

simpler terms. This, then, allows us to begin answering the second question posed for this module: how can we describe and analyse the environment (with a view to identifying areas for change)? To do this, we will identify the broad components that make up any system, as discussed by Lesser and Pope (2011).

- **Components of systems:**
 - Levels
 - Structures
 - Domains
 - Firstly, systems can vary in size and scope: this is sometimes referred to as the level of a system and can range from very high level macrosystems (like the education system) that function across society and influence most of us, to smaller microsystems like individual clubs or family groups. Systems at different levels tend to serve different functions and to range in complexity.
- **Levels:**
 - Macrosystems- the organised social and cultural patterns that you find within the overall system of systems (SoS)
 - Microsystems- the individual psychological and social dynamics and social interactions
 - Mesosystems- (relations between micosystems) and Exosystems (indirect links) provide the “connective tissues” between individuals, groups of individuals, and society at large
 - Chronosystem
- **Structure:**
 - Boundaries
 - Pressures for change
 - Energy
 - All systems have structure, based on the relationship between units within the system, and ties or relationships to other systems within the environment.
 - The structure of a system is identified in terms of its boundaries; the processes and pressures that produce the need to change within the system: and the energy that the system uses, produces, and shares with the environment.
- **Domains:**
- Cultural (The cultural domain includes everything that people use and to which they assign meaning (e.g., language, beliefs, ideas, customs, skills, family patterns).
 - Social
 - Psychological
 - Biological
 - Physical- built
 - Physical- natural
 - The most important component of systems is their domain of functioning, or domain of influence. For example, the system may function within a specific physical location, and it may involve particular psychological, social or cultural processes. Of course, all systems function simultaneously across the various domains, and it does not really make sense to pick and choose just one. However, being able to pull the domains apart and describe them independently is an important step in our attempt to simplify the complexity of systems.

3. What are the environmental domains that determine behaviour?

Furr (1997) presented six domains that are important to understanding the context of human behavior. These were the cultural, social, psychological, biological and physical domains