

## 2. Sociology & Other Social Science

### a. Sociology & Psychology

Psychologists study what goes on inside your head and adjoining parts of your body. They study things as thinking and emotions. As a very general distinction psychology deals with individuals, and sociology deals with what goes on between individuals. Sociology and psychology have important things to say to each other, of course. How a person thinks and feels will affect the way he or she thinks and feels. A special field called, "social psychology", in fact, addresses the link between sociology and psychology. The main distinction between psychology and sociology, then, is one of emphasis, with psychology emphasizing the personal and sociology emphasizing the interpersonal.

### The Questions

1. What do psychologists study?
2. What is the very general distinction between psychology and sociology?
3. What is the field that addresses the link between sociology and psychology?
4. What is the main emphasis that psychology and sociology deal with?

### b. Sociology & Anthropology

Anthropology is a lot like sociology. Anthropologists also study social interaction and social relationships. Traditionally, however, anthropologists have studied preliterate people, while sociologists have studied what are called sometimes erroneously - "civilized" ones. In recent years, this distinction between anthropology and sociology has grown less clear, with anthropologists paying more attention to modern, complex societies, and sociologists occasionally examining preliterate ones. Anthropologists sometimes study aspects of social life that sociologists tend to ignore. Anthropologists, for example, are more concerned with artifacts: human products such as arrowheads, pottery, weaving and other objects that people make in certain ways because of the group they live in. Physical anthropologists study the physical characteristics of people such as the width of their skulls, and length of their arms. Archaeology the study of past societies, is generally regarded as a subfield of anthropology.

## The Questions

1. Is anthropology a lot like sociology? *Yes, it is*
2. What have anthropologists studied? ✓
3. What have sociologists studied?
4. What has happened in recent years as far as the distinction is concerned between anthropology and sociology?
5. Give some examples about what anthropologists are concerned with? ✓

## c. Sociology & Economics

Economists study relationships and interactions among people also, but economics is more limited in scope than sociology. Basically, economists are interested in the exchange of goods and services, how people get what other people have. Economic exchange is important to sociology, too, but sociologists study noneconomic relationships and interactions as well.

## The Questions

1. What do economists study? ✓
2. What kind of activity that economists are interested in? *Yes, it is*
3. Is economics more limited in scope than sociology? ✓
4. What is meant by the term economic exchange?
5. Is the idea of exchange important to sociology too? *Yes, it is*

## d. Sociology & Political Science

Political science is another specialized field focusing on power relationships among people. Thus, political scientists study different kinds of governments and interpersonal processes such as voting, war, and bureaucratic administration through which power is exercised. Power relationships are important to sociologists, just as economic ones are, so political science and economics are both useful to sociology. By the same token, economics and political science have both profited from the theories and research of sociologists.

## The Questions

1. What is meant by the term political science? ✓
2. What do political scientists study? ✓
3. Are power relationships important to sociology? *Yes, they are*
4. Have both economics and political science profited from sociology?

*Yes, they have*