

Key Terms in Sociology

1	social institutions	The organisations or groups within society that are united behind a common purpose e.g. family, education, media.
2	culture	The whole way of life of a society: language, beliefs, values and norms, customs
3	norms	Social rules which define the acceptable behaviour in a society or social group, to which people are expected to conform.
4	values	Beliefs or ideas about what is right and wrong, desirable and worth striving for in a society. They provide general guidelines for behaviour.
5	socialisation	The lifelong process through which people learn the culture of the society in which they live.
6	primary socialisation	The earliest and most important part of socialisation that happens within the family which includes the teaching of norms and values.
7	secondary socialisation	The socialisation that we receive later in life from institutions such as education, media and work.
8	social class	A group of people sharing a similar economic situation, such as occupation, income and ownership of wealth.
9	income	The amount of money that people obtain from work, investments or from the government.
10	wealth	The property that individuals own which could be sold and turned into cash.
11	life chances	The chances of achieving positive outcomes and avoiding negative outcomes throughout the course of your life - such as a comfortable home and avoiding ill health.
12	social mobility	The movement from one social class to another.
13	ethnicity	The shared culture of a social group which gives its members a common identity
14	minority ethnic group	A social group which shares a cultural identity which is different from that of the majority population of a society.
15	gender	Social or cultural expectations and ideas associated with being male or female.