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ONLINE RESOURCES 
• Teacher’s Guide • mp3 audio file • Further Activities
Istruzioni per scaricare la versione digitale del libro

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Life Reflections

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The book is also available in a digital edition for disabled students and their teachers. The Publishing House places the PDF files in which the pages of the book are memorized at the disposal of students who are sightless or partially sighted, physically impaired or with specific learning disorders. The file format enables the user to enlarge the text characters and to read with screen-reader software.

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• **Life Reflections** is a book for students at “Liceo delle Scienze Umane” (‘Indirizzo tradizionale’ and ‘Opzione economico-sociale’). The wide range of materials is meant to provide an insight into the topics of the main subjects the students have to deal with in the “2nd Biennio” and 5th year at B1-B2 levels of CEFR.

• **Life Reflections** gives students have the opportunity to practise the four language skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing) in a structured and integrated way, through a great variety of authentic or semi-authentic materials from the Internet, magazines, newspapers and books.

• **Life Reflections** is planned to:
  - strengthen **cognitive skills** necessary for general and detailed comprehension of subject-related texts;
  - develop and practise **receptive** and **productive** skills;
  - widen students’ **vocabulary**;
  - consolidate and deepen knowledge of useful **grammar structures**;
  - arouse students’ interest in **topic-related issues** and actively involve them.
1. CONTENT-BASED SECTION

It is arranged in Units with texts and activities related to the main “Triennio” curricular subjects. Each Unit is further divided into Chapters which help students to access the materials in a structured way. At the same time, teachers can easily select the topics to be used in class.

Texts are approached gradually, through Before Reading, While Reading and Vocabulary activities. Comprehension activities are both about gist and detail and based on written or recorded texts. Some of the activities provided are marked with the symbols PET and FCE, as they have the same format as the real exam tasks.

There are special sections entitled Moving Deeper which explore relevant topics and issues.
It focuses on vocabulary, language structures and skills. It is divided into:

- **Vocabulary** – with activities which provide practice and consolidate relevant terms met in the Module.

- **Grammar** – with activities which revise some of the most frequent grammar structures found in the texts treated.

- **Communication** – with topic-centred activities which give further practice in the four skills.
3. LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Language is enriched by exploring non-linguistic subjects and training in B2/FCE exam tasks.

- B2 – students have the chance to train for some of the tasks of one of the most popular language certificates (Cambridge English Language Assessment) at level B2 of the CEFR.
- CLIL – different topics, related to curricular subjects – Biology, Philosophy, Natural Science, History, Law, Art – are explored through a Content and Language Integrated Learning approach. This is meant to promote cross-curricular learning, teaching and planning, according to the new guidelines from the Ministry of Education.

Life Reflections includes:

- Online Resources available on www.edisco.it with extra Unit-related materials and activities (several listening exercises can be found here).
- Teacher’s Guide with teaching tips, FCE and CLIL overview, suggestions for further activities (online resources and sites, movies, books and readers), answer keys to all the activities, Module tests and “Terza Prova” tests.
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C. The role and influence of the mass media
D. The impact of social networks

UNIT 2  Politics, policies and society
A. Political systems
B. The Welfare State and the elderly
C. Consumerism: from Homo Sapiens to Homo Consumens
D. Globalisation
History is, strictly speaking, the study of questions; the study of answers belongs to anthropology and sociology.

W.H. Auden

Wystan Hugh Auden (21 February 1907-29 September 1973), who published as W. H.Auden, was an Anglo-American poet, born in England, later an American citizen, regarded by many critics as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

Why study this Module?

In this Module you will learn about sociology and society. You will know more about the impact of media and technology on society, about what makes political systems different and, on the other hand, how globalisation tends to make the world look like a big village. You will also learn about the concept of consumerism and welfare, especially as far as elderly people are concerned.
A. WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is an exciting and illuminating field of study that analyzes and explains important matters in our personal lives, communities and the world. At the personal level, sociology investigates the social causes and consequences of such things as romantic love, racial and gender identity, family conflict, deviant behaviour, aging and religious faith. At the social level, it examines and explains matters like crime and law, poverty and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, schools and education, business firms, urban communities and social movements. At the global level, it studies such phenomena as population growth and migration, war and peace, and economic development.

The research methods used by sociologists are varied: they observe the everyday life of groups, conduct large-scale surveys, interpret historical documents, analyze census data, study interactions, interview members of groups and conduct laboratory experiments. The research methods and theories of sociology provide powerful insights into the social processes which

---

1. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones, quoting the relevant information from the text.

   - a. Sociology does not care about individual behaviour.  
     - F  
     - Sociology does not care about individual behaviour.

   - b. The law can take advantage of sociological investigation.  
     - T  
     - The law can take advantage of sociological investigation.

   - c. Large scale events can be analyzed by sociology.  
     - T  
     - Large scale events can be analyzed by sociology.

   - d. Sociology does not rely on data analysis.  
     - F  
     - Sociology does not rely on data analysis.

   - e. There is no link between social processes and personal experiences.  
     - F  
     - There is no link between social processes and personal experiences.
shape human lives and social problems and prospects in the contemporary world. By better understanding these social processes, we can also understand more clearly the forces shaping our personal experiences and the outcomes of our own lives. Sociology offers a distinctive and enlightening way of seeing and understanding the social world in which we live and which shapes our lives. Sociology looks beyond normal, taken-for-granted views of reality, to provide deeper, more illuminating and challenging understandings of social life. Through its particular analytical perspective, social theories and research methods, sociology is a discipline that expands our awareness and analysis of the human social relationships, cultures and institutions that profoundly shape both our lives and human history.

The function of sociology, as of every science, is to reveal that which is hidden." Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002)

a. What do sociologists do?
b. Can you name any well-known contemporary sociologists?
c. From which perspective does a sociologist study individuals?

Describe the picture on the right.

2 Answer these questions about sociology.

a. At which levels can sociology investigate?
b. What does it analyze at a personal level?
c. What does it analyze at a global level?
d. What are sociological research methods?
e. From what perspective does sociology investigate human and social relationships?
B. TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Technology has contributed to the growth of industries and the process of industrialization. Industrialization is a general term for growth in a society in which a major role is played by manufacturing industries. Industry is characterized by heavy, fixed capital investment in plants and buildings, the application of science to industrial techniques and large-scale standardized production. The Industrial Revolution of the 18th century led to an unprecedented growth of industries. Industrialization is associated with the factory system of production. The family lost its economic importance. Factories brought down the prices of commodities, improving their quality and maximizing their output. The whole process of production was mechanized, leading to a decline in traditional skills and the loss of work for craftsmen. Huge factories could provide employment opportunities to thousands of people.

In many countries, the growth of industries contributed to the growth of cities. Urbanization can be described as an increase in the population coming from rural areas to cities and towns where people could find work and corresponding changes of behaviour patterns.

Urbanization has become a world phenomenon, with unprecedented growth not only in the number of great cities but also in their size. As a result of industrialization, people started moving towards industrial areas to look for employment. Due to this migration, industrial areas developed into towns and cities. Scientific and technological inventions modernized societies in many countries, and brought about remarkable changes in the whole system of social relationships.

The development of transport and communications led to national and international trade on a large scale. Road transport, train services, ships and air transport made the movement of people and material goods easier. The post and telegraph, radio and television, newspaper and magazines and wireless technologies developed greatly, helping people from different corners of the world to have regular contacts.

The introduction of the factory system of production turned the agricultural economy into an industrial economy. The industrial or capitalist economy divided social organization into two predominant classes – the capitalist class and the working class, two classes in permanent conflict due to their mutually opposed interests.

The problem of unemployment is a concomitant feature of rapid technological advancement, with machines creating new employment opportunities but eliminating others through labour-saving devices, and leading to ‘technological unemployment’. The effects of technology are also evident in the modern mode of warfare. Modern weapons can easily destroy the entire human race, an example of how technology could be misused.
Technology has altered our lifestyles and the institutions of the family, religion, morality, marriage, state, and property. Modern technology has radically changed the organization of the family, many of whose functions have been taken over by other agencies. Marriage tends to be treated as a civil contract more than a sacred bond, and the instances of divorce and separation are increasing. Technology has elevated the status of women but has also contributed to stress in the relationship between men and women at home. Inventions and discoveries in science have shaken the foundations of religion.

Below are definitions of key words in the text, given in the order they appear. Write the corresponding key word in the space provided.

a. The application of scientific knowledge to the making of tools to solve specific problems. ........................................

b. The process by which a society or country (or world) transforms itself from a primarily agricultural society into one based on the manufacturing of goods and services. ........................................

c. The process of doing work with machinery. ........................................

d. The increasing concentration of the human population in cities. ........................................

e. Basic economic concept of voluntary negotiation and exchange of goods and services between multiple parties. ........................................

f. A person of great wealth and/or investor of capital in business, especially one with a major financial interest in an important enterprise. ........................................

g. An economic condition where individuals actively seeking jobs remain unsatisfied. ........................................

h. Established official organizations with an important social role. ........................................
The mass media are means of communication, whether written, broadcast, or spoken, that reach a large audience. These means include television, radio, advertising, movies, the Internet, newspapers, and magazines.

The mass media are a significant force in modern culture. Sociologists refer to this as a mediated culture, where media reflect and create the culture. Communities and individuals are constantly bombarded with messages from a multitude of sources, including TV and magazines. These messages promote not only products, but moods, attitudes and a sense of what is and is not important. The mass media make the concept of celebrity possible. Indeed, without the ability of movies, magazines and news media to reach thousands of people, no one could become famous. In the past, only political and business leaders, as well as a few outlaws, were famous, and it is only in recent times that actors, singers and other social elites have become celebrities or “stars”.

The current level of media saturation has not always existed. As recently as the 1960s and 1970s, for example, television consisted of a few networks, with public broadcasting. Their channels aimed their programmes primarily at two-parent, middle-class families. Even so, some middle-class households did not even own a television. Today, one can find a television in the poorest of homes and several TVs in most middle-class homes. Not only has the availability of programmes increased, but programming is increasingly diverse, with shows aimed at pleasing all ages, incomes, backgrounds and attitudes. This widespread availability and exposure makes television the primary focus of most mass-media discussions. More recently, the importance of the Internet has increased exponentially. Although TV and the Internet dominate the mass media, a powerful role in culture is still played by movies, newspapers and magazines.

What role do the mass media have? While opinions vary as to type of influence of the mass media, all agree that the media are part of modern culture. There are three main sociological on the role of the media: the limited-effects theory, the class-theory, and the culturalist theory.

4. Complete the sentences below, then join them up to make a summary of the passage above.

a. The term media refers to ..........................................................

b. A mediated culture is ..........................................................

c. Not only products are promoted by the media – also ..........................................................

d. Since the 1960s and the 1970s, the audience reached by the media ..........................................................

e. The Internet has developed ..........................................................

f. An important role is also played by ..........................................................

g. There are three main theories ..........................................................
Advertising and magazines are powerful because...

a. they create social standards and models.
b. there is a focus on dramatic ‘newsworthy’ stories to attract attention and sell papers.
c. they set often unrealistic goals of how people ‘should’ be (face, body size, sex life).
d. they give us advice on lifestyle issues like relationships, and provide ‘surveys’ and questionnaires on what sort of person we are and how we should change to be in the ‘right’ category.
e. they manipulate images to sell products, feeding off peoples’ worries about how they look.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
D. THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

Social media or networks are now an indispensable part of many people’s lives. Famous celebrities and big business have jumped on the bandwagon, in addition to the large numbers of people who already wake up every morning and check their social network accounts instead of reading the newspaper. A recent research made it clear that a large number of Internet users spend about 22% of their time online wandering around social network sites. Given that social networks have revolutionized the internet world, some positive and negative effects of the social media on society should be mentioned.

On the positive side, social networks help businesses in a variety of ways. While traditional marketing media such as radio, TV commercials and the printed advert are not yet obsolete, they are relatively expensive compared to the social media, with which businesses can target customers inexpensively. Through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or any other social networking site, companies can significantly lower their marketing costs. With the increasing popularity of such sites, social networks have gained attention as the easiest communication choice for bloggers, article writers and other content creators. Social networks have removed many communication and interaction barriers, and people can now communicate their ideas and opinions on an infinity of subjects. Students, educators, people with special interests, and interested parties can share and communicate with like-minded people or ask for input and opinions on almost any subject.

On the negative side, communication technology is invading our life more than ever before. Mobile phones are always with us, and emails, social networks, and the internet are present more than ever before. Over 60% of all internet users also communicate via social networks and more than 85% of all teenagers have accounts on them. Psychologists have started to use terms like ‘Facebook addiction’ in their reports. Indeed, social media sites can be so addictive that many people, especially youngsters, do not want to spend time doing anything else; they live their relationships in a virtual world. Some people may choose to talk to each other on their mobile phones or Skype, or communicate via Facebook because they are afraid of getting to know each other face-to-face. However, by not meeting directly, they are missing the other’s facial expressions or gestures. Emotions are reduced to Likes, smileys or other emoticons. Psychology experts have also noticed that more and more marriages are breaking up. One theory is that while social networks make it easy to communicate with old friends and acquaintances, they also make it easy to get in touch with former partners or possible new ones. Facebook has defined privacy in a new way and many things that should be private have become public. Social media have changed the world. They have helped uprisings in Arab countries and overturned governments. Facebook, Twitter and similar websites are omnipresent. They are the last thing we worry about before we go to bed and the first thing we check when we get up.
6. Complete the table with the pros and cons of social networks mentioned in the text, and add your own ideas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
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</table>

7. Now report the contents of the table orally, with Student A talking about the pros and Student B about the cons. You can use these phrases to express your opinion:

To my mind …
It seems to me that …
I feel / think / believe that …
I have the feeling / the impression that …
I am sure / convinced that …

8. Listen to the following excerpt from a radio programme on ‘Facebook addiction’ and answer the questions below.

a. Which Facebook users experienced the most significant emotional damage?
b. Which photos cause the highest level of resentment?
c. What is the second cause of envy?
d. When were women in their mid-30s or -40s usually envious?
e. What is said about college students?
f. When is Facebook an addiction?
g. When is it a compulsion?

Glossary

addiction: condition of depending on something
big business: large scale financial or business activities or organisations
emoticon: group of characters or icon used in email and text messaging to indicate an emotion
former: previous
get to know each other: to become acquainted with
gesture: movement of the hand, arm, etc. to express an idea, opinion, emotion
jump on the bandwagon: to follow something which is popular
like-minded: with the same ideas or opinions
lower: to reduce
obsolete: no longer in use
overthrow (overthrew-overthrown): to depose, to bring down
target: to aim at, to have as a goal
uprising: revolt
wander around: (here) to surf social networks without a definite purpose
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