

I. Read the text carefully.

Huge survey reveals seven social classes in UK

People in the UK now fit into seven social classes, a major survey conducted by the BBC suggests. It says the traditional categories of working, middle and upper class are outdated, fitting 39% of people. The survey found a new model of seven social classes ranging from the elite at the top to a "precariat" - the poor, precarious proletariat - at the bottom. More than 161,000 people took part in the Great British Class Survey, the largest study of class in the UK.

Class has traditionally been defined by occupation, wealth and education. But this research argues that this is too simplistic, suggesting that class has three dimensions - economic, social and cultural. The BBC Lab UK study measured economic capital - income, savings, house value - and social capital - the number and status of people someone knows. The study also measured cultural capital, defined as the extent and nature of cultural interests and activities. Researchers asked a series of questions about income, house value, savings, cultural and leisure activities and the occupations of friends. They were able to determine a person's economic, social and cultural capital scores from the answers and analysed the scores to create its class system.

The new classes are defined as:

1. **Elite** - the most privileged group in the UK, distinct from the other six classes through its wealth. This group has the highest levels of all three capitals.
2. **Established middle class** - the second wealthiest, scoring highly on all three capitals. The largest and most gregarious group, scoring second highest for cultural capital.
3. **Technical middle class** - a small, distinctive new class group which is prosperous but scores low for social and cultural capital. Distinguished by its social isolation and cultural apathy.
4. **New affluent workers** - a young class group which is socially and culturally active, with middling levels of economic capital.
5. **Traditional working class** - scores low on all forms of capital, but is not completely deprived. Its members have reasonably high house values, explained by this group having the oldest average age at 66.
6. **Emergent service workers** - a new, young, urban group which is relatively poor but has high social and cultural capital.
7. **Precariat, or precarious proletariat** - the poorest, most deprived class, scoring low for social and cultural capital.

The researchers said while the elite group had been identified before, this is the first time it had been placed within a wider analysis of the class structure, as it was normally put together with professionals and managers. At the opposite extreme they said the precariat, the poorest and most deprived grouping, made up 15% of the population. The sociologists said these two groups at the extremes of the class system had been missed in conventional approaches to class analysis, which have focused on the middle and working classes.

Professor of sociology at Manchester University, Fiona Devine, said the survey really gave a sense of class in 21st Century Britain: "What it allows us to understand is a more sophisticated, nuanced picture of what class is like now. It shows us there is still a top and a bottom, at the top we still have an elite of very wealthy people and at the bottom the poor, with very little social and cultural engagement," she said. "There's the emergent workers and

the new affluent workers who are different groups of people who won't necessarily see themselves as working or middle class. The survey has really allowed us to drill down and get a much more complete picture of class in modern Britain."

II. Match the words with their definitions:

WORD	DEFINITION
1. precarious	a) old-fashioned
2. wealth	b) money received during a given period (e.g. a salary)
3. unemployment	c) to look at or examine something in depth
4. survey	d) coming into existence
5. outdated	e) form, constitute, compose
6. occupation	f) money that somebody has saved
7. income	g) uncertain, unsafe, depending upon chance
8. affluent	h) not having regular work
9. extent	i) length or size
10. gregarious	j) advanced, complex or elaborate
11. drill down	k) great amount of property, money
12. sophisticated	l) liking the company of others
13. make up	m) a job or profession
14. emergent	n) asking people a series of questions
15. savings	o) wealthy, prosperous

1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...10...11...12...13...14...15...

III. Answer the following questions:

1. What was the traditional division of the British society?
2. Why is the former division outdated?
3. How many social classes is the British society divided into now?
4. Who was the survey carried out by?
5. What categories was the social class defined by traditionally?
6. What categories were measured in the latest survey?
7. What capital does income belong to?
8. What is cultural capital?

9. What does social capital include?
10. What are the top and bottom classes according to the new division?
11. Which social class is rich but not very cultural?
12. Which social class is culturally and socially active but has small income?
13. What did the new division reveal?
14. Why is the new division better than the previous one?

IV. Complete the table.

NOUN	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
		socially
affluence		
		wealthily
precariousness		
	traditional	
		culturally
prosperity		
	professional	
	poor	
economics/economy		

V. Find six examples of the Passive Voice in the text from exercise I.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

VI. Change the following sentences into the Passive Voice.

1. Sociologists conducted the survey last month.
.....
2. People traditionally divide the British society into three social classes.

.....
3. We must look into the issue again.

.....
4. The studies have revealed the prevalence of criminality in urban centres.

.....
5. They will show us the results of the survey next week.

.....
6. Many people think that social background influences GCSE results.

It

7. The recession had affected many families.

.....
8. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels were examining the British class system in the middle of the 19th century.

.....
9. You can deduce a person's class from the way they speak.

.....
10. When will they elect a new government?
.....

VII. Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives in brackets.

1. He is (wealthy) in the family.

2. July is (wet) month in a year.

3. She lives much (far)..... than me.

4. Who is (fit)..... in the group?

5. She is far (good looking)..... than her photo.

6. The results of the examination were (bad) than I had expected.

7. The (poor)..... people belong to precariat.

8. What were (surprising) results of the survey?
9. The latest division of social classes is (sophisticated) than the previous one.
10. Established middle class is (large)..... and (gregarious)..... group.

The text: „Huge survey reveals seven social classes in UK” was adapted from:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22007058

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