

# 1

# Introducing the Social Sciences

## Key Selection Expectations

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE 1g, 4f)

- Catholic graduates understand that one's purpose or call in life comes from God, and they strive to discern and live out this call throughout life's journey.
- Catholic graduates apply effective communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and time and resource management skills.

## Catholic Scripture

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient and equipped for every good work.” (II Timothy 3:16–17)

## The Social Sciences

Our world is a creation of God. Each member of the world's society is interconnected. Although we may dress, talk, eat and behave differently, we are all created in the image of God and we share the same human experience. When we begin to learn about the social sciences, we approach our learning endeavours with an open mind. As Catholics, we have similar beliefs to social scientists; we witness the world without judgment or bias and strive to connect what we learn to our lives.

Catholic members are called to discover their purpose in life and to ask, Where and how can I best serve the common good of society? The social sciences provide several paths that one could follow. Each occupation within the umbrella of the social sciences shares an important similarity: to explore and understand humans and their relationships with one another. By studying this subject matter, one becomes better equipped to serve humankind and the common good.

## Activity (See Activity Sheet CR-1)

### Research and Communicate

Review the definitions for anthropology, psychology and sociology. Read the Bible scenarios with the class. Ask students to state which type of social scientist would be concerned with each scenario.

1. Anthropology: dealing with Pharisee culture
2. Psychology: deviant behaviour
3. Psychology: motivation of Samaritan behaviour
4. Sociology: social norms
5. Anthropology: cultural linguistics
6. Anthropology: cultural rituals of the Jews
7. Sociology: crowd behaviour

**CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCING THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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Review the definitions of the three social sciences: anthropology, sociology and psychology. Read the list of Bible scenarios below. Which branch of social science would be most applicable? Write the appropriate type of social scientist beneath each scenario.

1. "The Pharisees were amazed to see that he [Jesus] did not wash before dinner." (Luke 11:38)

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2. "Cain rose up against his brother, Abel, and killed him." (Genesis 4:8)

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3. "A Samaritan came near him and when he saw him, was moved with pity...he bandaged his wounds...and put him on his own animal..." (Luke 10:33-35)

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4. "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31)

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5. "God scattered the people of Babel all over the earth, changing each one's way of speaking so that they could no longer understand each other." (Genesis 11)

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6. [Pilate said] "But you have a custom that I release someone for you at Passover." (John 17:39)

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7. "[The crowd] kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed." (Luke 22:23)

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# 2

# Anthropology, Human Beings and Culture

## Key Selection Expectations

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE 1c, 7f)

- Catholic graduates actively reflect on God’s Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.
- Catholic graduates respect and affirm the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures.

The science of anthropology studies the cultures of different societies from the past and present. Human beings have developed numerous ways to survive, depending on geography, climate and ancestry. These survival techniques evolved into rituals and lifestyles that dictate their culture. We observe and learn from each other with respect and objectivity.

## Catholic Scripture

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people.” (John 1:1–4)

## The Theory of Evolution

Charles Darwin unveiled his theory of evolution in his 1859 book, *On the Origin of Species*. This theory fuelled a controversial debate with Creationists about the truth of our existence. Did we evolve from Adam or from other forms of life?

Today, the debate continues as scientists review concrete evidence that may prove Darwin’s original theory, while theologians refute with discussions about the soul and our ability to think. The Catholic Church acknowledges the theory of evolution as an alternative explanation for the biological development of humankind; however, it does not explain the spiritual nature of humankind. The rational, spiritual soul that each person possesses does not originate from a material source. Therefore, evolution does not actually contest the causal act of God creating human beings and the spiritual soul. The narrative of Genesis and the Word of God remain constant through human progress and changing thought.

## Catholic Scripture

“You cause the grass to grow for the cattle. And plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the

face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart...People go out to their work and to their labour until the evening." (Psalm 104: 14–15, 23)

### **Cultural Anthropology**

Culture is learned and shared among members of a group or society. We all belong to a culture, adapting and responding to our world. We also respect how others have learned to adapt to their environment, developing specific survival techniques and lifestyles. As Catholics, we affirm the diversity of the world's cultures and embrace the knowledge and skills that we learn from them.

## **Activity (See Activity Sheet CR-2)**

### **Research and Communicate**

Direct students to the Bible (the Old Testament) to locate relevant information. After they fill out the chart, discuss the similarities between the culture of the Israelites and our present culture. Emphasize to students that people have always participated in the same activities such as eating, working and playing, but diversity emerges when the way people carry out these activities changes.

**CHAPTER 2: ANTHROPOLOGY, HUMAN BEINGS AND CULTURE**

“To conclude: you must all have the same attitude and the same feelings: love one another as brothers and be kind and humble with one another.” (I Peter 3:8)

1. People from different cultures have developed distinct ways of survival, but they share the desire to achieve peace, contentment and happiness. Research the culture of the Israelites during the time of Jesus. In the first column, record their rituals and routines for the list of universal needs. In the second column, write down your own cultural ways for meeting the same needs.

	<b>ISRAELITES</b>	<b>YOU</b>
Clothing	_____	_____
Food	_____	_____
Housing	_____	_____
Transportation	_____	_____
Work	_____	_____
Family	_____	_____
Entertainment	_____	_____

2. Compare the information above. Find and discuss two areas that have similar answers from both columns. Why are they similar?

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# 3

## Psychology and Human Mental Processes

### Key Selection Expectations

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE 1d, 1f)

- Catholic graduates develop attitudes and values founded on Catholic social teaching and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good.
- Catholic graduates seek intimacy with God and celebrate communion with God, others and creation through prayer and worship.

The science of psychology attempts to understand the human mind by studying behaviour. Examining mental processes such as sensation, perception, dreaming, memory and thought will help students understand themselves and others.

### Catholic Scripture

“Do this in remembrance of me.” (I Corinthians 11:24)

#### Memory

During the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples to eat bread and drink wine as a symbol of the spirit of God within us. Jesus also told the disciples to continue this communal supper regularly as a way to remember him after he joins God in heaven. As Catholics, we attend mass every Sunday and participate in the same ritual in order to remember Jesus and his sacrifices for us. Our memory of the Last Supper remains strong and intact because we relive the event on a regular basis. As we grow, the story of Jesus and our faith becomes an integral part of our identity.

### Catholic Scripture

“I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me and hear my words.” (Psalm 15:6)

#### Prayer

The Catholic Church recognizes the mental process of prayer, an intimate connection between oneself and God. Prayer is the raising of the mind to God whether it is vocal or mental, private or public. It is not social and does not involve other people; rather, it directs thoughts or words toward God. As Catholics, we are encouraged to pray for several reasons such as praise, worship, thanksgiving, help, advice or guidance.

### Activity (See Activity Sheet CR-3)

#### Apply your learning

People can pray by meditating, keeping a journal or speaking softly to God. Ask students to write a journal that records their prayers to God.

**CHAPTER 3: PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN MENTAL PROCESSES**

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1. Many people pray as part of their daily lives. Reflect on your prayer ritual or begin one for a week. You can choose any mode of prayer such as meditation, vocal prayer or writing a journal. In the chart below record the number of times you pray and the purpose of your prayers.

Day of the week	Number of times	Purpose of your prayers

2. At the end of the week, answer these questions: How much of your prayer was for help and how much for thanksgiving? How did prayer affect you?

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# 4

# Motivation and Emotion

## Key Selection Expectations

Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE 1j, 6b)

- Catholic graduates recognize that “sin, human weakness, conflict and forgiveness are part of the human journey” and that the cross, the ultimate sign of forgiveness, is at the heart of redemption.
- Catholic graduates recognize human intimacy and sexuality as God-given gifts to be used as the creator intended.

Human behaviour is motivated by several biological and social factors. How we react to others and our surroundings stems from both instinct and socialization. As Catholics, we take responsibility for our behaviour in all situations; we defend ourselves against wrongdoing, we forgive those who hurt us and we apologize to those we have hurt.

## Catholic Scripture

“Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said, ‘Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” (Matthew 18:21–22)

## Freud and the Act of Penance

Freud believed that human behaviour was influenced by the unconscious mind. Our consciousness, or ego, develops and changes in relation to the unconscious, which is divided into the id and the superego. Our superego is our conscience, shaped by our moral principles; the id comprises our aggressive impulses and biological instincts.

When we commit an act that is inappropriate, we feel guilt or humility as a result of our conscience. Through the grace of God, humans have come to recognize their own sins and sin in general. This act of penance, or forgiveness, is one of courage and fortitude. We accept responsibility for our behaviour and struggle against future sin.

## Catholic Scripture

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes in all things, hopes for all things and endures all things. Love never ends.” (I Corinthians 13:4–8)

## **Love**

Love encompasses more than emotion. It requires words and actions, extends past changing moods and becomes a state of being. Love of God and love of one's neighbour are the greatest virtues and a significant part of achieving perfection in Christian life. Loving one's neighbour refers to fraternal charity, serving the common good and practising good will toward all humanity.

As Catholics, we strive to feel a true connection with God and humanity. We are blessed with family and friends to help us understand the meaning of love. As we grow, we expand our capacity to feel love for others.

## **Activity (See Activity Sheet CR-4)**

### **Apply your learning**

Discuss with students the six attitudes toward love.

1. Romantic: emphasize physical beauty; love at first sight
2. Game-playing: enjoy the chase more than the catch
3. Companionate: value friendship and trust; will last a long time
4. Possessive: jealous and very emotional
5. Pragmatic: based on mutual satisfaction
6. Altruistic: selfless, gentle and caring; not expecting much in return

Read the Bible passages. Explain to students that although these passages may not fit exactly with the terms, different types of love are described. Discuss the six types of love with reference to the Bible. Invite students to provide examples.

