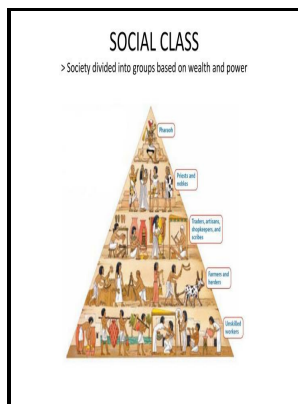


# Class and society.

## Random House - Class stratification



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### **Essay about The Role of Social Class and Society**

Many of the poor lack high school degrees, and many are unemployed or employed only part time in semiskilled or unskilled jobs.

### **The Sociology of Social Inequality**

People in the upper-middle class typically have college and, very often, graduate or professional degrees; live in the suburbs or in fairly expensive urban areas; and are bankers, lawyers, engineers, corporate managers, and financial advisers, among other occupations. This is important since the way people define a situation has real consequences on its outcome.

### **social class**

In other words, income does not determine the status of an individual or household but rather reflects on that status. Doctors are now commonly considered members of the upper-middle or upper class.

### **Social Class in the U.S.**

Low culture, or popular culture—generally pursued by the working and middle classes—refers to sports, movies, television sitcoms and soaps, and rock music. Research shows that the higher rates of divorce for individuals in lower social classes can often be attributed to the greater financial stress these couples face, though factors like class expectations can also play a role.

### **Class stratification**

Social class in the United States is a controversial topic; there have been many competing definitions, models, and even disagreements over its very existence. Americans with very low socioeconomic status are just as likely to see themselves in the working or middle class as in the lower class, while Americans with very high socioeconomic status view themselves in the upper-middle class rather than the upper class. Since 1970, sociologists Paula LeMasters and Melvin Kohl have set out repeatedly to research class-based cultures.

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