

Anthropology
Psychology
Sociology



The Social Sciences

anthropology



- Studies the origins, development, beliefs and customs of the human species and can be divided into 2 types
 - i) cultural anthropology & ii) physical anthropology
- Artifacts are used to piece together the development of human society(s)
- It involves the study of different cultures, current and ancient **NOTE** not recent history so much
- Information gained is used to make universal generalizations about human behaviour
- Spend a lot of time gathering data

psychology



- studies the behaviour, mind and personality of the individual
- goals of psychology are to observe, describe, understand, predict and control behaviour (modify behaviour, motive etc.)
- psychology focuses on the individual rather than the group
- many modern psychologists believe that most human behaviour is learned

sociology

- is the study of human groups, institutions and society as a whole
- the behaviour of the group is used to explain the behaviour of the individual
- sociologists examine patterns of behaviour
- they gather data regarding large numbers of people but in a shorter time period than an anthropologist



different perspectives

different questions

- these are all behavioural sciences they are similar in some ways and different in others, sometimes the differences are subtle
- however, the different focuses lead the researchers to ask different types of questions

example...

- Topic > cutting
 - The psychologist might ask: Why did this individual cut?
 - The sociologist might ask: What are the statistics or trends for individuals who cut?
 - The anthropologist might ask: How is cutting viewed in this culture, is it considered decorative or perhaps a right of passage ?

