

INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGY

Exercise 1. Learn the following words and word combinations.

Alliance — союз

individual — особа, людина

to examine — досліджувати; розглядати; обстежувати

to maintain — підтримувати; утримувати

clique — кліка

family arrangement — сімейний устрій

makeup — склад, структура

mold — формувати (характер)

inflation — інфляція

to bridge — з'єднувати

pattern — зразок, модель

ready-made answers — готові відповіді

recruiting problems — проблеми, що час від часу повторюються

to arrange household — влаштувати домашнє господарство

to provide child care — піклуватися про дитину

framework — каркас, конструкція, острів

inequality — нерівність, неоднаковість

social stratification — соціальна стратифікація

gender stratification — гендерна стратифікація

to share — надавати (форми, вигляду), утворювати

attribute — приписувати (вважати наслідком чогось); поєднувати

consequence — наслідок, результат, значення

Exercise 2. Read and translate text 1.

TEXT 1. WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

*Sociology* is the systematic study of the groups and societies humans build and of the way these alliances affect our behavior. Sociologists do not limit themselves to the study of individuals for explanations of history, current events, and private lives. Rather they examine the way social institutions, such as the family, the education system, or the

economy, influence individuals. They also study the way social institutions, and even whole social societies, are created and maintained or changed.

Sociology begins with the observation that humans are intensely social creatures. Virtually everything we do — from making war or making a profit — we do with others. We are constantly building and rebuilding groups — from families and lunchroom cliques to multinational corporations and international alliances. We also group people in our minds; that is, we sort them into social categories according to their age, sex, race, occupation, income, presumed mental health and other characteristics.

Our private hopes and fears, our experiences and opportunities, our identities and behavior all reflect these social arrangements.

We are who we are in part because of the society into which we were born and because of our particular place in that society. Your daily life, your friends and your future would be very different if you were a homeless street person or a corporate executive officer (CEO), a shepherd in Nepal or factory worker in Beijing. Societies vary in terms of their population, their economic activities, their political systems, their family arrangements, their religious beliefs, and many other factors. The structure, or makeup, of society both creates and limits opportunities.

The main lesson, and message, of sociology is that the structure of society affects people, molding both their attitudes and their behaviors.

Sociology is part of the family of social sciences, which includes psychology, anthropology, economics, political science, and parts of history. All social sciences are concerned with human behavior. But also they share the same basic subject matter, each social science focuses on a different aspect of behavior. Psychologists are most interested in the internal sources of behavior; sociologists, in the external sources of behavior. Psychologists study the workings of the nervous system and the effects of neurotransmitters, hormones or stress on individuals. Sociologists study the workings of society and the effects of inflation, changing attitudes toward religion, or political revolution on people. Psychologists focus on personality — on the behavior and attitudes that are characteristic of a person regardless of the situation. Sociologists focus on social roles — on the behavior and attitudes that are characteristic of people in a given situation regardless of their individual personalities.

*Social psychology*, which bridges the two fields, studies the impact of groups on individual behavior and of individuals on group behavior. Sociologists not only study groups but also large-scale, or «formal», organizations, in which particular individuals have relatively little influence. A major area of interest for sociologists is social institutions. *Social institutions* are established patterns of action and thought that organize impor-