

tant social activities — the family, education, religion, the political and economic systems. These institutions provide ready-made answers to the recurring problems of life: how to make community decisions (the political system), how to produce and distribute goods and services (the economic system), how to arrange households and provide child care (the family), and so on. Also individuals and groups in the same society may vary in the way they organize their own families and in their attitudes toward education and although these social institutions may change over time, they nevertheless provide a basic framework.

Perhaps the most unique feature of sociology is its focus on institutionalized inequality, or *social stratification*. Sociologists study how social class, racial and ethnic group, gender, and age stratification shape people's lives. Sociologists do not take social differences for granted; nor do they attribute social inequality to motivation, personality, genes, or hormones. Rather, sociologists examine the social construction of these differences and the social consequences of stratification.

### Exercise 3. Answer the questions.

1. What is sociology?
2. What are the practical uses of sociology? How can it help you understand your own life?
3. What is the main message of sociology?
4. Why is sociology part of the family of social sciences?
5. In what way does sociology differ from psychology?
6. What are social institutions?

*Exercise 4. Say whether the following statements are true or false according to the text.*

1. Sociology is the scientific study of the groups and societies we build and how these alliances affect our behavior.

2. Sociologists limit themselves to the study of individuals.

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

4. The main goal of sociology is to show how the society in which people live and how the positions they occupy in that society, at a particular period in history, influence individuals' attitude, beliefs and behavior.

5. Sociology confirms that individuals and groups in the same society are similar in the way they organize their families and in their attitude toward ideas, events, education etc.

*Exercise 5. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words and phrases.*

1. Sociologists examine the way . . . . ., such as the family, the education system, the economy, influence individuals. 2. We sort people into . . . . . according to their age, sex, race, occupation, income and other characteristics. 3. Our private hopes and fears, our experiences and opportunities, our identities and behavior all reflect . . . . . 4. Societies vary in terms of their . . . . ., their . . . . ., their . . . . ., their . . . . ., and many other factors. 5. The structure, or . . . . . of society both creates and limits opportunities. 6. . . . . are established patterns of action and thought that organize important social activities — the family, education, religion, the political and economic systems.

### Exercise 4. Say it in English.

Соціологія; союз; особа (людина); поведінка; особисте життя; розглядати; соціальні інститути; впливати; суспільство; утримувати; створіння; прибуток; класифікувати (групувати); досвід; можли-вості; устрій (систематизація); економічна діяльність; політична си-стема; релігійні погляди; структура; бути пов'язаним з; інфляція; соціальні ролі; вплив; зразки (моделі) поведінки; давати вже готові відповіді; проблемні, що час від часу повторюються; виготовляти; роз-повсюджувати (розподіляти); відрізнятися; нерівність; соціальна стра-тифікація; гендерна стратифікація; утворювати; пояснювати; наслідок.

*Exercise 7. Write the plural forms of the following nouns. Group them according to the pronunciation rules: [s], [z], [ɪz].*

Sociology, group, society, alliance, life, institution, family, message, source, stress, behavior, answer, share, science, group, age, sex, race, oc-  
cupation, individual, opportunity, income, identity.

### Exercise 8. Learn the following words and word combinations.

Sociological imagination — соціальна уява  
experiences — життєвий досвід

prospects — перспективи

private troubles — особисті проблеми

public issues — суспільні проблеми

individual — особистість

personal relationships — особисті стосунки

solution — рішення

public values — суспільні цінності

social causes — соціальні причини

cutback in funds — скорочення фінансування