to any group of people having common interests, backgrounds, or institutions. A society could be a community, a nation, a village, a profession, an income group, or a social class. Sociology is concerned not only with society's basic structure, but also with the changes that take place within society. Some societies may change completely. An example of this kind of change in the United States is the ongoing change from a primarily rural society of family farms to an urban society of city dwellers. The relationship between

groups within a society also may change. In the last twenty-five years, for example, relations between the *blacks* and *whites* in the American South have changed greatly.

Sociology deals with groups rather than with individuals. The study of the individual is more the subject of psychology. Sociology is more interested in how *blacks* as a group relate to *whites* as a group in a community than in how Mr. Jones, who is black, gets along with Mr. Smith, who is white. To use a Biblical example, sociology would be more concerned with the rivalry between the tribes of Judah and Benjamin than with the personal rivalry between David and Saul.

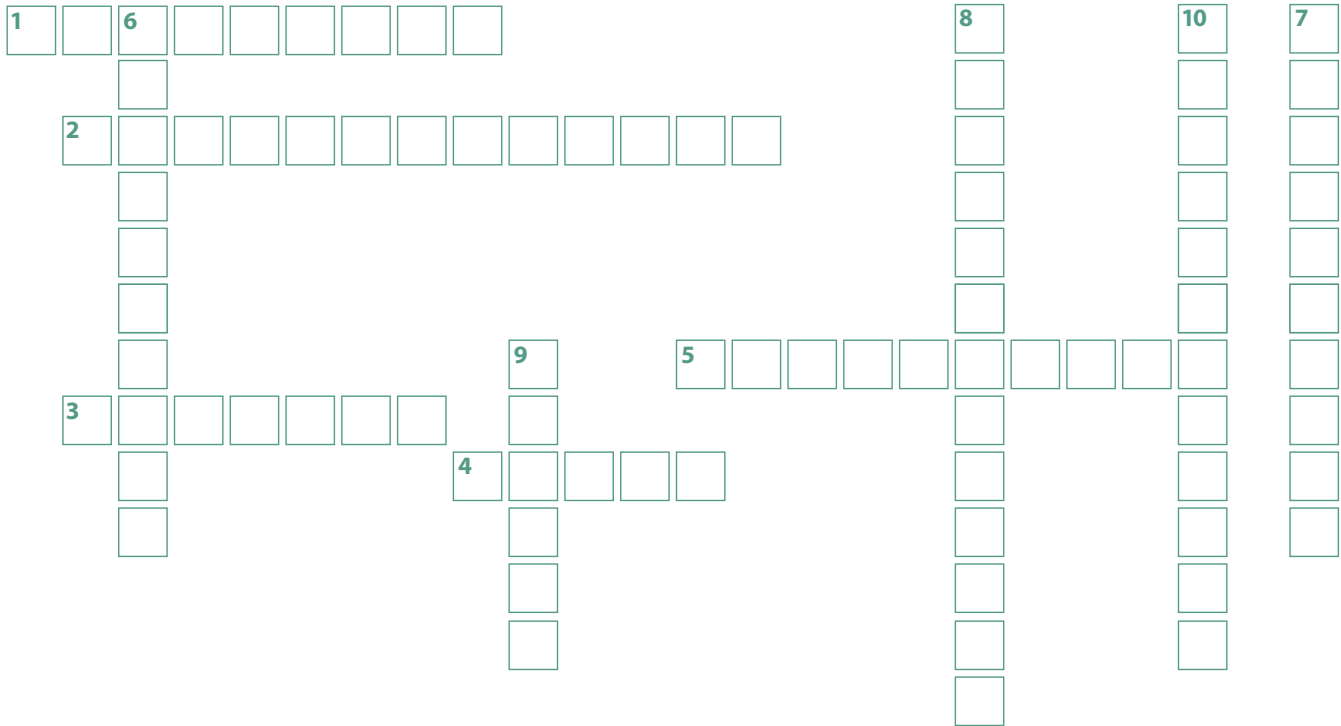


Match these vocabulary words with their definitions.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|----|---|
| 1.1 | _____ anthropology | a. | hypothesis proposed as an explanation; reasonable guess. |
| 1.2 | _____ culture | b. | the study of man. |
| 1.3 | _____ cultural assimilation | c. | how many goods money can buy. |
| 1.4 | _____ cultural accumulation | d. | civilization of a given people; customs, arts, and conveniences of that people. |
| 1.5 | _____ economic determinism | e. | shared or common emotional experience or mood. |
| 1.6 | _____ emotional contagion | f. | one culture dominates another until one is nearly disappeared. |
| 1.7 | _____ real income | g. | the view that all social institutions and changes are controlled by economic forces |
| 1.8 | _____ theory | h. | the taking on of new traits by a culture. |

Write true or false.

- 1.9 _____ A broad definition of *sociology* is the *study of society*.
- 1.10 _____ Society refers to any group of people having common interests, backgrounds, or institutions.
- 1.11 _____ A society can be a social class but not a community.
- 1.12 _____ Sociology is concerned with the changes that take place within society.
- 1.13 _____ The changing from farm life to city life is an example of society changing.
- 1.14 _____ Sociology is concerned with individuals and not groups.
- 1.15 _____ A Biblical example which might concern the sociologist is the rivalry between the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
- 1.16 _____ Relationships between groups within a society are liable to change.



Complete the vocabulary crossword.

1.17

ACROSS

1. The spread of cultural traits from one culture to another.
2. Too high an opinion of one’s own culture.
3. Customs long held whose origins are unknown.
4. Customs that stem from absolute right and wrong.
5. Based upon observation of facts and not upon reason or revelation.

DOWN

6. Analyzing society’s present and past to determine where it is headed in the future.
7. Systematic efforts to spread opinions or beliefs.
8. The process by which an individual is made a part of society.
9. An ideal society.
10. How we know what we know.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS

Because sociology studies groups of people and institutions, it overlaps other subjects that also study groups of people and institutions. Subjects, such as psychology, **anthropology**, economics, history, political science, and philosophy, study areas that are also studied by sociology.

Psychology. Psychology studies individuals. Sociology studies groups of people. The emphasis of each subject is different, but the sociologist cannot ignore the work of the psychologist any more than the psychologist can ignore the work of the sociologist. An individual belongs to several groups, and his behavior is influenced by the members of each group.

Groups, on the other hand, are made up of individuals and can only survive with the cooperation of each individual. If one individual does not fit into the group, the unity of the whole group can be destroyed. The relationship between David and Saul influenced the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, just as the relationship between these two tribes influenced David and Saul.

The area of sociology that studies the relationship between individuals and groups is called *social psychology*. Some sociologists and psychologists say that social psychology is a separate subject.

Anthropology. Another subject often linked with sociology is anthropology. Anthropology is also a science that studies man. Anthropology is often divided into two areas: *physical anthropology*, which studies the origin and development of different races of man; and *cultural anthropology*, which studies the **culture** of different groups of people.

Since culture includes a study of the customs, arts, institutions, manners, language, and technology of a civilization at a certain time, the cultural anthropologist shares the sociologist's interest in groups of people and the institutions they create.



| Physical anthropology digs into the past to study man's origins.

Economics. Economics is the study of the production of goods and services in an organized society, and the reasons why certain goods are produced and others are not. Economics was once considered part of sociology. Economics is necessarily restricted to examining material goods. Sociologists are not concerned with purely economic matters such as money supply, inflation rates, or supply and demand, but rather with the effects of these matters on men.

Some economic factors, however, are directly related to sociology. Employment figures, for example, interest the sociologist as well as the economist. Inflation directly relates to sociology. As **real income** changes, people's living patterns often change. The sociologist studies the effects of this change on the people whose income has changed.

Economists often study sociological changes because these changes can affect economic conditions. If the sociologist, for example, observes that the population in a certain city is expanding, the economist will begin to examine the financial effects of such a change on the city.

History. History also studies man. However, history is concerned with facts, with recording major events of the past such as wars or political changes, and events that affected many

people or countries. The historian studies groups of people, but he studies them only as part of a historical event. Generally, the historian does not observe a group of people so that he can speculate about other groups of people in similar circumstances.

The sociologist may study the same historical group of people so that he can use what he learns about this group to help people who find themselves in the same situation. The sociologist, for example, might study the leaders of the American Revolution, the events which led to the revolution, and the results of their actions after the revolution. The sociologist will then take this information and compare the men, events, and results with modern revolutions. After this study the sociologist may say that if men are subject to unjust taxes, they might react as the early colonists did, and they might revolt.

The historian, on the other hand, is obliged to record the facts. The historian records the major men, events, and results of the American Revolution. The historian does not, however, try to say what would happen in similar circumstances today.

History and sociology have recently come closer together. The modern studies of the history of minority groups, such as the history

of blacks in the South or the history of Spanish-speaking people in the Southwest, have recorded sociological changes that have allowed minorities more freedom.

Political science. Political science studies the principles and conduct of government. Since government is a human institution, the relationship to sociology is more obvious. People campaigning for city, state, or federal government offices seek the vote from unions, blacks, church groups, parents, teachers, and any other group that will mean more support and more votes for them. Groups have an impact on a democratic government. The sociologist studies the effects of government on groups of people, as well as the effects of groups on government policies and procedures.

Philosophy. Philosophy is a very ancient subject that studies truth and knowledge. At one time philosophy included nearly every subject except theology. Philosophy deals with the question of *how we know what we know*, or **epistemology**.

Sociology is linked to philosophy when the sociologist strives to find the truth behind his observations and when he speculates about the overall nature of individuals and their relationships.

**Answer these questions.**

1.18 Why are sociologists and psychologists unable to ignore one another's work? _____

1.19 What is *economics*? _____

1.20 What are two types of anthropology?

a. _____ b. _____

1.21 What is *anthropology*? _____

Match these items.

1.22 _____ economics

a. development and culture of man

1.23 _____ history

b. principles of government

1.24 _____ philosophy

c. restricted to examining material goods

1.25 _____ psychology

d. studies individuals

1.26 _____ anthropology

e. recording major events of the past

1.27 _____ political science

f. studies truth and knowledge

Complete these statements.

1.28 The area of sociology that studies the relationship between individuals and groups is called _____.

1.29 Physical anthropology studies _____

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|----|--|
| 1.01 | _____ sociology | a. | study of man's past |
| 1.02 | _____ anthropology | b. | study of government |
| 1.03 | _____ psychology | c. | how we know what we know |
| 1.04 | _____ economics | d. | study of man and his material needs |
| 1.05 | _____ history | e. | study of society |
| 1.06 | _____ political science | f. | ideal society |
| 1.07 | _____ philosophy | g. | study of individual behavior |
| 1.08 | _____ epistemology | h. | a set of people with a common interest |
| 1.09 | _____ utopia | i. | study of ways of thinking and acting |
| 1.010 | _____ group | j. | study of man |
| | | k. | study of truth of knowledge |

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011 Two kinds of anthropology are a. _____ and b. _____ .
- 1.012 Sociology deals with _____ rather than with individuals.
- 1.013 In Scripture, the ideal society is the _____ of God.
- 1.014 The two institutions of society often mentioned in the Bible are the
a. _____ and the b. _____ .
- 1.015 An association that serves a public purpose and is of long duration is a/an
_____ .
- 1.016 Groups characterized by close personal contact and mutual dependence are
_____ groups.
- 1.017 The most obvious example of a primary group is a _____ .
- 1.018 A group that is more formalized and objective is a _____ group.
- 1.019 All the ways of thinking and acting that a person acquires from society are his
_____ .
- 1.020 Culture is _____ , rather than inherited.

1.021 The spread of cultural traits from one culture to another is called _____ .

1.022 Everyone begins life as a/an _____ .

Write true or false (each answer, 1 point).

1.023 _____ The invention of the automobile caused many social changes.

1.024 _____ The “father of sociology” was Auguste Comte.

1.025 _____ The first true scientific sociologist was Durkheim.

1.026 _____ Karl Marx is best known for providing the basis for communism.

1.027 _____ Herbert Spencer attempted to apply the theory of biological evolution to sociology.

1.028 _____ Marx and Engels believed in economic determinism.

1.029 _____ Max Weber is famous for his use of realistic types.

1.030 _____ The process through which an individual is made a part of society is socialization.

Complete this activity (each answer, 2 points).

1.031 Write *P* for a primary group or *S* for a secondary group for each of the following phrases.

a. _____ a once-a-week class of two hundred students

b. _____ a family

c. _____ a church

d. _____ friends in an office

e. _____ fellow employees

f. _____ people of a community

Complete this list (each answer, 3 points).

1.032 Five major interests of sociologists are

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

78
97

SCORE _____

TEACHER _____

initials

date



HIS0705 – May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-1-58095-185-2



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