

CHAPTER 1

The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction

CONCEPT MAP

- I. The Social Imagination
 - A. What Are the True Costs and Returns of College?
 - B. Getting That “Piece of Paper”
- II. What Is a Social Institution?
- III. The Sociology of Sociology
 - A. August Comte and the Creation of Sociology
 - i. Harriet Martineau
 - B. Classical Sociology Theory
 - i. Karl Marx
 - ii. Max Weber
 - iii. Émile Durkheim
 - iv. Georg Simmel
 - C. American Sociology
 - i. W. E. B. DuBois
 - ii. Jane Addams
 - iii. Talcott Parsons
- D. Modern Sociological Theories
 - i. Conflict Theory
 - ii. Feminist Theory
 - iii. Symbolic Interactionism
 - iv. Postmodernism
 - v. Midrange Theory
- IV. Sociology and Its Cousins
 - A. History
 - B. Anthropology
 - C. The Psychological and Biological Sciences
 - D. Economics and Political Science
- V. Divisions within Sociology
 - A. Microsociology and Macrosociology

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. As defined by C. Wright Mills, which of the following "enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society"?

a. formal sociology
b. sociological imagination
c. microsociology
d. macrosociology

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Imagination (I)
MSC: Remembering

2. A female manager is attempting to climb her way to the top of the corporate ladder. She works as hard as, if not harder than, her male colleagues, but nothing she does seems to help her advance. She begins to notice a pattern: Men are often promoted, but women are often overlooked for advancement. The realization that many women in her circumstance are experiencing the same discrimination is an example of

a. anomie.
b. *Verstehen*.
c. sociological imagination.
d. social cohesion.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Imagination (I)
MSC: Applying

3. In *Pulp Fiction*, two characters discuss and reflect on how in Holland people put mayonnaise on their french fries instead of ketchup. Your textbook author uses this to illustrate the concept of

a. the sociology of film.
b. the sociological imagination.
c. social institutions.
d. formal sociology.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Imagination (I)
MSC: Understanding

4. A panel of community leaders holds a discussion about poverty and environmental hazards, noting that poorer people are more likely to live near such hazards. One audience member argues that people can simply choose to move and that this is not a community-level problem. The panelists note that poverty creates a context in which choices about residence are made. The panelists' point illustrates the concept of

a. urban sociology.
b. social institutions.
c. the sociological imagination.
d. macrosociology.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Imagination (I)
MSC: Understanding

5. Generally speaking, what does it mean to think like a sociologist?
- a. to think of the world in such a way as to make the familiar strange
b. to place our own values above data we collect about
c. to think of individuals as members of an organized group
d. to see culture as a more powerful force than armies or industry

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Imagination (I) | InQuizitive
MSC: Understanding

6. According to social theorist Randall Collins, getting a "piece of paper" is more important to many than actually having the knowledge to do a job. He calls the undue priority placed on formal education
- microsociology.
 - credentialism.
 - normlessness.
 - xenophobia.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Getting That "Piece of Paper" (I.B)
MSC: Understanding

7. Asha Rangappa, dean of admissions at Yale Law School, explained that most students who apply to Yale Law School have already benefited from opportunities that make them appear to be stronger candidates than those from less advantaged backgrounds. In the sociological perspective, this implies that
- as a social institution, education tends to reinforce existing inequalities.
 - education is the best opportunity for reducing inequality.
 - microsociology is the better way to study America's universities.
 - Yale Law School is an exceptional case of inequality.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Getting That "Piece of Paper" (I.B)
MSC: Understanding

8. What does it mean to say that our society is "credentialist" about entry into certain profession, such as medicine?
- One must enter as a novice and is promoted based on experience and demonstrated skill.
 - One gains entry into these professions based on family and social connections.
 - One must go through a process for formal schooling and certification.
 - One must purchase a license or other qualifying documentation or registration.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Getting That "Piece of Paper" (I.B) | InQuizitive
MSC: Understanding

9. Which of the following is defined as a complex group of interdependent positions that together perform a social role and reproduce themselves over time?
- a social identity
 - a social institution
 - a theory
 - anomie

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II)
MSC: Remembering

10. As your textbook author notes, the most age-segregated social institution in our society is a
- hospital.
 - mental institution.
 - prison.
 - four-year college.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II)
MSC: Remembering

11. The Philip Morris Company changed its name to Altria in an attempt to create a new
- brand of cigarettes.
 - defense against lawsuits.
 - social identity.
 - multinational company.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II)
MSC: Remembering

12. The "grand narrative" that constitutes a social identity
- is nothing more than the sum of individual stories told between pairs of individuals.
 - remains the same throughout time within the same social group.
 - can be defined only by the individual, so it is subjective.
 - is subjective and therefore easy to change.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II)

MSC: Remembering

13. In government, many social actors such as senators, legislative aides, and voters work together as a complex group of interdependent parts to influence society. Seen in this light, government is a
- social construction.
 - figment of the sociological imagination.
 - society.
 - social institution.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II)

MSC: Applying

14. Social institutions often appear monolithic and unchanging. The sociological perspective is that
- social institutions are socially constructed and changeable.
 - modern social institutions are socially constructed, but premodern institutions were unchanging.
 - family is relatively monolithic, whereas government and education are changeable.
 - each institution must be understood on its own terms; no generalizations regarding social construction are possible.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II)

MSC: Understanding

15. Although most U.S. universities have no official language, students and faculty typically expect the lectures, syllabi, and reading materials to be presented in English. Any faculty or students attempting to change this practice to any language other than English would encounter many practical obstacles, based on how the university is organized. This illustrates the importance of
- social roles.
 - social institutions.
 - social norms.
 - the sociological imagination.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II)

MSC: Understanding

16. What is the ultimate basis for a social institution's continued existence over time?
- an ongoing narrative that links the past, the present, and the future
 - a physical facility, typically consisting of land, building, and other infrastructure
 - a community of people, which in the case of a college includes faculty, staff, and students
 - a name, plus other symbols associated with the brand; for a college, that includes a logo, school colors, and a mascot

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II) | InQuizitive

MSC: Understanding

17. Karl Marx argued that social institutions in a society were the result of the economic makeup of that society. Max Weber argued that
- there are no social institutions in a society.
 - ideas influence society, not just economics.
 - Marx was correct, except for his ideas about religion.
 - the epistemological stage of that society influenced the social institutions.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: The Sociology of Sociology (III)
MSC: Remembering

18. Which of the following sociologists originated the theory of positivism?
- Auguste Comte
 - Émile Durkheim
 - Karl Marx
 - Max Weber

ANS: A DIF: Moderate
REF: August Comte and the Creation of Sociology (III.A) MSC: Remembering

19. "Social physics" or "positivism" is best defined as the
- idea that we can scientifically and logically study social institutions and the individuals within them.
 - study of human behavior as governed by natural instincts.
 - study of the symbolic interactions between social institutions and the individuals within them.
 - relationship between scientific and religious social institutions.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult
REF: August Comte and the Creation of Sociology (III.A) MSC: Remembering

20. According to Auguste Comte, what were the three epistemological stages of human society?
- the theological stage, the scientific stage, and the postscientific stage
 - the theological stage, the metaphysical stage, and the secular stage
 - the theological stage, the scientific stage, and the positivist stage
 - the theological stage, the metaphysical stage, and the scientific stage

ANS: D DIF: Moderate
REF: August Comte and the Creation of Sociology (III.A) MSC: Remembering

21. Consider two distinct versions of a research study that seeks to develop knowledge on young men's involvement in property crime. The first focuses on the natural drives of young men as they follow their instincts toward accumulating more goods and resources. The second approach focuses on the typical experiences of young men and on current norms to predict criminal behavior. Regarding Comte's three epistemological stages, the first approach is an example of the _____ stage, while the second approach is an example of the _____ stage.
- metaphysical; sociological
 - biological; scientific
 - metaphysical; scientific
 - biological; sociological

ANS: C DIF: Difficult
REF: August Comte and the Creation of Sociology (III.A) MSC: Applying

22. In *How to Observe Morals and Manners*, Harriet Martineau critiqued the institution of marriage as
- based on an assumption that women are inferior.
 - based on an assumption that men are inferior.
 - reinforcing heterosexuality.
 - perpetuating social class stratification.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Harriet Martineau (III.A.i)

MSC: Remembering

23. Which founder of sociology is known, in part, for providing the theoretical foundation of Communism?

- Auguste Comte
- Émile Durkheim
- Karl Marx
- Max Weber

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Karl Marx (III.B.i)

MSC: Remembering

24. To Karl Marx, conflict between a small number of capitalists and a large number of workers would divide society. He referred to these workers as

- employees.
- the proletariat.
- subordinates.
- the working poor.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Karl Marx (III.B.i)

MSC: Remembering

25. One challenge of an industrialized society is that the society's members can find themselves working much of the day to have access to the very technologies that are supposed to make life easier. This illustrates Marx's argument that

- each economic system in history had its own fault lines of conflict.
- consensus between social members would make life easier for everyone.
- social behavior must be understood in terms of the meanings of those being studied.
- society must be analyzed in terms of the roles that different phenomena play.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Karl Marx (III.B.i)

MSC: Understanding

26. Who wrote *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*?

- Karl Marx
- Georg Simmel
- Harriet Martineau
- Max Weber

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Max Weber (III.B.ii)

MSC: Remembering

27. A sociologist is initially shocked by the practice of child marriage in Kenya. Instead of viewing the participants as objects to be examined, the sociologist tries to imagine himself in the position of the people being studied and tries to see child marriage from their perspective. Seeking to understand the insider's perspective is what Max Weber called

- anomie.
- functionalism.
- Verstehen*.
- positivism.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Max Weber (III.B.ii)

MSC: Applying

28. To truly understand why people act the way they do, we must understand the *meanings* they attach to their behaviors. Max Weber called this
- a. functionalism.
 - b. historical materialism.
 - c. xenophobia.
 - d. *Verstehen*.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Max Weber (III.B.ii)
MSC: Understanding

29. Which of the following is the study of social meanings, emphasizing subjectivity in understanding human behavior?
- a. interpretive sociology
 - b. formal sociology
 - c. social ecology
 - d. positivism

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Max Weber (III.B.ii)
MSC: Understanding

30. When a twenty-first century researcher organizes every aspect of her study with close attention to the meanings that the respondents attach to their behavior, she attends to the subjective nature of her observations rather than studying the respondents as objects. This approach demonstrates
- a. the importance of Marx's approach to the development of conflict theory.
 - b. the importance of Durkheim's ideas to the development of the positivist approach.
 - c. the importance of Talcott Parsons's ideas to the development of symbolic interactionism.
 - d. the importance of Weber's ideas to the development of interpretive sociology.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Max Weber (III.B.ii)
MSC: Understanding

31. *The Division of Labor in Society* was the first of many intellectual contributions to sociology from
- a. Auguste Comte.
 - b. Émile Durkheim.
 - c. Karl Marx.
 - d. Max Weber.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Émile Durkheim (III.B.iii)
MSC: Remembering

32. Which sociologist wrote *Suicide* in 1897?
- a. Auguste Comte
 - b. Émile Durkheim
 - c. Karl Marx
 - d. Max Weber

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Émile Durkheim (III.B.iii)
MSC: Remembering

33. According to Durkheim's *Suicide*, rapid social change causes people to experience normlessness, an uncomfortable state that sometimes leads to suicide. This state of normlessness is called
- a. anomie.
 - b. loneliness.
 - c. postmodernism.
 - d. *Verstehen*.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Émile Durkheim (III.B.iii)
MSC: Remembering

34. Which of the following people is MOST likely to experience what Durkheim referred to as *anomie*?
- a factory worker living in considerable poverty who has several family members to care for
 - a teacher who enjoys her time with students and colleagues, but who struggles to make ends meet
 - a well-paid professional with several good friends, but whose job is very stressful
 - an inventor who has been able to stop going to a workplace and who doesn't need to go out much

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Émile Durkheim (III.B.iii)
 MSC: Applying

35. According to Émile Durkheim, the division of labor in a society helps to determine
- the sociological contribution of individuals.
 - the timing of the revolt of the proletariat.
 - the way social cohesion among individuals is maintained.
 - linguistic patterns.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Émile Durkheim (III.B.iii)
 MSC: Understanding

36. Consider a family with one son and one daughter. While the children in the house are playing, a vase is broken and the parents ask who is responsible. The daughter blames the son, but each of the two children knows for sure who broke the vase. Now consider another family with one daughter and two sons. Two of these children are playing together when someone breaks the vase. When the daughter blames one of the sons, only two of the three children know who broke the vase. This description most closely corresponds to which of the following ideas?
- Simmel's idea that there is something unique about pairs compared to groups of other sizes
 - Oakley's idea that many gender differences in behavior are social rather than biological
 - Marx's idea that conflict is a basic force in society that expands as groups grow
 - Émile Durkheim's idea that social solidarity is vital for social stability

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Georg Simmel (III.B.iv)
 MSC: Understanding

37. The emergence of American sociology is most closely affiliated with which U.S. university?
- American University
 - University of Chicago
 - New York University
 - Columbia University

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: American Sociology (III.C)
 MSC: Remembering

38. Charles H. Cooley argued that the self emerges from how an individual interacts with others and then interprets those interactions. He called this
- the looking-glass self.
 - the social self.
 - the generalized other.
 - the significant other.

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: American Sociology (III.C)
 MSC: Remembering

39. George H. Mead described how the self develops and comes to internalize the views of society as a whole, transcending the individual and particular situations. He called this
- a. the significant other.
 - b. the generalized other.
 - c. the looking-glass self.
 - d. the social self.
- ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: American Sociology (III.C)
MSC: Remembering
40. The basic premise of the Chicago School was that human behaviors and personalities are shaped by social and physical environments. This is known as
- a. formal sociology.
 - b. interpretive sociology.
 - c. social ecology.
 - d. quantitative sociology
- ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: American Sociology (III.C)
MSC: Understanding
41. The most important reason that the Chicago School's main laboratory for sociological research was the city of Chicago itself was that
- a. travel at that time was expensive, so fieldwork in Chicago was convenient.
 - b. it was an American city, and trends in America were very similar to global trends.
 - c. Chicago is in the American Midwest, and the center of the country was seen as a composite of all American cities.
 - d. industrialism, immigration, and increasing ethnic diversity in Chicago were all interesting trends for sociologists to study.
- ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: American Sociology (III.C)
MSC: Understanding
42. Who was the first African American to receive a PhD from Harvard University?
- a. W. E. B. Du Bois
 - b. Jane Addams
 - c. C. Wright Mills
 - d. William Julius Wilson
- ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: W.E.B. DuBois (III.C.i)
MSC: Remembering
43. Which sociologist applied Durkheim's theory of anomie to explain crime rates among African Americans after the abolition of slavery in the United States?
- a. W. E. B. Du Bois
 - b. Jane Addams
 - c. Robert Park
 - d. Charles H. Cooley
- ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: W.E.B. DuBois (III.C.i)
MSC: Remembering
44. A white woman goes into an upscale shop to look at clothes. She is excited to see that there is a sale and gathers a huge pile of clothes to take into the dressing room. An African American woman goes into the store and is also excited about the sale but, at the same time, hesitates to take too many clothes into the dressing room because she is afraid the staff will accuse her of shoplifting. W. E. B. Du Bois would say that the African American woman has
- a. racial bias.
 - b. double injustice.
 - c. a double consciousness.
 - d. experienced a division of labor.
- ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: W.E.B. DuBois (III.C.i)
MSC: Applying

45. Which description best sums up DuBois’s concept of “double consciousness” in the daily life of a black American?
- A black American has to think not only about what he or she is doing, but also about how that behavior affects bystanders.
 - Black American are especially reliant on partners and friends to maintain proper life perspective.
 - Black Americans are especially reliant on social cues from observers to tell them what behavior is social expected.
 - A black American has to think about not only what he or she is doing, but also about how that behavior appears to onlookers.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: W.E.B. DuBois (III.C.i) | InQuizitive
 MSC: Understanding

46. What was Jane Addams best known for?
- being the only female member of the Chicago School
 - founding the field of American sociology
 - founding the first American settlement house to help the poor
 - studying diverse communities in Chicago

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Jane Addams (III.C.ii)
 MSC: Remembering

47. Which American sociologist’s work most closely followed the functionalist tradition of analyzing social phenomena based on the role they played in society?
- Talcott Parsons
 - C. Wright Mills
 - George Herbert Mead
 - Herbert Blumer

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Talcott Parsons (III.C.iii) | InQuizitive
 MSC: Remembering

48. If a social theorist is asked to explain why people in different occupations have different income levels, he might argue that the people who serve the most important occupational roles should be the best or most qualified for those roles, and that higher incomes will attract those most qualified who will then compete for the high income occupations. A theorist who takes this position focuses on
- the inherent labor market conflict that Marx wrote about.
 - the functional role of social and economic inequality.
 - the construction of meaning through social interactions.
 - Weber’s concept of *Verstehen*.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Talcott Parsons (III.C.iii)
 MSC: Applying

49. Which modern sociological theory states that the best way to analyze society is to identify the purpose that different aspects or phenomena serve in society?
- postmodernism
 - feminism
 - conflict theory
 - functionalism

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Talcott Parsons (III.C.iii)
 MSC: Understanding

50. _____ is the sociological theory that sees social groups as being like living organisms, and therefore focuses on the cohesion and stability of the group.
- a. Functionalism
 - b. Conflict theory
 - c. Midrange theory
 - d. Postmodernism

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Talcott Parsons (III.C.iii)
MSC: Understanding

51. If a social theorist is asked to explain why people in different occupations have different income levels, he might argue that this is an unfair arrangement that has been created by people with more power. A theorist who takes this position is most likely aligned with
- a. functionalism.
 - b. postmodernism.
 - c. conflict theory.
 - d. midrange theory.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Conflict Theory (III.D.i)
MSC: Applying

52. Which feminist sociologist wrote *Sex, Gender, and Society* (1972), which argued that much of what we attribute to biological sex differences can actually be traced to learned behaviors and socialization?
- a. Jane Addams
 - b. Harriet Martineau
 - c. Ann Oakley
 - d. Margaret Mead

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Feminist Theory (III.D.ii)
MSC: Understanding

53. Some feminist theorists argue that there is remarkable similarity of natural capacities between men and women, while others argue that even though men and women are very different, they should be valued equally. Despite the difference in these two viewpoints, both would be feminist theorists because
- a. they both focus on gender as their main topic of study.
 - b. they both describe and critique women's social disadvantages.
 - c. they focus equally on the importance of gender socialization.
 - d. they both focus on gender in society broadly rather than in specific institutions.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Feminist Theory (III.D.ii)
MSC: Understanding

54. Erving Goffman used the language of theater to describe how people present themselves in everyday social life. This is known as
- a. sui generis.
 - b. dramaturgical theory.
 - c. functionalism.
 - d. stage theory.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Symbolic Interactionism (III.D.iii)
MSC: Remembering

55. Selma has decided to study how a specific community communicates its expectations about the parenting practices of men and women, focusing on the day-to-day interactions among community members. To carry out her study, Selma should rely most heavily on which theoretical approach?
- symbolic interactionism
 - conflict theory
 - postmodernism
 - feminist theory

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Symbolic Interactionism (III.D.iii)
MSC: Applying

56. Consider a research study of conversations. The study's goal is to see whether or not conversations show signs that men are more valued than women. This study might be combining two different theoretical approaches. The two theories most likely to be combined are
- feminist theory and symbolic interactionism.
 - feminist theory and conflict theory.
 - feminist theory and functionalism.
 - feminist theory and postmodernism.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Symbolic Interactionism (III.D.iii)
MSC: Applying

57. Which of the following is a primary focus for symbolic interactionists?
- institutional functioning
 - competition
 - group stability
 - shared meaning

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Symbolic Interactionism (III.D.iii)
MSC: Understanding

58. A certain high school student is wearing "cool" clothing and is considered "cool." Identify the statement about this situation that aligns with symbolic interactionism.
- The student is considered cool because of the cool clothes.
 - The student would be considered cool even without the cool clothes.
 - Neither the student nor the clothing is actually cool.
 - The coolness of the student and the clothing are connected in a causal cycle.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Symbolic Interactionism (III.D.iii) | InQuizitive
MSC: Applying

59. Postmodern sociologists argue that all so-called objective phenomena are open to debate because all meaning is subjective. Thus, to postmodernists, all "facts" are really
- social constructions.
 - myths.
 - lies.
 - propaganda.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Postmodernism (III.D.iv)
MSC: Applying

60. Native Americans may see the history of the United States differently from white Americans. Which theory would argue that there is not a unifying "grand narrative" of history because history itself is not objective, but rather socially constructed?

- a. midrange theory
- b. postmodernism
- c. symbolic interactionism
- d. functionalism

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Postmodernism (III.D.iv)

MSC: Applying

61. Which of the following argues that the organizing narratives of history are over and that progress has led to a condition where there are no shared, objective meanings?

- a. feminism
- b. conflict theory
- c. postmodernism
- d. functionalism

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Postmodernism (III.D.iv)

MSC: Understanding

62. Some postmodern sociologists work to show us how all "facts" are created arbitrarily by people with varying degrees of power. This is known as

- a. positivism.
- b. anomie.
- c. qualitative research.
- d. deconstructing social phenomena.

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Postmodernism (III.D.iv)

MSC: Understanding

63. Robert Merton's modern sociological theory focused on predicting how certain social institutions function. This subject matter lies between microsociology and macrosociology. This is known as

- a. midrange theory.
- b. middling sociology.
- c. applied theory.
- d. postmodernism.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Midrange Theory (III.D.v)

MSC: Remembering

64. In the discipline of history, focusing on historical figures such as Adolf Hitler is known as

- a. "great man" research.
- b. popular history.
- c. historiography.
- d. historical materialism.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: History (IV.A)

MSC: Remembering

65. Though both may study the past, historians more often focus on _____ cases while sociologists more often focus on _____ cases.

- a. multiple; single
- b. military; social
- c. unique; comparative
- d. qualitative; quantitative

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: History (IV.A)

MSC: Remembering

66. While historians are more likely to focus on the uniqueness of cases, sociologists are more likely to focus on

- a. competition.
- b. the experiences of soldiers.
- c. commonalities across cases.
- d. small-scale interactions.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: History (IV.A)

MSC: Understanding

67. Which area within the discipline of anthropology is most similar to sociology?

- a. physical anthropology
- b. cultural anthropology
- c. linguistic anthropology
- d. biological anthropology

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Anthropology (IV.B)
 MSC: Understanding

68. In psychology, the focus is on the individual. In sociology, the focus is on group-level dynamics and social structures above and beyond the individual. Sociology's focus is

- a. intra-individual.
- b. interindividual.
- c. supra-individual.
- d. superindividual.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: The Psychological and Biological Sciences (IV.C)
 MSC: Remembering

69. If a person engages in self-harm, a psychologist might focus on the individual factors that help explain the behavior. By contrast, a sociologist would be more likely to focus on the supra-individual. Accordingly, the sociologist would be more likely than the psychologist to

- a. study whether self-harm is more prevalent in some communities than in others.
- b. conduct a large-scale experiment to see how depressive symptoms predict self-harm.
- c. determine whether or not anyone in the person's family has also engaged in self-harm.
- d. examine the importance of genetics in explaining the person's self-harm.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Psychological and Biological Sciences (IV.C)
 MSC: Applying

70. The examination of human behavior within a rational actor model is the focus of which of the following "cousins" of sociology?

- a. anthropology
- b. economics
- c. psychology
- d. the biological sciences

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Economics and Political Science (IV.D)
 MSC: Remembering

71. Sociology is the study of

- a. how urges, drives, and the mind account for human behavior.
- b. group-level dynamics and social structures.
- c. causal mechanisms within the biological nature of individuals.
- d. humans as rational utility maximizers.

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Economics and Political Science (IV.D)
 MSC: Understanding

72. Economists generally see humans as _____ but sociologists tend to include _____ in their view of humans.

- a. irrational actors; deceit
- b. rational actors; irrational motivations
- c. irrational actors; rationality
- d. emotional actors; emotionlessness

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Economics and Political Science (IV.D)
 MSC: Understanding

73. Compared to sociology, economics
- is fundamentally more quantitative.
 - emphasizes altruism as a core motivation.
 - usually treats human beings as irrational.
 - takes culture and religion as objects of study.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate
REF: Economics and Political Science (IV.D) | InQuizitive MSC: Understanding

74. The most significant division within the discipline of sociology exists between
- interpretive and positivist sociology.
 - qualitative and quantitative sociology.
 - functionalist and feminist sociology.
 - conflict and symbolic interactionist sociology.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Divisions within Sociology (V)
MSC: Applying

75. Lek decides to study social relationships in a midwestern gang, and she begins deciding which specific research questions to pursue. One line of inquiry she considers is whether the group's age and gender characteristics affect the longevity of friendships in the gang. The second line of inquiry would involve an exploration of the most important components of the gang's social relationships, as reported in detail by the respondents' own stories. The first of these lines of inquiry comes from the
- positivist approach.
 - anthropological approach.
 - macrosociological approach.
 - interpretive approach.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Divisions within Sociology (V)
MSC: Applying

76. _____ sociology makes a prediction about homelessness rates. _____ sociology seeks to understand the experience of homelessness.
- Positivist; Interpretive
 - Qualitative; Quantitative
 - Classical; Contemporary
 - Theoretical; Empirical

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Divisions within Sociology (V)
MSC: Applying

77. Quantitative sociologists view data as numbers. Qualitative sociologists view data as
- human beings.
 - feelings.
 - qualities.
 - words.

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Divisions within Sociology (V)
MSC: Understanding

78. Which of the following focuses its analyses on larger social dynamics at the societal and structural levels?
- microsociology
 - macrosociology
 - social ecology
 - symbolic interactionism

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Microsociology and Macrosociology (V.A)
MSC: Remembering

79. What is the difference between microsociology and macrosociology?
- the time scale of most research
 - the size of the population being studied
 - the size of the investigative team
 - the level of analysis

ANS: D DIF: Moderate

REF: Microsociology and Macrosociology (V.A) | InQuizitive MSC: Remembering

80. Which of the following focuses its analyses on face-to-face encounters and interactions?
- microsociology
 - macrosociology
 - social ecology
 - cultural sociology

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Microsociology and Macrosociology (V.A)

MSC: Understanding

ESSAY

1. Explain how a successful sociologist makes the familiar strange, and make sure to explain what this concept means. Next, connect the concept of making the familiar strange with a brief discussion of how the sociological approach could contribute to our understanding of ONE of the following topics: family or college.

ANS:

A successful sociologist makes the familiar strange by exposing what had seemed natural as, in fact, socially constructed. Sociologists use both theory and method to accomplish this purpose.

Students who choose the college topic may discuss credentialism or social inequality, discussing one of the conundrums of contemporary education—that it is said to be a social equalizer but in fact more often preserves existing inequalities.

Students who choose the family topic may critique the use of the term "traditional family," a phrase that makes the social institution of family seem monolithic and unchanging. In fact, in society, law, and religion, people are constantly constructing, deconstructing, and reconstructing family.

Advantages of the sociological perspective may include sharper insight, a stronger commitment to justice and equality, and a more acute view of why people are positioned in society as they are. Disadvantages may include frustration with the difficulty of making social change and disappointment with one's long-held beliefs in equal opportunity or the American dream. Disadvantages could also include what is missed by not using a psychological, historical, or other disciplinary approach.

DIF: Difficult REF: The Sociological Imagination (I) MSC: Evaluating

2. Consider a scenario in which a parent meets with a teacher to discuss his child. Please discuss how this interaction would likely be influenced by the fact that the parent and teacher represent two distinct social institutions (family and education). Please be sure to define what a social institution is and then give a few examples of how this meeting would have some level of predictability due to its connection to the rules of these two institutions. Be sure to include the relevant concepts about social institutions included in your textbook.

ANS:

The student should first define a social institution as a complex group of interdependent positions, which together perform a social role and reproduce themselves over time. Answers and examples will vary, but some could include the parent wanting to make sure his child is getting the best care and education and is being treated fairly. The teacher may be motivated to show how s/he is doing a good job as an educator, and might also want to communicate the expectations of the school (e.g., work completion, nondisruptive behavior, punctual attendance). One relevant concept could be the interdependence of the positions that, in this case, extend between the two institutions (e.g., the school expects the child to be dressed and maybe fed before s/he comes to school in the morning, and that the parent has taught the child appropriate behavior; the parent/family expects the child to receive reasonable attention and care and instruction and to be kept safe).

Another relevant concept would be roles that are played (e.g., parent, child, teacher, student), which could be discussed in terms of how the family and school might expect some of the same things of the child yet might also expect some different things—such as what the child should do if someone picks on him/her. The student's discussion of the interaction between these two institutional actors (parent and teacher) could also be used to touch on the concept of the grand narrative that makes up the relevant social identities, shaped by the sum of individual stories between pairs, including the one described here by the student.

DIF: Moderate REF: What Is a Social Institution? (II) MSC: Applying

3. One of Weber's most important contributions to sociology was the concept of *Verstehen*, or "understanding" in German. First, describe what Weber meant by this concept. Then, describe how a sociologist might go about gaining this understanding.

ANS:

Weber was suggesting that if we truly want to understand people's behaviors (e.g., why they take particular actions or make particular decisions), we need to stand in "their shoes," or see it from their perspective. This was a call for understanding the meanings people attach to their actions. A real-life example of this would be if a sociologist wanted to understand why people become stressed. He or she would need to interview people in order to gain a better understanding of what stresses them—because what's stressful for one person (e.g., "Ugh, I hate having to go to this party and make small talk with a bunch of people I don't even know") may not be stressful to another (e.g., "I can't wait to meet/network with some new people tonight"). Weber would argue that if we truly want a better understanding of "what stresses people," we need to understand the events/situations they define as stressful.

DIF: Moderate REF: Max Weber (III.B.ii) MSC: Analyzing

4. List and discuss three contributions that Émile Durkheim made to sociology.

ANS:

Durkheim's main contributions include the theory of *functionalism*, which examines society as a sum of many parts working together (or not) like a well-oiled machine. He also defined *the division of labor*, or how jobs are specialized in a society. Division of labor is predicted to be partly responsible for determining the level of *social solidarity* (consensus within a society) of a given society.

Durkheim was also the first practitioner of *positivist sociology* with his 1897 book *Suicide*, even though Comte coined the term *positivism*. In this research, Durkheim found that normlessness resulting from drastic changes in one's lifestyle may lead to anomie, and that this normlessness may lead some people to commit suicide. Anomie is also used in many other ways to study people's behaviors.

DIF: Easy

REF: Durkheim (III.B.iii)

MSC: Analyzing

5. Define the Chicago School's concept of *social ecology*. State a research question you could pose to better understand a particular phenomenon from a social ecology perspective. Explain how your question fits with social ecology.

ANS:

Social ecology is the study of human behaviors and personalities as shaped by our social and physical environments. It grew popular in Chicago in the 1920s, as the city was rapidly urbanizing and industrializing. It is practiced primarily through a community-based approach (e.g., interviewing research subjects and spending time with them).

An example of a research question would be: How has the steady growth of Latino populations in Siler City, North Carolina, affected the ethnic composition of the public schools in the area? Has this growth had any effect on the growth in private/charter schools within the city? Has this growth had any effect on the kinds of food carried in grocery stores? How has this population adapted to life? Have any particular changes emerged as a result of this steady growth in the Latino population (e.g., stretch on resources, decreasing/increasing racial and ethnic tolerance)?

DIF: Difficult

REF: American Sociology (III.C)

MSC: Analyzing

6. Choose one of the following American social theorists: Park, Wirth, Cooley, Mead, Du Bois, or Addams. Describe the main idea of their theory, including relevant details, and describe their lasting contribution to sociology.

ANS:

Robert Park's main ideas include encouraging others to "go out and get the seats of [their] pants dirty with real research" by applying social-ecological (community-based) research to the real world.

Louis Wirth is known for his essay "Urbanism as a Way of Life," in which he borrowed from Durkheim and described how the city broke down traditional forms of social solidarity while still promoting tolerance, rationality, and individual freedom.

Charles Horton Cooley's main idea was that our *social self* is shaped during an interactive process in which we envision how others perceive us, and that leads to our *self-concept*. He called this the *looking-glass self* theory.

George Herbert Mead wrote *Mind, Self, and Society*, in which he described how the self develops over the course of childhood as individuals learn to take the point of view of others in specific contexts and eventually the larger society, which he called the *generalized other*.

W. E. B. Du Bois is probably the most important black sociologist, as well as the first African American to earn a PhD from Harvard University. Du Bois cofounded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. His early work included contributions to criminology in which he used Durkheim's concept of anomie to explain crime rates among African Americans after slavery. Mainly, the sudden and newfound freedom of former slaves was found to be related to high crime rates among Southern blacks. Du Bois also argued that social stratification among Philadelphia's black population may have been necessary for progress in the black community. Thus, he created what he called "the talented tenth," an elite group of African American professionals that would lead blacks to success.

Jane Addams, like most women and nonwhite male sociologists, didn't always receive the respect she deserved. She founded Hull House in Chicago, a settlement house that served the poor. She was also marginalized by some as more of a social worker than a sociologist, but she wore that title proudly and encouraged sociologists to become social activists.

DIF: Difficult

REF: American Sociology (III.C)

MSC: Evaluating

7. How would a conflict theorist look at the educational system in the United States? How would a functionalist look at the educational system? What is one commonality between these two perspectives? What is one important difference?

ANS:

A conflict theorist would see the educational system in the United States as unequal. People from lower classes don't receive the same education as those from higher social classes. This is due to the fact that even public schools are not equal. Schools in upper-status neighborhoods have more resources for learning, and therefore their students are more likely to be accepted into college. Families from upper-class neighborhoods are also more likely to be able to afford tutors and computers, and they may be alumni of good colleges and thus assist their children in applying.

A functionalist, however, might argue that the public school system in the United States is functional in allowing all students access to the same education. The organization of this system is beneficial for all who want to take advantage of it. The people who get into colleges are those who have studied harder in school and are smarter than those youths who aren't accepted into these institutions.

Commonalities could include: They are both sociology; they both consider how education is socially constructed; they both look at people's experience in light of social location.

Differences include the priority given to conflict and the priority given to social stability.

DIF: Moderate REF: Conflict Theory (III.D.i) MSC: Analyzing

8. List two or three examples of a topic that midrange theory would address. Describe the value of midrange theory to contemporary sociology, using your examples to illustrate your point.

ANS:

Midrange theory would consider topics larger than the individual but smaller than society as a whole, such as gender, race, ethnicity, urbanism, religion, or education.

Where the other modern sociological theories are grand in their predictions and explanations and thus open to deconstruction, *midrange theory* borrows from functionalist Robert Merton. Merton said we should focus on how specific social institutions tend to function rather than trying to focus on the entire social structure. The key to understanding midrange theory is that it generates *falsifiable hypotheses* that sociologists can test by analyzing the real world in manageable chunks rather than trying to take on the whole world at one time.

DIF: Moderate REF: Midrange Theory (III.D.v) MSC: Analyzing

9. Choose one "cousin" of sociology: history, anthropology, psychology, economics, or political science. List and describe two similarities between sociology and the cousin you chose. List and describe two differences.

ANS:

History: Historians are generally more concerned with explaining "unique" cases (e.g., why Hitler came to power), while sociologists focus more on the commonalities that can be extracted from a wide variety of cases (e.g., what common element allowed fascism to arise in Germany, Italy, Spain, and Japan, but not in other countries). You could say that sociology is more concerned with overarching patterns (nomothetic approach), while history is more focused on explaining particular instances (idiographic approach).

Anthropology: It used to be easier to paint these two disciplines as different creatures because sociologists generally studied "us" (Western society and culture) and anthropologists more often focused on "them" (other societies/cultures). Today, the subject matter of sociology is often indistinguishable from the subject matter of anthropology—especially cultural anthropology. You could argue that sociologists typically use a wider array of methods—including experiments and surveys—and that they make heavier use of comparative case studies than anthropologists. Because globalization has made divisions of the past (between "us" and "them") less salient, scholars today often question the legitimacy of drawing strict boundaries between these two disciplines.

Psychology: Although sociology and psychology address the same questions, psychology focuses more on how things "within" a person (individual) affect behavior, and sociology focuses more on how things "outside" a person (supra-individual) affect behavior. As such, psychologists direct more of their attention toward drives, urges, instincts, and mental processes, while sociologists focus more on group dynamics, social structures (both small and large), and how a person's social location affects their actions and feelings.

Economics and Political Science: Economists start with a view of humans as rational actors who seek to maximize benefits and minimize costs. Sociologists have a more expansive view of what motivates people to act, going beyond the maximizing of profit and including unconscious (nonrational, selfless, greed, cultural expectations) motivating factors. While sociologists focus broadly on social relations, political science focuses on one particular aspect of social relations—power. As such, sociology's subject matter is much broader in scope.

DIF: Moderate REF: Sociology and Its Cousins (IV) MSC: Analyzing