

**Social sciences** are a group of subjects which focus on society and how it functions as well as how the individuals within that society function and behave. They include sociology, Psychology and Politics.

**Social Institutions** are the structures in society which influence how society is structured and managed. They include Family, Media, Education and the Government.

**Sociological Imagination** means the ability to see things socially and how they interact and influence each other. To have a sociological imagination, a person must be able to pull away from the situation and think from an alternative point of view.

**Values** are the goals that society tells us we should be aiming for in order to be considered a success.

**Norms** are the unwritten rules of behaviour within a society. The rules which tell the difference between right and wrong as well as rude and polite.

Socialisation means the process of learning the norms and values of society. It happens in 2 stages: Primary socialisation occurs in the family or through the primary care givers. Secondary Socialisation reinforces primary socialisation through social institutions such as education and the media.

### Definition of Sociology.

The systematic study of society and its institutions

### Social Groups

C	Class
A	Age
D	Disability
G	Gender
E	Ethnicity
S	Sexuality



### Sociological Perspectives

	Outline	Key Thinkers
Functionalism	Structural consensus approach to society. Believe that the institutions of society work together in order to maintain social cohesion and social order. They believe that society is similar to the human body – Organic Analogy.	Durkheim Parsons Merton
Marxism	A structural conflict approach that believes that society is in conflict between the classes. They believe that the Bourgeoisie oppress the Proletariat through various social institutions without their full knowledge.	Marx Engels Althusser Gramsci
Feminism	A set of structural conflict approaches which see society as a conflict between men and women. They look at ways that women are oppressed/disadvantaged by various social institutions and the means by which equality can be achieved.	Oakley Firestone
Interactionism	A micro set of approaches which look at how the individual influences their society through their interactions with others and the social institutions. Interactionism includes Phenomenology, Ethnomethodology, Social Action theory and Symbolic interactionism	Goffman Cooley Weber
Postmodernism	A broad approach which sees society in a more diverse and less structured way. They believe that people have much more choice which means that they shape their reality and culture to their own needs.	Lyotard Baudrillard Foucault Giddens

Who is Auguste Comte?

August Comte is the father of modern sociology. He gave the science of sociology its name and applied the methods of the natural science to the study of society.