

Chapter 1 What is Sociology

Answers to QuickCheck Questions on page 12

1. They show that basic human social characteristics are not inborn or instinctive. We have to learn to be 'normal human beings' through contact with others in our early years.
2. (a) All those things learned and shared by a group, including knowledge, beliefs, norms and values
(b) Specific rules of behaviour (c) The process of learning one's culture.
3. Ascribed status is where our position in society is determined by fixed characteristics that we are born with and cannot normally change. Achieved status is where our position is the result of our effort and ability.
4. The structural view sees society as shaping the individual. The social action view sees individuals as having choice, creating social reality through their interactions.
5. The bourgeoisie exploit the workers and profit from their labour. This exploitation breeds class conflict.
6. It enables members of society to agree on goals and how to achieve them and so allows them to cooperate harmoniously.
7. A male-dominated society.
8. Inequalities between groups such as social classes, men and women, ethnic groups and age groups.
9. (a) Modern; (b) traditional; (c) postmodern.
10. It can usually only study small numbers of people.