

Name & Date:

Objective: IELTS Reading

Source: *Focus on VOCABULARY – Chapter 1 – Page 3-4*

Read the text, and fill in the blanks using words from the box below.

Part 1 - Human Societies--From the Iceman to Us

interact - estimated - symbolized
encountered - global - items - evidence

"I thought at first it was a doll's head," said Helmut Simon, a German Tourist who, in 1991, made one of the scientific finds of the century. Simon was hiking across a huge glacier in south-west Austria near the Italian border when he stumbled upon a familiar shape protruding from the melting ice. He soon realized that it was not a doll but a human body: the so-called Iceman, who died some 5,300 years ago, making him the oldest member of our species to be discovered essentially intact.

Imagine you were born some 300 years ago, in the year 1700. Although this is very recent in terms of the billions of years of the existence of Planet Earth, you would still have been living in a remarkably different world. You would never have been to a shop, let alone a shopping center. You would never have **1** _____ the world of cars, railways, airplanes, telephones, cameras, computers, televisions... And more than this, the idea of voting for your government, going to college, choosing your religion, or even choosing your identity would all have been rare. Welcome to the modern world!

Life has certainly changed in 300 years, and sociology was born out of a concern with this rapidly changing character of the modern, industrial world: with where we have come from and where we are heading. For sociologists, the term *society* means "all the people who **2** _____ in a defined space and share culture." In this sense, both a continent like Europe and specific individual countries such as Norway or Japan, may be seen as societies.

Even humans living thousands of years ago were members of early human societies. The **3** _____ for this comes from the Iceman, so named because he was discovered untouched in an Austrian glacier in 1991. Examining the Iceman's clothes, scientists were astonished at how advanced this "cave man's" society was. The Iceman's hair was neatly cut, and his body had numerous tattoos that probably **4** _____ his standing in the community. He wore a skillfully sewn leather coat over which a grass cape provided greater protection from the weather. His shoes, also made of leather, were stuffed with grass for comfort and warmth. He carried with him an axe, a wood-handled knife, and a bow that shot feathered arrows with stone points. A primitive backpack held additional tools and personal **5** _____, including natural medicines made from plants. It is **6** _____ that he died some 5,300 years ago--before a great empire existed in Egypt, before the flowering of culture in ancient Greece, and before any society in Europe built a single city. As people who take for granted rapid transportation and instant **7** _____ communication, we can look on this ancestor as a connection to our distant past.

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Part 2- Human Societies--From the Iceman to Us

generations - transformations - diverse - environment - declined
complex - contemporary - manipulate - contrast - elements

Sociologists have identified great differences among societies that have flourished and **8** _____ throughout human history. They have observed how societies change over centuries as the people in them gain greater ability to **9** _____ their natural **10** _____. Societies with basic technology can support only a small number of people who enjoy few choices about how to live. Technologically **11** _____ societies--while not necessarily "better" in any absolute sense--develop large populations; people in these societies are likely to lead **12** _____, highly specialized lives.

The greater the amount of technological skill and knowledge a society has, the faster the rate at which the society changes. Technologically simple societies, then, change very slowly. Take, for example, some of the clothing worn by the Austrian Iceman. It differs only slightly from clothes used by shepherds in the same area of the world early in the twentieth century. By **13** _____, industrial, technologically advanced societies change so quickly that people witness remarkable **14** _____ within their lifetimes. Again, consider some familiar **15** _____ of **16** _____ culture that would probably puzzle, delight, and possibly frighten people who lived just a few **17** _____ ago: fast food, faxes, mobile phones, computer games, artificial hearts, fiber optics, test-tube babies, and many, many others. Indeed it is a strange modern world we live in – even when compared with the world of the recent past.

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Part 3- Human Societies--From the Iceman to Us

capacity - eventually - furthermore - consequences
sources - evolve - neutral

Consider also the countless **18** _____ of technological change. When our ancestors first harnessed the power of the wind by using a sail, they set the stage for the invention of kites, sailing ships, windmills and, **19** _____, airplanes. We are only now beginning to see how our modern lives are being changed by recent technologies like atomic energy or the computer.

Sociologists divide societies into five types according to their technologies: (1) hunting and gathering societies, (2) horticultural and pastoral societies, (3) agrarian societies, (4) industrial societies, and (5) postindustrial societies. *Hunting and gathering societies* use simple technologies to gather food from nature, such as hunting animals and picking berries. *Horticultural and pastoral societies* grow their own plants and raise animals to eat. *Agrarian societies*--which first appeared around the time of the Iceman--use technologies such as animal-drawn ploughs to farm on a larger scale. Agrarian societies were also the first to develop such technological innovations as irrigation, the wheel, writing, numbers, and expanded uses for metals. *Industrial societies* use technology that powers sophisticated machinery with advanced **20** _____ of energy. Before the industrial era, the major source of energy was the muscle power of humans and animals. In industrial societies, people learn mechanical skills so that they can operate the machinery needed to produce material goods. These societies transformed themselves more in a century than previous societies had in thousands of years. *Postindustrial societies*--like the ones many of us live in today--have developed technologies that support an information-based economy. People in these societies create, process, store, and apply information through the use of computers, fax machines, satellites, and other forms of communication technology.

Technology has a big impact on a society, but in itself it is **21** _____. People are the ones who decide how to use technology and whether it is used for good or bad purposes. Armed with the **22** _____ to reshape the world, human societies must understand both the social benefits and problems caused by the desire for technological change. **23** _____, it is important to note that the five types of societies described above do not **24** _____ into each other in an automatic process. In fact, in modern times, all of these societies may be said to coexist.

Adapted from Macionis, J.J. and Plummer, K. (1997). Sociology: A Global Introduction. New York: Prentice Hall Europe. pp. 64-75. (873 words) (948 words)

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Part 4 - Human Societies--From the Iceman to Us

Write the words from Parts 1 to 3 next to the correct definitions.

Word	Definition
	showing a great deal of variety
	all of the people born and living at about the same time
	the maximum amount that something can contain
	belonging to or occurring in the present
	the available facts or information
	in the end
	the surroundings in which a person, animal, or plant lives
	a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance
	in addition
	act in such a way as to have an effect on another
	a result or effect of an action or condition
	consisting of many different and connected parts
	a place or person consulted for information
	roughly calculate the value, number, quantity, or extent of
	compare in such a way as to emphasize differences
	represent
	a part or aspect of something
	unexpectedly meet or be faced with
	not helping or supporting either of two opposing sides
	control or influence
	relating to the whole world
	become smaller, fewer, or less; decrease
	an individual article or unit
	develop gradually