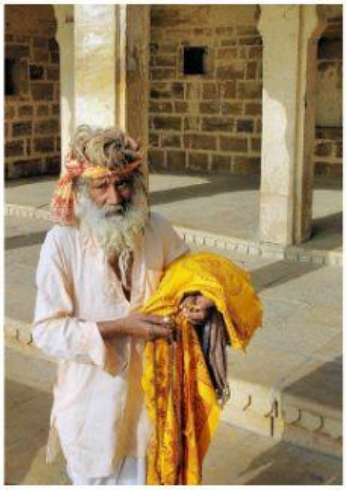
B1	India's Caste System	LIU035

Read the text about Indian society. Think of ONE word that fits into each blank.



Brahmin in India

A large part of Indian society still lives in a system dominated **(1)** _____ castes. A caste is a social class **(2)** _____ every Indian is born into. There are a few thousand castes in India and **(3)** _____ one of them has their own traditions and customs. Once a person is born into a caste they cannot get out or marry someone from a **(4)** _____ caste.

Castes have existed throughout Indian history and **(5)** _____ they are based on Hindu beliefs, other religions live in castes too. The caste system tells people which jobs they can have and with which people they can have contact.

The caste system is based **(6)** _____ four major classes. At the top are the Brahmins or priests. Below **(7)** _____ are rulers, kings, soldiers and other people who work in the government. Then come bankers, businessmen and traders. At the bottom of the caste system are normal workers and farmers.

Each caste has certain rights and privileges. Everyone, **(8)** _____ example, can get food from a Brahmin, but a priest himself is thought to be polluted if he receives food from a person of a **(9)** _____ caste.

A large group of people, **(10)** _____ untouchables, live outside the caste system. Untouchables are often homeless people who live on the streets and **(11)** _____ bridges. They do work that nobody **(12)** _____ does and are often excluded in Hindu ceremonies. They are not allowed to drink water from a public fountain for fear of polluting the water for others.

Although the caste system is **(13)** _____ longer officially allowed, it still exists, especially in the rural areas of India.

LIVEWORKSHEETS