SOCIOLOGY

Core sociological concepts

Socialisation	The lifelong process of learning the norms, values and culture of society. Primary socialisation happens in the family, secondary elsewhere.
Norms	Unwritten rules about how to behave in particular situations, such as queueing or staying quiet in a library.
Values	Shared beliefs about what is important or desirable in a society, such as honesty or respect for life.
Status	A person's position in society. Ascribed status is given at birth. Achieved status is earned.
Culture	The language, beliefs, customs, values and way of life shared by a group or society.
Deviance	Behaviour that breaks the norms of a society. It is not always illegal and varies between societies and over time.
Stereotype	An oversimplified, fixed idea about a group that is assumed to be true of everyone in it.

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