ENGLISH IN FOCUS
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ENGLISH IN FOCUS

English in Education

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1 Sociology and Education

I READING AND COMPREHENSION

1 Sociology is the term used to describe the scientific study of human society. 2 Other fields of study, such as philosophy and psychology, examine the behaviour of individuals. 3 Sociologists, however, study the groups formed by human beings, the nature of these groups, and the way people behave within groups.

Study the following statements carefully and write down whether they are true or not true according to the information expressed above. Then check your answers by referring to the solutions at the end of the passage.*

(a) Sociology is a field of study which examines human society.
(b) Sociologists study groups rather than individuals.

4 There are, therefore, two main starting points in the study of human behaviour: the individual and the group. 5 The concept of the group is perhaps harder to grasp than that of the individual. 6 There are so many different kinds of group: the family, the school, the football team, the village, and so on. 7 The individual, on the other hand, is easier to imagine, as we are used to looking at the personal desires, motives, actions and achievements of individual people. 8 The sociologist changes our perspective by showing how the group affects and is affected by the individual’s desires and motives. 9 He shows how the group influences individuals by encouraging or hindering different types of action.

(c) Studying individuals is the starting point in studying human behaviour.
(d) It is difficult to grasp the concept of the group because there are so many different kinds of group.

* The following symbols are used in the solutions:
e.g. for example
i.e. that is to say
→ equals, means the same as
≠ does not equal, does not mean the same as
∴ therefore
Solutions
(a) Sociology is the scientific study of human society. (1) 
Other fields of study examine the behaviour of individuals. (2) 
∴ Sociology is a field of study. 
∴ Sociology is a field of study which examines human society.
(b) Other fields of study examine the behaviour of individuals. (2) 
Sociologists, however, study groups (not individuals). (3) 
i.e. Sociologists study groups rather than individuals.
(c) There are two main starting points in the study of human behaviour: the individual and the group. (4) 
The starting point = the only starting point 
∴ It is not true that studying individuals is the (only) starting point in studying human behaviour.
(d) The concept of the group is harder to grasp. (5) 
There are so many different kinds of group. (6) 
i.e. There are so many different kinds of group that the concept of the group is hard to grasp. 
∴ It is difficult to grasp the concept of the group because there are so many different kinds of group.

EXERCISE A Meaning assessment
Look at the following statements. Decide whether they are true or not true. Say which statement expresses the main meaning of the passage.
2. Sociologists show how individuals influence groups, and groups affect individuals.

EXERCISE B Contextual reference
Look at this sentence:
Sociologists study the groups formed by human beings and the nature of these groups.
The boxes and line show that these groups refers back to the groups formed by human beings. 
Now write out the following sentences. One word or phrase has been put in a box. Put a box round the other word or phrase that it refers to, and link the two boxes with a line, as in the example above.
1. The concept of the group is perhaps harder to grasp than that of the individual.

2. There are, therefore, two main starting points in the study of human behaviour: the individual and the group.
3. The sociologist changes our perspective by showing how the group affects and is affected by the individual's desires and motives. He shows how the group influences individuals.

EXERCISE C Rephrasing
In the following sentences some expressions are in italics. Replace them with other expressions from the text which have the same meaning.
1. Sociologists study the groups formed by human beings.
2. Sociologists study the way people behave.
3. The sociologist shows how the group affects individuals.
4. The concept of the group is perhaps harder to grasp than that of the individual.

EXERCISE D Relationship between statements
Look at this diagram:

A
Sociologists have studied many aspects of education, for example the organization of schools, the curriculum, and the interaction between teacher and pupil.

B

For example is a linking expression. It joins the two parts of the sentence, and shows that Part B is an example of Part A.

Write out two sentences from the following phrases by putting in for example as a linking expression.
the family, the school, philosophy and psychology,
the football team, the village and so on examine the behaviour of individuals
there are so many different kinds of groups other fields of study

EXERCISE E Definitions and statements based on diagrams
1. Look at the following diagrams, and use them to write as many different forms as possible of the definition of sociology.
EXAMPLE

The scientific study of society is called sociology.

2. Now look up the following words in the dictionary:
   history, geology, zoology, geography, biology, etymology, physics, chemistry.
   Write definitions of these words, using the above diagrams as models.
3. Study these diagrams, and use them to write out as many statements as you can about sociologists and psychologists.

EXAMPLE

Psychologists are concerned with the study of individuals.

4. Now look up the following words in a dictionary:
   linguist, archaeologist, anthropologist, ornithologist, botanist, astronomer.
B. Check the following statements with the information given in your table to see if they are right or wrong.

1. The child’s major role in the family is that of a peer.
2. The child’s major role in the church or religious organization is that of an active member.
3. The child’s major role in the group of friends is that of a brother.
4. The child’s major role in the school class is that of a member.
5. The child’s major role in the team is that of an active member or leader.

C. Using the information given in the diagram, write as many statements as possible about the child’s different roles in different groups.

**EXAMPLE**

The child’s role in the school class is that of a pupil.

### III FORMS AND FUNCTIONS

**EXERCISE A  The use of the definite article**

Look at the definite article where it is printed in italics in these sentences:

*The* child learns the behaviour patterns of the group into which he is born.

There are many different kinds of group: *the* family, *the* school, *the* football team, *the* village, and so on.

The definite article is often used with a singular noun to show that the single noun represents a whole class of objects.

Thus:

*The child* learns the behaviour patterns of the group into which he is born.

All children learn the behaviour patterns of the group into which they are born.

1. Rewrite the following sentences, using the definite article and singular nouns whenever you can to replace expressions referring to a whole class of objects.

**EXAMPLE**

Children absorb a great deal of knowledge about the world through contact with their families.

The child absorbs a great deal of knowledge about the world through contact with his family.

(a) Families have their own regular patterns of behaviour.

(b) One of the functions of families is to prepare children for the larger world.

(c) Adults act as intermediaries between children and the wider society and so children learn to see society in the way adults do.

(d) Families are changing fast in the modern world as wives go out to work and thus gain economic independence from their husbands.

(e) Families are also changing as a result of urbanization, that is, movement of the population away from villages into cities.

(f) In cities, small communities can become isolated from the others, and this can lead to serious social divisions.

2. Read the following pairs of sentences carefully and decide whether the second sentence of each pair accurately gives the meaning of the first.

(a) As children grow up, they encounter and join different groups.

As the child grows up, he encounters and joins a different group.

(b) Children of the same age who form a group are called 'peer-group'.

The child of the same age who forms a group is called 'peer-group'.

(c) Peer groups have their own order and structure which they impose on the children within them.

The peer group has its own order and structure which it imposes on the children within it.

(d) Sometimes teachers demand different behaviour from that required by the peer groups, and children may experience conflict as a result.

Sometimes the teacher demands different behaviour from that required by the peer group, and the child may experience conflict as a result.

(e) Groups can put strong pressures on individuals to behave in a certain way.

A group can put strong pressures on an individual to behave in a certain way.

**EXERCISE B  Sentence formation from words**

When reading sociological texts, you are often asked to look at familiar things in a new way. This may be suggested by the use of the following expressions:

**Nouns**

- perspective
- point of view
- emphasis

**Verbs**

- focus on
- view . . . as
- see . . . as
- look upon . . . as

**Examples**

In sociological studies the emphasis is on the organization of social groups.
Education may be studied from two different perspectives, that of the child, and that of the school system. From the point of view of the teacher, the child's role is that of pupil. Sociologists look upon the school as a complex social group. The sociology of education focuses on the development of the child through contact with other people.

Make correct sentences from the following groups of words:

**EXAMPLE**

- sociologists / focus on / individual / member / group
- Sociologists focus on the individual as a member of the group.

1. psychologist / emphasis / behaviour / individual people
2. sociologist / views / personal desires and motives / as / result / influence / group
3. sociological studies / different perspective / other studies / philosophy and psychology
4. most people / focus on / personal desires / achievements / individuals
5. sociologist / sees / groups / formed by human beings / as / complex structures
6. sociologist / looks upon / child / as / product / a particular society

**IV GUIDED WRITING**

**STAGE 1 Sentence building**

Join each of the eleven groups of words below into one sentence, using the extra material at the beginning of each group. Leave out the words in italics. Begin each sentence with a capital letter.

1. **If/They/The/Of**
   - children cannot develop children do not have help and company
   - the help and company comes from other human beings

2. **Something/But/It/Is/Something Which/Also**
   - culture is made by man culture shapes man

3. **In Sociology/The**
   - the term 'culture' can be defined as 'way of life'
   - the way of life is of a society as a whole

4. **The Vast Majority Of/Closely/To Which**
   - most people are controlled by their culture the culture is of the group they belong to the group

5. **The/Of A Group Or Nation/The/They/,/The/They Hold/And/They Recognize**
   - culture is a set of behaviour patterns the group share behaviour patterns values and beliefs are held by the group symbols are recognized by the group

6. **Of Course/,/Can Remove Himself/From**
   - sometimes an individual moves he leaves his background

7. **In**
   - this is shown the development of a child shows this

8. **Thus/That/By/And/By**
   - we can see the behaviour of human beings it is controlled from the beginning their relationships with each other control their behaviour their membership of groups controls their behaviour

9. **However/,/Relatively**
   - this is uncommon

10. **/His/Naturally/By The Culture/Which**
    - the child's development will be affected the child's attitudes and values will be greatly affected those around him belong to a culture

11. **Free Himself From/Which**
    - he can become free of the conditions his group has imposed conditions on him

**STAGE 2 Paragraph building**

Write a complete paragraph by putting the eleven sentences into a logical order. Use the following table which shows the nature of the sentences and the order in which they should be placed. You will notice that the paragraph falls into three main parts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Exception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Definition</td>
<td>a definition</td>
<td>an exception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Example</td>
<td>an example</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Exception</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**STAGE 3 Paragraph reconstruction**

Read through your paragraph again. Make sure you understand all the words, using the dictionary to check if necessary. Now without looking back to your previous work write the paragraph again, using the following clues:

- term – culture – way of life – society
- culture – group or nation – set of behaviour patterns – share – values and beliefs – symbols
- culture – made by man – shapes man
- this shown – development of a child
- children – cannot develop – help and company – other human beings
- child’s development – attitudes and values – affected – culture – around him
- from beginning – human behaviour – controlled by relationships – membership of groups
- individual – leave – background
- free himself – from conditions – group imposes
- this – uncommon
- vast majority – closely controlled – culture of group