

## **CHAPTER 1: The Sociological Imagination: An Introduction**

### **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  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination                      MSC: Remembering

2. A female manager is attempting to climb her way to the top of the corporate ladder. She works as hard, 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: Difficult                      REF: The Sociological Imagination  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination                      MSC: Applying

3. Feeling discomfort about rural Chinese society, where many generations of a family sleep in the same bed, is known as:
- a. xenophobia.
  - b. *Verstehen*.
  - c. social engineering.
  - d. social ecology.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: The Sociological Imagination  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination                      MSC: Applying

4. The textbook author uses dialogue from *Pulp Fiction*, in which the characters discuss how in Holland people put mayonnaise on their french fries, in order to:
- a. introduce the sociology of film.
  - b. explain the sociological imagination.
  - c. explain social institutions.
  - d. define formal sociology.

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: The Sociological Imagination  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination                      MSC: Understanding

5. Sociologists and economists have shown that the benefits of higher education include higher median incomes for college graduates. This is known as:
- a. educational detournement.
  - b. the returns to schooling.
  - c. study hard or be poor.
  - d. get an education; get a job.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: What Are the True Costs and Returns of College?  
OBJ: Construct informed arguments about why they should or should not drop out of college  
MSC: Remembering

6. After doing some sociological math, the net difference between the annual earnings of the average high school versus college graduate is about \_\_\_\_\_ per year.
- a. \$5,000
  - b. \$10,000
  - c. \$20,000
  - d. \$50,000

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: What Are the True Costs and Returns of College?  
OBJ: Construct informed arguments about why they should or should not drop out of college  
MSC: Remembering

7. In today's society, Randall Collins might suggest that getting a "piece of paper" is more important to many than actually having the knowledge to do a job. He calls the priority placed on formal education:
- pecuniary education.
  - credentialism.
  - normlessness.
  - xenophobia.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult              REF: Getting That "Piece of Paper"  
OBJ: Construct informed arguments about why they should or should not drop out of college  
MSC: Understanding

8. According to Randall Collins's (1979) research, the expansion of higher education is:
- mainly caused by the globalization of capitalism.
  - likely caused by less-prepared high school students entering college.
  - a result of credentialism and expenditures on formal education.
  - a result of increasing governmental interference in educational funding.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: Getting That "Piece of Paper"  
OBJ: Construct informed arguments about why they should or should not drop out of college  
MSC: Remembering

9. According to research used to question credentialism, what might it cost to buy a college diploma online?
- \$29.95
  - \$99.99
  - \$250.00
  - at least \$1,000.00

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate              REF: Getting That "Piece of Paper"  
OBJ: Construct informed arguments about why they should or should not drop out of college  
MSC: Remembering

10. All of the following are examples of social institutions used to prevent websites from undermining colleges' degree-conferring abilities EXCEPT:
- copyright law.
  - police forces.
  - employers.
  - families.

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Getting That "Piece of Paper"  
OBJ: Construct informed arguments about why they should or should not drop out of college  
MSC: Understanding

11. 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?  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination              MSC: Remembering

12. The author of your text states that 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?  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination              MSC: Remembering

13. A family, as a group of people living together and sharing individual stories, makes up a \_\_\_\_\_ institution.
- a. social
  - b. conflict
  - c. flimsy
  - d. monolithic

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: What Is a Social Institution?  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination                      MSC: Understanding

14. The Philip Morris Company changed its name to Altria in an attempt to start a new:
- a. line of cigarettes.
  - b. defense against lawsuits.
  - c. social identity.
  - d. multinational company.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: What Is a Social Institution?  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination                      MSC: Remembering

15. The “grand narrative” that constitutes a social identity:
- a. is nothing more than a sum of individual stories told between pairs of individuals.
  - b. remains the same throughout time.
  - c. can only be defined by the individual him- or herself.
  - d. is best displayed online on Myspace and Facebook.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: What Is a Social Institution?  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination                      MSC: Remembering

16. Who was the author of the first methods book in the discipline of sociology?
- a. Émile Durkheim
  - b. Harriet Martineau
  - c. Jane Addams
  - d. Max Weber

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Auguste Comte and the Creation of Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

17. In the book *How to Observe Morals and Manners*, the institution of marriage is criticized as:
- a. based on an assumption of the inferiority of women.
  - b. based on an assumption of the inferiority of men.
  - c. reinforcing compulsory heterosexuality.
  - d. perpetuating social class stratification.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Harriet Martineau  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

18. Which of the following sociologists developed the theory of positivism?
- a. Auguste Comte
  - b. Émile Durkheim
  - c. Karl Marx
  - d. Max Weber

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: The Sociology of Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

19. According to Comte, positivism arose out of a need to make \_\_\_\_\_ sense of the social order in a time of declining religious authority.
- a. scientific
  - b. moral
  - c. rational
  - d. economic

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Auguste Comte and the Creation of Sociology  
OBJ: Analyze the social changes that led key founders of sociology to take society as an object of inquiry  
MSC: Remembering

20. Positivism is best defined as the:
- idea that we can scientifically and logically study social institutions and the individuals within them.
  - effect of religion on social institutions and the individuals within them.
  - 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: Auguste Comte and the Creation of Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Understanding

21. Although positivism originated with Auguste Comte, the person who is often considered to be the first practitioner of positivism is:
- Émile Durkheim.
  - Karl Marx.
  - Georg Simmel.
  - George Herbert Mead.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

22. Which of the three historical epistemological stages of human society did Comte explain was highlighted by Enlightenment thinking such as Rousseau's, Mill's, and Hobbes's beliefs in biological causes for human behavior?
- the theological stage
  - the metaphysical stage
  - the scientific stage
  - the postscientific stage

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Auguste Comte and the Creation of Sociology  
OBJ: Analyze the social changes that led key founders of sociology to take society as an object of inquiry  
MSC: Remembering

23. Which of the three historical epistemological stages did Comte argue would explain human society by identifying the "laws" that governed human behavior?
- the theological stage
  - the metaphysical stage
  - the scientific stage
  - the postscientific stage

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Auguste Comte and the Creation of Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Understanding

24. Each of the following is known as one of the three epistemological stages of human society, as explained by Comte, EXCEPT:
- the theological stage.
  - the metaphysical stage.
  - the scientific stage.
  - the postscientific stage.

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Auguste Comte and the Creation of Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

25. Which of the three historical epistemological stages of human society did Comte claim was characterized by the development of social physics to explain human behavior?

- a. the theological stage
- b. the metaphysical stage
- c. the scientific stage
- d. the postscientific stage

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Auguste Comte and the Creation of Sociology  
OBJ: Analyze the social changes that led key founders of sociology to take society as an object of inquiry  
MSC: Understanding

26. Which of the following lists the individuals known as “the founding fathers of the sociological discipline”?

- a. Comte, Martineau, and Marx
- b. Martineau, Addams, and Weber
- c. Durkheim, Marx, and Weber
- d. Cooley, Park, and Mead

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

27. Which of the following founders of sociology is known, in part, for his writings providing the theoretical foundation of Communism?

- a. Auguste Comte
- b. Émile Durkheim
- c. Karl Marx
- d. Max Weber

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Understanding

28. To Marx, conflict between a small number of capitalists and a large number of workers would divide society. He referred to this large number of workers as:

- a. employees.
- b. proletariat.
- c. subordinates.
- d. slaves.

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

29. Karl Marx would argue that the types of social institutions in a society were the result of the economic makeup of that society. Max Weber, however, argued that:

- a. there are no social institutions in a society.
- b. there are multiple influences (e.g., religion) on how social institutions are created.
- c. social institutions are not influenced by the economy but by the individuals in them.
- d. the epistemological stage of that society influenced the social institutions.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Applying

30. Who criticized Marx for focusing exclusively on economics and social class as explanations for human behavior and advocated sociological analyses that allowed for multiple influences?

- a. Auguste Comte
- b. Harriet Martineau
- c. Georg Simmel
- d. Max Weber

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Understanding

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

- a. Karl Marx
- c. Harriet Martineau

- ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Analyze the social changes that led key founders of sociology to take society as an object of inquiry                      MSC: Remembering

- ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Understanding

- ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Applying

- ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Understanding

- ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

- ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Understanding

- ANS: B      DIF: Easy      REF: Classical Sociological Theory

OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions

MSC: Remembering

38. According to *Suicide*, one of the main social forces leading to suicide is a sense of normlessness that results from drastic changes in society. This normlessness was called:
- a. anomie.
  - b. the division of labor.
  - c. social solidarity.
  - d. functionalism.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Classical Sociological Theory

OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions

MSC: Remembering

39. American sociology in the United States began at which of the following universities?
- a. American University
  - b. University of Chicago
  - c. New York University (NYU)
  - d. Columbia University

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: American Sociology

OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions

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. *Verstehen*.

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: American Sociology

OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions

MSC: Understanding

41. Which early U.S. sociologist told other sociologists in the Chicago School to “go out and get the seats of [their] pants dirty in real research”?
- a. Charles H. Cooley
  - b. George H. Mead
  - c. Robert Park
  - d. Louis Wirth

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: American Sociology

OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions

MSC: Remembering

42. The Chicago School’s main laboratory for sociological research was the city of Chicago itself, because:
- a. it was convenient and allowed them the perfect setting for developing sweeping laws about human behavior.
  - b. they were interested in how the social and physical environment shapes the individual.
  - c. they believed the people in Chicago to be uniquely affected by broad social forces.
  - d. the citizens of Chicago remained predominantly white throughout the existence of the Chicago School, which led to greater social cohesion.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: American Sociology

OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions

MSC: Applying

43. According to your textbook’s author, Chicago School researcher Louis Wirth’s essay “Urbanism as a Way of Life” might be classified as which of the following today?
- a. cultural sociology
  - b. formal sociology
  - c. interpretive sociology
  - d. historical materialism

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

44. Chicago was a good place to study urbanism using more of a community-based approach (a.k.a. social ecology). Why?
- The residents were closely related and could communicate with each other easily.
  - The population was experiencing rapid growth due to foreign immigration and the influx of African Americans from the rural South.
  - Industrialization was waning in Chicago during this time, causing high rates of poverty and crime.
  - The divorce rate in Chicago at the time was double that of other large cities.

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Understand the social changes that led key founders of sociology to take society as an object of inquiry  
MSC: Understanding

45. "If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences" is the theory of which of the following Chicago School theorists?
- Robert Park
  - Charles H. Cooley
  - George H. Mead
  - W. I. Thomas

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

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

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

47. George H. Mead described how the "self" internalizes the views of society as a whole, transcending the individual and particular situations. He calls this larger society:
- the significant other.
  - the generalized other.
  - the looking glass self.
  - the social self.

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

48. Which of the following was the first African American to receive a PhD from Harvard University?
- W. E. B. Du Bois
  - Jane Addams
  - Frederick Douglass
  - Booker T. Washington

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

49. Which of the following sociologists applied Durkheim's theory of anomie to explain crime rates among African Americans after the abolition of slavery in the United States?
- W. E. B. Du Bois
  - Robert Park



- b. Jane Addams d. Charles H. Cooley

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

50. 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 hesitates to take too many clothes into the dressing room because she is afraid the staff will think she might shoplift.

W. E. B. Du Bois would say that the African American woman has:

- a. a racist agenda. c. a double consciousness.  
b. low self-esteem. d. a negative self-image.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Applying

51. The Chicago School's Jane Addams founded the first American settlement house, an institution to help the poor by offering aid, educational services, and more. This house was known as the:

- a. Chicago School. c. Hull House.  
b. Addams House. d. University of Chicago.

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: American Sociology  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Remembering

52. Which of the following modern sociological theories states that the best way to analyze society is to identify the purpose that different aspects or phenomena play in the overall structure of society?

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

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Modern Sociological Theories  
OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory  
MSC: Understanding

53. Two words that might describe the difference between conflict theory and functionalism are:

- a. competition versus consensus.  
b. microsociology versus macrosociology.  
c. meaning versus understanding.  
d. feminist versus Marxist.

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Modern Sociological Theories  
OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory  
MSC: Applying

54. The *intended purpose* of desegregation of schools in the 1950s was to make education equal for everyone. What was *not intended* was that many racial minority teachers and principals lost their jobs. This *unintended purpose* was called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ function by functionalist theorist Talcott Parsons.

- a. unintended c. mistaken  
b. manifest d. latent

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Modern Sociological Theories  
OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory  
MSC: Applying

55. In contrast to functionalism, which modern sociological theory borrows from Marx's belief that competition, not consensus, is the essential cause of social change?
- a. conflict theory
  - b. feminism
  - c. postmodernism
  - d. midrange theory

ANS: A

DIF: Moderate

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Remembering

56. The functionalist paradigm went largely unchallenged in the United States until about the 1950s. C. Wright Mills criticized Talcott Parsons for:
- a. spending too much time on the negative aspects of society.
  - b. supporting the dominant class structure and the inequalities associated with it.
  - c. addressing only the inequalities of classes.
  - d. focusing on small-scale personal interactions and not the "whole picture."

ANS: B

DIF: Difficult

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Understanding

57. 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: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Understanding

58. Which modern sociological theory examines how power relationships are defined, shaped, and reproduced on the basis of gender differences?
- a. feminism
  - b. functionalism
  - c. human sexuality
  - d. midrange theory

ANS: A

DIF: Moderate

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Remembering

59. Which modern sociological theory attempts to understand social behavior by examining the ways people interpret and give meaning to social signals and signs?
- a. libertarian municipalism
  - b. functionalism
  - c. symbolic interactionism
  - d. scientism

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Understanding

60. What do symbolic interactionists study?
- a. midrange theory
  - b. postmodernism
  - c. functionalism
  - d. shared meaning

ANS: D

DIF: Moderate

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Understanding

61. 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: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Remembering

62. 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: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Understanding

63. 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:
- a. social constructs.
  - b. myths.
  - c. lies.
  - d. propaganda.

ANS: A

DIF: Difficult

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Applying

64. 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. attacking the fallacy.
  - b. anomie.
  - c. accepting the sui generis.
  - d. deconstructing social phenomena.

ANS: D

DIF: Difficult

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Understanding

65. Native Americans may see the history of the United States differently than white Europeans. 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: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Applying

66. Robert Merton’s modern sociological theory focused on attempting to predict how certain social institutions function between microsociology and macrosociology. This is known as:
- a. midrange theory.
  - b. a compromise.
  - c. applied theory.
  - d. postmodernism.

ANS: A

DIF: Difficult

REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory

MSC: Remembering

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

- a. “great man” theories.
- b. people’s histories.
- c. historiography.
- d. historical materialism.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Remembering

68. Explaining unique cases is the focus of most historians, whereas the comparative method is the staple of the sociologist. This comparative method is also known as:

- a. people’s histories.
- b. the nomothetic approach.
- c. counterfactual.
- d. historiography.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Remembering

69. While historians are more likely to focus on the unique case, sociologists would more likely focus on:

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

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Understanding

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

- a. physical anthropology
- b. cultural anthropology
- c. genetic anthropology
- d. forensic anthropology

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Understanding

71. In sociology’s “cousin,” psychology, the focus is on the individual. In sociology, the focus is above and beyond the individual, on group-level dynamics and social structures. This is known as:

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

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Remembering

72. 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: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Remembering

73. Sociology is the study of:

- a. how urges, drives, and the mind can account for human behavior.
- b. group-level dynamics and social structures.
- c. the underlying variation or causal mechanisms within the biological nature of individuals.

d. humans as rational utility maximizers.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Understanding

74. Economists tend to see humans as \_\_\_\_\_, but sociologists would tend to include \_\_\_\_\_.

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

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Sociology and Its Cousins

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Applying

75. Perhaps the largest division within the discipline of sociology exists between:

- a. interpretive and positivist sociology.
- b. qualitative and quantitative sociology.
- c. functionalist and feminist sociology.
- d. conflict and symbolic interactionist sociology.

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: Divisions within Sociology

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Applying

76. Which of the following focuses its analyses on face-to-face encounters and interactions?

- a. microsociology
- b. macrosociology
- c. social ecology
- d. cultural sociology

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Microsociology and Macrosociology

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Understanding

77. Which of the following focuses its analyses on larger social dynamics at the societal and structural levels?

- a. microsociology
- b. macrosociology
- c. social ecology
- d. social psychology

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: Microsociology and Macrosociology

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology                      MSC: Remembering

## ESSAY

1. Explain what it means to “think like a sociologist” and “make the familiar strange,” and use at least one example to make your point.

ANS:

Together, these phrases mean that students are encouraged early in the reading and course to use their *sociological imagination* to apply analytical tools to something that they have always done without giving their actions much conscious thought. We should question what we learn from our culture to take for granted as normal. We should reconsider our assumptions, question our culture, and so on.

One example is that sociologists may not believe in common sense or shared meanings—everything is subjective, according to interpretive sociology. In the text, the examples of “why go to college?” and *Pulp Fiction* dialogue on putting mayonnaise versus ketchup on french fries are used.

DIF: Moderate      REF: The Sociological Imagination  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination      MSC: Evaluating

2. Define the concepts of *social institution* and *social identity*, and give an example of each.

ANS:

A *social institution* is a set of stories embedded within a social network about the ways that society meets its needs. These institutions are constructed within a dense network of other social institutions and meanings. For example, New York University is composed of many buildings, people, meanings, and so on, and is a part of the larger system of colleges within the state of New York and the country.

Social institutions and people within them can change their names yet still retain their *social identity*. Social identities are narratives and individual stories told between pairs of individuals; in other words, they are sets of stories told within a social network, and anyone who knows an individual may contribute to his or her social identity. For example, I may tell one story about my mom, and the people she works with may tell another story.

DIF: Moderate      REF: What Is a Social Institution?  
OBJ: Define and understand the sociological imagination      MSC: Analyzing

3. Define what Karl Marx meant by *historical materialism* and discuss one way it could be applied in today’s world (e.g., within our technology-driven system).

ANS:

*Historical materialism* is Marx’s theory on how class conflict is the driver of change in any society. Of course, the classes (roles) change depending on the historical period, but during Marx’s time of writing we were moving from an agrarian way of life to factories (Industrial Revolution). In his time, he saw conflicts between a small group of capitalists (those who owned the factories) and a large group of proletariat (factory workers). You might say that today’s bourgeoisie (capitalists) are the 1 percent, and the 99 percent are the proletariat. They certainly have very different agendas and interests. Also, Marx felt during his time that people had become “slaves” to the industrial complex (factories) in order to barely eke out a living, while the factory owners lived lavishly and made considerable profits off (took advantage of) the laborers and their poor wages. With the so-called gap growing between the rich and the poor today, we could draw connections to those at the bottom getting the raw end of the deal while the 1 percent continues to support policies that make their wallets bigger. One also could argue that we’ve become “slaves” to today’s technology (mobile devices, Internet, information) . . . which Marx might argue today are the “machines” that take away our humanity.

DIF: Difficult      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Evaluating

4. Max Weber criticized Marx because he felt he was “too narrow” in his focus. Why did Weber think Marx’s focus was too narrow?

ANS:

Weber believed there were multiple influences on human behavior, including religious ideologies, economics, and politics. Marx, in contrast, focused almost exclusively on how human behavior (feelings and actions) were the result of economic forces—or how a person’s behavior primarily reflected his or her class interests: whether one was a capitalist “owner,” or a member of the large proletariat class. Weber felt that Marx’s approach was much too narrow because Marx didn’t pay much attention to how culture, ideas, and religion also influenced human behavior (or how societies evolve). In other words, Marx saw culture, ideas, and religion as merely an effect rather than a cause of people’s behavior.

DIF: Difficult      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Evaluating

5. One of Weber’s most important contributions to sociology was the concept of *Verstehen*, or “understanding” in German. Describe what Weber meant by this concept and provide a “real-life” example of how one might “gain” 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 I wanted to understand why people become stressed. I 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: Difficult      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Analyzing | Evaluating

6. Discuss two of Émile Durkheim’s many contributions 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 research on *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: Difficult      REF: Classical Sociological Theory  
OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions  
MSC: Analyzing

7. Define the Chicago School’s concept of *social ecology*. Think of a research question you could pose to better understand a particular phenomena from a social ecology perspective. In coming up with this research question, you might find it helpful to focus on changes you’ve seen (in a city/location you are familiar with).

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, 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? What particular issues (positive and negative) have emerged as a result of this steady growth in the Latino population (e.g., stretch on resources, decreasing/increasing racial and ethnic tolerance, etc.)?

DIF: Difficult      REF: American Sociology

OBJ: Analyze the social changes that led key founders of sociology to take society as an object of inquiry

MSC: Evaluating | Creating

8. Summarize the main idea(s) of your choice of two of the following American social theorists: Park, Wirth, Cooley, Mead, Du Bois, or Addams.

ANS:

Robert Park's main ideas include encouraging others to "go out and get the seats of [their] pants dirty with real research," meaning to apply 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, such 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

OBJ: Identify the key founders of sociology and their contributions

MSC: Evaluating

9. Discuss the main ideas of functionalist sociology.

ANS:



Functionalism is a consensus theory, which holds out the possibility of social harmony in a well-oiled societal machine. Some argue that functionalism is an extension of a nineteenth-century theory known as *organicism*, the idea that society is much like a living organism and can be studied as such.

Durkheim's concepts of *division of labor*, *social solidarity*, and *anomie* are all part of this theory. Talcott Parsons argued that functionalism got its name from the notion that the best way to analyze society is to identify the roles that different aspects or phenomena play, and that these may be *manifest functions* (intended functions) and/or *latent functions* (hidden, unintended functions).

DIF: Difficult      REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory      MSC: Evaluating

10. How would a conflict theorist explain the educational system in the United States? How would this differ from how a functionalist might see it?

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 admission.

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.

DIF: Difficult      REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory      MSC: Creating

11. Discuss the main ideas of the conflict theory of sociology.

ANS:

Conflict theorists argue that conflict and competition—not consensus, as functionalists suggest—are the basic forces that guide the behaviors of people and societies. In other words, conflict among competing interests over societal resources drives social change. Karl Marx's work on *historical materialism* and his critique of capitalism guide conflict theory.

DIF: Difficult      REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory      MSC: Evaluating

12. Discuss the main ideas of feminist sociology.

ANS:

Students may begin with the examples of Harriet Martineau and Jane Addams from earlier in the chapter. The fact that their work was largely minimized or ignored is one impetus for the creation of feminist sociology as a modern theory within the discipline.

*Feminism* emerged from the women's movements of the 1960s–1970s and contains many theories that emphasize the equality between men and women, as well as women's experiences in a society and discipline that generally subordinate women. For example, Ann Oakley (1972) argued that much of what people attribute to biological sex differences are actually learned gender behaviors taught via the socialization processes.

Furthermore, much feminist research studies women's experiences at home and in the workplace, schools, and government, among other environments.

DIF: Moderate      REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory      MSC: Evaluating

13. Discuss the main ideas of symbolic interactionism.

ANS:

Symbolic interactionism began in the 1960s and focuses on *microsociology*, or how face-to-face interactions create the social world. Examples are George Herbert Mead's work, as well as Herbert Blumer's paradigm, which argues that people give meanings to social signs and signals.

Also, Erving Goffman's *dramaturgical theory of social interaction* can be used here, as it is argued to be the groundwork for symbolic interactionism. Goffman found in his work *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (1959) that people create front stage and other scripts to shape their encounters and to reinforce their notions about class and social status.

DIF: Moderate      REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory      MSC: Evaluating

14. Discuss the main ideas of postmodernism.

ANS:

Postmodernism argues that, unlike what symbolic interactionists believe are shared meanings, no shared meanings exist any longer—everything is open to multiple meanings and interpretations. In other words, postmodernists believe that everything in society is *socially constructed* so that all organizing narratives are broken down because they aren't objective.

DIF: Difficult      REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory      MSC: Evaluating

15. Discuss the main ideas of midrange theory.

ANS:

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: Difficult      REF: Modern Sociological Theories

OBJ: Explain major sociological theoretical frameworks like symbolic interaction theory, conflict theory, and feminist theory      MSC: Evaluating

16. Take one of sociology's cousins (i.e., history, anthropology, psychology, economics, and political science) and discuss some of the overlaps (similarities) and differences between the two.

ANS:

*History:* History generally has been 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 people'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

OBJ: Diagram the overlaps between sociology and other disciplines like anthropology, history, economics, political science, and biology      MSC: Evaluating