


# Measuring social class

The background of the slide is a solid light beige color. In the bottom right corner, there are several overlapping, wavy, light grey lines that create a sense of movement or depth, resembling stylized waves or a decorative graphic element.

- Information on social class is used by many different people – need a measure that is:
    - Simple
    - Clear
    - Universal
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- The background of the slide features several light-colored, wavy, horizontal lines that sweep across the lower right portion of the frame, adding a decorative element to the presentation.

# Why use occupation?

- Information is easy to obtain
- Related to:
  - Earnings
  - Education levels
  - Values & behaviour patterns
  - Prestige

# How is it measured?

- NS-SEC (new classification) – 8 categories
- Classified by occupation of head of household
- New classification overcomes probs of gender & the armed forces
- You will still come across other older measures, such as the Registrar General's classification or the Goldthorpe scheme


# Changes to social class structure in Britain

- Past 30-40 years

# Changes to society

- Increase in general affluence
- Increased division between those in and those out of employment
- Increase in education leading to increasing social mobility
- Changing occupational structure

# Changes to the class structure

- 1950s – class structure clearly defined
  - Nowadays increasingly blurred boundaries and increased differences w/in classes
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- The background of the slide features several thick, light-colored wavy lines that flow from the bottom left towards the right side, creating a sense of movement and depth.

# Upper Class

- 3 “types”
- Landowners, aristocracy – decreasing
- Entrepreneurial rich – have increased
- Self-made rich – based on talent – relatively recent phenomenon

# Middle class

- Increasing in size
- Increasingly diverse - values, attitudes, lifestyles
- Now seen as most powerful social class because of their size and political power

# Working class

- “embourgeoisement” of w/class
  - Sections becoming like middle class – values, expectations, lifestyles
- Division of w/class into 2 groups
  - “Traditional”
    - Decreasing in size
    - Tend to be poorer
  - “New”
    - Families often have 2 incomes
    - Increased affluence and consumption

# Underclass

- Do they exist?
- A social “problem”
- Reliance on benefits
- Long term unemployed, single parents, homeless
- Linked to violent crime