Analytical Categories: Society, Economy and Politics

One of the basic purposes of studying history and humanities is to better understand how people in different areas and times live and have lived in the past. We also try to understand what caused things to change in the past and present, and how changes affect people. These are big issues! To help understand them better, we can break what we study into **analytical categories**.

Analysis is the process of breaking something down into smaller parts to determine how they function and come together to form a larger whole. For example, if I think someone might be lying to me, I will analyze what they say by breaking it down; I will think about what they say, but also the way they say it, and if it matches with what other people have told me. If all those parts seem real, then I will trust them. But if they say something that they should be doubtful about with too much confidence, I might not trust them.

When we are trying to understand the way people live, or the way their lives have changed, we can break things down into 3 **analytical categories** to help us understand them. The three categories we will use are **society, economy, and politics**.

Here is what we mean when we talk about:

Society: How people live, their beliefs, their religion, education, culture, art and entertainment. How people treat each other, how they identify themselves, and how different groups are treated. Lifestyles and family.	**Economy:** How people use their environment to meet their material needs. This includes making and spending money. What produces wealth (jobs, labor, resources, infrastructure) and how it is distributed. Trade and businesses.	**Politics:** Who has power, how they get it and keep it, how they use it. The government, laws and how they are created and enforced.

Directions: Read the passage below and then fill in the chart with what you know about the society, economy and politics.

Oakland is the eighth-largest city in the U.S. state of California and a major West Coast port city, located on San Francisco Bay. Based on United States Census Bureau estimates for 2008, Oakland is the 44th-largest city in the USA with a population of 404,155.

The area now known as Oakland was inhabited by the Ohlone people for thousands of years before Spanish settlers displaced them in the 18th and 19th centuries. After Spain took over California, Mexico took control when it got independence in 1821. Then, in 1846, California was conquered by American forces, becoming a state in the USA.

Oakland grew initially from having its hillside oak and redwood timber resources logged to build San Francisco, and Oakland's fertile flatland soils helped it become a productive agricultural region. In the

late 1860s, Oakland was selected as the western terminus of the Transcontinental Railroad. It continued to grow into the 20th century with its port, shipyards, and a thriving automobile industry. Following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, many San Franciscans left that city's destruction, and a great number of Oakland's homes were built during the 1910s and 1920s. During the 1940s, thousands of war-industry workers moved to Oakland from the Deep South, and the late 20th century saw a steady influx of immigrants from around the globe. According to the 2000 U.S. census, Oakland is the second most ethnically diverse city in the United States, with many languages spoken.

Oakland has struggled with significant challenges, including high unemployment, widespread poverty, and an elevated rate of violent crime. In August 2009 the unemployment rate was estimated at 17.5%.

Oakland is home to several major corporations including Kaiser Permanente and Clorox, as well as corporate headquarters for nationwide businesses like Dreyer's, Pandora, and Cost Plus World Market.

Oakland has enjoyed a thriving West Coast blues scene, and can claim numerous prominent homegrown musicians representing genres such as rhythm and blues, funk, punk, heavy metal and hip hop. Recreational attractions include the Fox Theater, the Paramount Theater, Jack London Square, Lake Merritt, the Oakland Estuary, the Oakland Zoo, the Oakland Museum of California, the Chabot Space and Science Center, Oracle Arena, the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum, the East Bay Regional Park District ridge line parks and preserves, and Chinatown. Downtown Oakland has an assortment of bars and nightclubs. They range from punk-rock makeovers of dive bars to modern bistros and dance clubs. Oakland is also home to 3 professional sports teams: the Oakland Athletics, the Oakland Raiders and the Golden State Warriors.

In the chart, write at least 5 facts about Oakland broken down by category – use the article and your own knowledge.

Society	Economy	Politics
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.