

SOCIOLOGY · CHAPTER 4

Culture and Socialisation

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

10 marks

TIME TO MASTER

6-8 hrs

HELPLINE

70330 05444

WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

This chapter teaches your child two big, linked ideas. First, **CULTURE** — which to a sociologist means the **WHOLE** way of life of a people: not just art and festivals, but their ideas, values, language, customs **AND** the physical things they make (tools, buildings, clothes). Your child learns that culture is **LEARNED** (not in our genes), **SHARED**, and passed down the generations. They also meet useful terms: **ethnocentrism** (judging others by our own culture's yardstick), **cultural relativism** (understanding a culture on its own terms), **culture shock**, and 'cultural lag' (technology racing ahead of the laws and values meant to govern it). Second, **SOCIALISATION** — the lifelong process by which a person learns their culture and becomes a member of society, through the family, school, friends and the media. It is a definition-heavy, conceptual chapter — there are no numbers, but precise wording and clear examples matter a great deal.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What is the difference between material and non-material culture? Give me an example of each.
- What does 'cultural lag' mean, and who gave the idea?
- How are ethnocentrism and cultural relativism opposite ideas?
- What is socialisation, and which four agencies carry it out?
- What is the difference between primary and secondary socialisation?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Mixes up ethnocentrism and cultural relativism (the most common error here).
- Thinks culture means only customs and festivals, leaving out material objects.
- Cannot name W. F. Ogburn or explain cultural lag as an uneven **PACE** of change.
- Believes socialisation 'finishes' in childhood, missing that it is lifelong.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

These concepts recur throughout the Sociology course, so weakness here cascades. If your child cannot, in their **OWN** words, tell ethnocentrism from cultural relativism, distinguish material from non-material culture, and explain socialisation with its agencies, they will struggle later. The fix is not re-reading but **APPLYING** each idea to everyday examples — a new gadget and the rules lagging behind it, a custom from another community, how they themselves were shaped by family, school and friends.

+91 70330 05444 · readyforboards.com · Boards prep that builds confidence, not anxiety.