

**SOCIAL SCIENCE • CLASS 9**

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **Understanding Social Science**

**CHAPTER NOTES**



# UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Social Science is the systematic study of human society.
- It studies people, institutions, cultures and human interactions.
- It explains not only WHAT happens, but also WHY it happens and HOW different parts of life are connected.
- It explores how people live together, how governments function, how economies operate, how environments influence life, and how the past shapes the present.



A clear comparison:

## NATURAL SCIENCES

— study the natural world;  
examples: Physics,  
Chemistry, Biology.



## SOCIAL SCIENCE

— studies society and  
human life.



★ Social Science helps us understand society as one connected whole. ★

# SOCIAL SCIENCE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

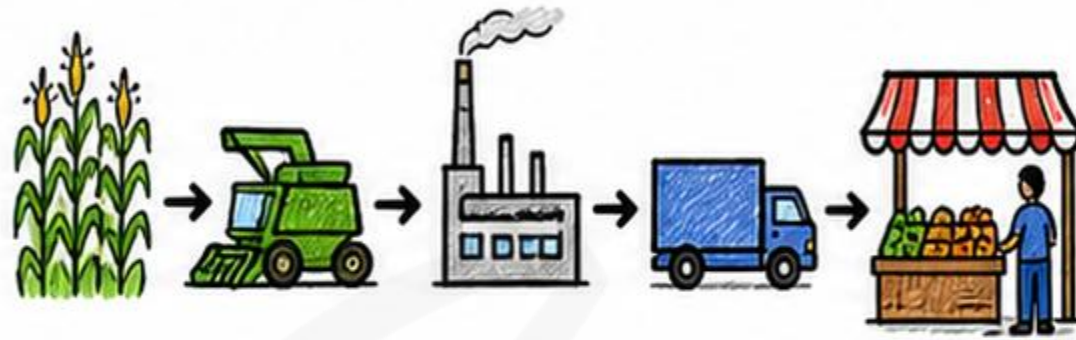
An ordinary day depends on many connected social systems.

## ① HOME



building materials come from different places.

## ② FOOD



crops are harvested, processed, transported, bought and sold through the work of many people.

## ③ ROADS & TRANSPORT



planned and maintained by public authorities.

## ④ SCHOOL



shaped by educational policies and programmes.

## ⑤ ELECTRICITY



generated at distant power stations and delivered through a large network.



## GOVERNANCE

rules, laws and decisions that guide society.



## ECONOMIC PRODUCTION

goods and services are produced, exchanged and used.



## SOCIAL COOPERATION

people work together in families and communities.



## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

land, water, air and resources sustain life.

Even simple daily activities depend on people, places and systems working together.

# QUESTIONS, EVIDENCE AND REASONING



Society does not function by chance.  
It is shaped by history, geography, institutions,  
resources and human choices.



## QUESTIONS SOCIAL SCIENTISTS INVESTIGATE

- ? Why are some settlements crowded cities while others are scattered villages?
- ? Why do communities have different languages and traditions?
- ? Why do some regions depend on farming and others on industry or trade?
- ? How do governments make decisions affecting many people?
- ? Why are some regions more prone to floods?
- ? How does climate change influence people's lives?

## HOW ANSWERS ARE BUILT



OBSERVE



ASK A  
CLEAR  
QUESTION



COLLECT  
EVIDENCE



COMPARE



USE  
LOGICAL  
REASONING



EXPLAIN  
CAUSES &  
EFFECTS



**Local change:** new road → easier travel and trade,  
but possible effects on land and traffic.



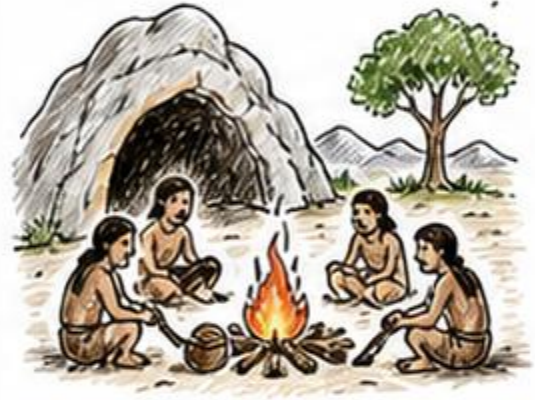
Good explanations connect people, places, events and systems.



# SOCIETY THROUGH TIME

Society has changed greatly over thousands of years.

①  
EARLY  
COMMUNITIES



depended directly  
on nature for  
survival.



②  
FARMING &  
ANIMALS



people learnt to  
grow crops and  
domesticate animals.



③  
TOOLS &  
SETTLEMENTS



tools improved and  
permanent settlements  
developed.



④  
EXCHANGE &  
GOVERNANCE



goods were exchanged  
and systems of  
governance were  
organised.



⑤  
VILLAGES →  
TOWNS → CITIES



settlements grew  
in size and  
complexity.



⑥  
IDEAS, INVENTIONS &  
CULTURAL EXCHANGE



gradually transformed  
ways of life.



## CONTINUITY

things that endure;



## CHANGE

new practices, institutions  
and relationships;



## EVIDENCE

helps us trace how the  
past shaped the present.

Understanding the past helps us make wiser choices for the future.

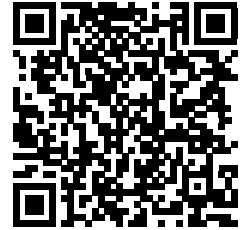


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