

Test Bank

Chapter 1: Introduction to Deviance

Multiple Choice

1. According to Clinard and Meier (2015), which two conceptions of deviance exist in the study of deviant behavior?

- a. normative and non-normative
- b. objectively problematic and subjectively given
- c. relativist and normative
- d. folkways and mores

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Which of the following terms describe rules of behavior that are defined both formally and informally?

- a. norms
- b. laws
- c. folkways
- d. mores

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Which is considered the strongest norm?

- a. folkways
- b. mores
- c. sanctions
- d. laws

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. From a social constructionist perspective, what assumptions underlie deviance?

- a. Everyone is deviant to some degree.
- b. Behaviors are not inherently deviant.
- c. Deviance is learned from friends and siblings.
- d. All forms of deviance are a normal response to stress.

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Which of the following summarizes a critical perspective on deviance?

- a. The normative perspective of deviance is established by those in power to maintain and enhance their power.
- b. There is no inherently deviant behavior, only behavior that society defines as deviant, a definition that varies by time, culture, and society.
- c. Deviance consists of behaviors and conditions that are inherently deviant regardless of social, economic, and political conditions.
- d. Deviant behavior exists along a spectrum, beginning with low-consensus deviance and ending with high-consensus deviance.

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conception of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Which of the following is not part of the steps in the scientific research method?

- a. research question
- b. examine results and theorize
- c. data and data collection methods
- d. reconciling personal beliefs

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Importance of Theory and Its Relationship to Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. How are folkways different from mores?

- a. Folkways are casual; mores are serious.
- b. Folkways are for individuals; mores are for societies.
- c. Mores are informally enforced; folkways are formally enforced.
- d. Folkways are internalized; mores are not.

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. The purpose of the scientific method is to _____.

- a. incorporate mathematical principles
- b. minimize bias
- c. identify flawed research
- d. eliminate creative thinking

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Importance of Theory and Its Relationship to Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. The Fremont Solstice Parade, which involves nude bicycling, is NOT an example of deviance because _____.

- a. riding bicycles in a parade is against the law
- b. public nudity is accepted during the solstice parade
- c. children are present
- d. nude bicycling is uncomfortable

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Which statement summarizes the social constructionist and reactionist/relativist perspectives on deviance?

- a. Deviance is both normative and non-normative.
- b. Deviance can be positive.
- c. Deviance is subjectively defined.
- d. Deviance includes folkways, mores, and laws.

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Hard

11. Norms against spitting on the sidewalk are _____; norms against murder are _____.

- a. casual; critical
- b. folkways; mores
- c. reactionist; critical
- d. relativist; reactionist

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Hard

12. What does the sociological imagination help us understand?

- a. individual responsibility
- b. the role creativity plays in society
- c. how society changes over time
- d. how social forces influence individuals

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. What is the role of sociological theories in understanding deviance?

- a. They categorize various forms of deviance.
- b. They encourage us to see everyone as normal.
- c. They clearly differentiate deviant individuals from everyone else.
- d. They help us think systematically about deviance.

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Importance of Theory and Its Relationship to Research

Difficulty Level: Hard

14. What assumption underlies the normative conception of deviance?

- a. The powerful define what behavior constitutes deviance.
- b. There are generally accepted norms guiding behavior.
- c. Deviance is defined subjectively, not objectively.
- d. A certain amount of deviance is a normal part of society.

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Hard

15. A relativist approaches the study of deviance by studying _____.

- a. how norms are created
- b. how people learn deviant behavior
- c. why deviants violate norms
- d. who breaks laws

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Dr. Alucard studies deviant behavior from a _____ perspective, focusing on how the current social system creates norms to protect those in power.

- a. positivist
- b. constructionist
- c. critical
- d. normative

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Contrasting the acceptance of public nudity at the Fremont Solstice Parade with the arrest of a serial flasher illustrates that _____.

- a. deviance is relative
- b. some behavior is always deviant
- c. criminals commit deviant behavior

d. flashing should be legal

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Introduction to Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. According to Thio, Taylor, and Schwartz (2012), what two ways can we view deviance?

a. social and individual

b. positive and social constructionist

c. constructivist and critical

d. normative and relativistic

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. Which term refers to “moral” norms?

a. deviance

b. laws

c. folkways

d. mores

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. Assuming that people who engage in deviant behavior are sick or mentally ill

_____.

a. normalizes illegal behavior

b. sociologically imagines norms

c. socially constructs deviance

d. pathologizes individuals

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. Objectively given and subjectively problematic are the same conception of deviance.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Objectively given deviance is also referred to as normative or positivistic by the authors.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Subjectively problematic means that deviance is constructed based on interactions of those in society.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. According to objectively given conceptions, there is no inherently deviant behavior.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. A critical conception of deviance is the most traditional perspective on deviance.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. According to the relativist conception of deviance, universal definitions of deviance exist that apply across all time and place.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. In the United States, it is a generally agreed upon norm that individuals should not have their fingers in their nose in public.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. The sociological imagination is the basis for the positivist conception of deviance.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Hard

9. Positivist conceptions of deviance most align with critical perspectives of deviance.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Sociological theory helps us think systematically about deviance.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Important of Theory and Its Relationship to Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

Essay

1. Describe the three types of norms discussed in this chapter. Then, provide examples.

Ans: Folkways are casual norms. For example, rules against spitting in front of people as they walk past. Mores are more serious, “moral” norms. For example, rules against having extramarital sex partners. Laws are the strongest norms because they are formally reinforced, for example, rules against theft.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Compare and contrast positivist, relativist, and critical conceptions of deviance.

Ans:

Positivist/normative—there is a general set of norms of behavior, conduct, and conditions on which we can agree; a violation of a rule understood by the majority of the group; “What leads an individual to engage in deviant behavior?”

Relativist/social constructionist—nothing is inherently deviant; our understanding of the world is in constant negotiation between actors; deviance is behaviors that illicit a definition or label of deviance; “What characteristics increase the likelihood that an individual or a behavior will be defined as deviant?”

Critical—the normative understanding of deviance is established by those in power to maintain and enhance their power; instead of focusing on individual types of deviance, this conception critiques the social system that exists and creates such norms in the first place; “What is the experience of the homeless and who is served by their treatment as deviant?”

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. What is the sociological imagination? How does it apply to the study of deviance?

Ans: Those of us who are sociologists can probably remember the first time we were introduced to the concept of the sociological imagination. Mills argues that the only way to truly understand the experiences of the individual is to first understand the societal, institutional, and historical conditions that individual is living under. In other words, Mills believes that no man, woman, or child is an island. Below is an excerpt from C. Wright Mills' (1959/2000) profound book, *The Sociological Imagination* (Oxford University Press):

Men do not usually define the troubles they endure in terms of historical change and institutional contradiction. The well-being they enjoy they do not usually impute to the big ups and downs of the societies in which they live. Seldom aware of the intricate connection between the patterns of their own lives and the course of world history, ordinary men do not usually know what this connection means for the kinds of men they are becoming and for the kinds of history-making in which they might take part. They do not possess the quality of mind essential to grasp the interplay of man and society, of biography and history, of self and world. They cannot cope with their personal troubles in such ways as to control the structural transformations that usually lie behind them.

The sociological imagination enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of a variety of individuals. It enables him to take into account how individuals, in the welter of their daily experience, often become falsely conscious of their social positions. With that welter, the framework of modern society is sought, and within that framework the psychologies of a variety of men and women are formulated. By such means, the personal uneasiness of individuals is focused upon explicit troubles and the indifference of publics is transformed into involvement with public issues.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Which conception of deviance do you prefer? Explain.

Ans: Answers will vary. Students may indicate a preference for the straightforward nature of the positivist/normative conception of deviance, which suggests some behavior is inherently deviant. Students may also indicate a preference for the more subjective approach to deviance embodied in the relativist or social constructionist conception of deviance, which suggests that nothing is inherently deviant, and behavior becomes deviant only when defined as such by others. Or students may indicate a preference for the critical approach to deviance, which involves the belief that that normative understanding of deviance is created by those in power to maintain their power. Mention of types of norms and the sociological imagination may occur, but only in support of an argument favoring one of the three approaches to understanding deviance already discussed.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Conceptions of Deviance

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What criticism did Liazos (1972) make regarding the study of deviant behavior? How does the textbook address this criticism?

Ans: Liazos suggested that the study of deviance and crime has focused on the carnival sideshow nature of much of the study of deviance. By focusing on individuals and a certain caste of deviants (those without power) and using less-than-systematic methods, deviance researchers were just pointing at “nuts, sluts, and perverts” and not advancing their broader understanding of the interplay of power, social structure, and behavior. Using a theoretically grounded approach to studying deviance helps us think systematically about deviance.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Importance of Theory and Its Relationship to Research

Difficulty Level: Hard