
Lesson n°1: Introduction to Humanities and Social Sciences***I. Overview***

Traditionally known as the liberal arts, the humanities and social sciences are academic disciplines that examine human society and behaviour, as well as culture and social constructs. The social sciences focus on subjects like economics, psychology, and history, while the humanities explore philosophy, languages and literature, and the arts. Students following this pathway develop strong communication and critical thinking skills, as well as an understanding of cultural differences. Branches of the humanities include law, languages, philosophy, religion and mythology, international relations, multicultural and regional studies, while branches of the social sciences include sociology, anthropology, archaeology, geography, political science (including politics and government), psychology, communication studies, criminal justice.

II. Definition of Social Science

In a broad sense, Social Science studies the interests of humankind. It examines various aspects of society. In the field of Social Science, all of the subjects interact with each other and constantly exchange ideas. Social scientists aim to study the relationship between the individual and society, human behaviour, social institutions, and organizations. Studying social science equips scholars with a more inclusive and practical knowledge of the world surrounding them.

III. Definition of Humanities

Humanities is a popular field of study, which is concerned with human society and culture, which makes use of qualitative methods which are mainly analytical, critical or speculative. The subject matter of humanities is thoughts, creations, development and actions of humankind in the past and present. It tends to determine the defects in the humankind, as well as the ways to improve them. Humanities attempt to make a man, more human. Moreover, it prescribes an ideal behavior for an individual to be called as a cultured human being.

IV. Branches of Social Science

Social Science subjects can be categorized under ten broad branches. However, it should be noted that every branch of Social Science has multiple specific sub-branches within them. These ten disciplines are:

- ***Anthropology:*** The Study of People, Past and Present
- ***Economics:*** The study of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services
- ***Political Science:*** The study of political systems and governments
- ***Psychology:*** The study of human mind and behavior
- ***Sociology:*** The study of human society, relationships, and social change
- ***History:*** The Study of Human History
- ***Law:*** Study of the legislation and judicial systems
- ***Linguistics:*** The scientific study of language
- ***Archaeology:*** Human Geography
- ***Geography:*** The study of the phenomena of the Earth.