Study Skills: Beyond Memorization

*Instructions:* Learn the concept **informal social control** using all six thinking skills.

**Step 1: Remembering**

Informal social control “exist[s] to reward or punish people for acceptable / unacceptable behaviour (what sociologists call deviance). Informal controls cover a vast array of possible sanctions and tend to differ from individual to individual, group to group and society to society. Informal controls apply to informal norms of behaviour and they include things like ridicule, sarcasm, disapproving looks, punching people in the face and so forth.”

How would you **remember** what informal social control is?

**Step 2: Understanding**

How would you **explain** informal social control to someone who had never heard the term?

**Why** do societies use informal social control? What does it accomplish?

**Step 3: Applying**

Which of the following is an example of informal social control? How do you know?

1. Bob is speeding; he is driving at 90 mph on the freeway and the speed limit is 65 mph. A police officer pulls Bob over and issues him a ticket.
2. Chester, the president of the Chess Club, asks Homecoming Queen Molly to prom. Instead of answering verbally, Molly rolls her eyes and walks away. Her friends giggle and follow Molly.

**Step 4: Analyzing**

How is informal social control different from formal social control?

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Formal Social Control** | **Informal Social Control** |
| Method of Control | Written rules, such as laws, that usually apply to all people equally |  |
| Enforcement | Specific employees, like police officers, whose job it is to uphold laws |  |
| Consequences for failing to meet requirements of social control | Jail, fines, expulsion from school, etc. |  |
| Applies to… | Large groups, such as citizens of a nation, that do not come into daily contact with one another |  |

**Step 5: Evaluating**

How effective is informal social control in encouraging socially acceptable behaviors?

**Step 6: Creating**

Write a brief example (3-5 sentences) of one person using informal social control in an interaction with another person.