

Social Science **Factors**: basic terms & **key concepts**

reference sheet 1

The social sciences examine the interplay and impact of these factors.

Influence of **GEOGRAPHY** and impact of **TECHNOLOGY** affect the Four Worlds

| Geography  | Four Worlds   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
|  | Politics  | Economics   | Social  | Culture  |
| a. climate<br>b. physical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ topography</li> <li>▪ vegetation</li> </ul> c. natural resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ water</li> <li>▪ minerals</li> <li>▪ rich soil                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- arable land</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ trees (lumber)</li> </ul> d. trade routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ rivers, straits</li> <li>▪ mountain passes</li> </ul> e. <b>territory, borders, political boundaries</b> | <b>Governing Structure</b><br>a. type of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ monarchy, oligarchy</li> <li>▪ democracy, authoritarian</li> <li>▪ centralized, decentralized</li> </ul> b. military: armies, weapons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ defense, protection vs. conquest, expansion</li> <li>▪ treaties, diplomacy</li> </ul> c. legal system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ laws, standards, rights</li> <li>▪ judges, police, patrol</li> </ul> d. taxes, tribute<br><br><b>-----Central Concepts:-----</b><br>e. security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ order, stability, control</li> <li>▪ state-building (rise &amp; fall)</li> </ul> f. power: limits, transfer, balance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ legitimate authority</li> <li>▪ role of govt / functions</li> </ul> g. rule of law vs. force / fear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ equality <i>before the law</i></li> <li>▪ justice, fairness</li> <li>▪ enforcement, recourse</li> </ul> h. leadership, stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ public service, duty</li> </ul> i. rights & responsibilities<br>j. managing the commons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ public goods, infrastructure</li> <li>▪ redistribution</li> </ul> | <b>Economic Structure</b><br>a. products / trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ goods &amp; services</li> </ul> b. production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>means of production</b></li> <li>▪ resources: natural, human, financial</li> <li>▪ tools, equipment, labor</li> </ul> c. types of labor, work, jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ merchants, artisans, craftsmen, guilds</li> <li>▪ division of labor, specialization</li> </ul> d. <b>infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ irrigation, aqueducts</li> <li>▪ roads, bridges, ports</li> </ul> e. means of exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ barter system</li> <li>▪ system of money</li> </ul> f. standard measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ length, weight, volume, distance</li> </ul> <b>-----Central Concepts:-----</b><br>g. entrepreneurship<br>h. incentives<br>i. scarcity vs prosperity<br>j. innovation & efficiency | <b>Social Structure</b><br>a. class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ upper - ruling class</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- elite class</li> <li>▪ middle - common class</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- working class</li> <li>▪ lower - peasants</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- slaves</li> </ul> b. status / position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>mobility</b></li> <li>▪ <b>privilege</b></li> </ul> c. hierarchical v. communal<br>d. integrated v. segregated<br>e. roles (role of women)<br>f. demographics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ population groups, trends</li> <li>▪ migration (internal, external)</li> <li>▪ rural v. urban</li> <li>▪ nomadic v. sedentary</li> </ul> <b>-----Civil Society:*-----</b><br>g. civic duty / common good<br>h. education (literacy level)<br>i. equity & access<br>j. advocates, watchdogs, movements, protests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ accountability</li> <li>▪ transparency</li> </ul> k. organizations, associations<br>l. distribution of information; news; <i>role of the media</i> | <b>Religion &amp; Belief Systems</b><br>a. origins<br>b. teachings — <b>shared values, moral authority</b><br>c. texts<br>d. practices, rites & rituals<br>e. influence; role in society<br><br><b>Other Aspects of Culture</b><br>a. daily life<br>b. customs<br>c. language<br>d. alphabet / writing system<br>e. literature<br>f. the arts — <b>aesthetics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ visual art, crafts</li> <li>▪ performing arts: music, dance, theater/drama</li> </ul> g. architecture<br><br><b>-----Central Concepts:-----</b><br>h. identity (pride, bonds, loyalty)<br>i. tolerance (harmony)<br>j. respect for authority<br>k. meaning, comfort, hope (esp. to face hardship, suffering)<br>l. cultural blending, diffusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ diversity v homogeneity</li> <li>▪ assimilation v acculturation</li> <li>▪ harmony v conformity</li> </ul> |
| <b>Technology</b><br>a. discoveries<br>b. inventions<br><br><b>impact of technology:*</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ infrastructure: e.g.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* transportation</li> <li>- navigation</li> <li>* communication</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ production</li> <li>▪ weapons</li> <li>▪ medicine, health</li> <li>▪ beliefs, values</li> <li>▪ legal process</li> </ul>   |   |   |   |  |

\* Impact of technology across society is the central concept. Civil society is the central concept of the *social world*.

Social Science **Factors**: 4W chart of key concepts

These concepts are "factors" of the human condition – that when combined in different ways – produce different types of societies throughout history and around the world today. Some factors are basic to survival while others help establish more order and greater stability. Some of these factors are needed for a thriving, *more humane* existence. Societies have strengths or weaknesses across these factors. Absence or loss of certain factors can lead to the decline of a society.

