

Chapter 2

Test bank

Multiple Choice

- 1) For the earliest sociologists, including Comte and Durkheim, the goal of sociology was to:
 - a. Give a voice to marginalized groups
 - b. Discover the cultural variability in the structures that guided society
 - c. Discover the universal laws that governed social functioning
 - d. Uncover the linguistic structures that tied people together people in a society

Answer: C; page 14

- 2) Which of the following is a question NOT asked by the early structuralists?
 - a. Why do particular societies exist?
 - b. How do individuals from different social backgrounds construct meaning for themselves and their lives?
 - c. What components comprise a society?
 - d. Why do societies change or not change?

Answer: B; page 14

- 3) From which discipline did early structuralists borrow language and concepts?
 - a. Biology
 - b. Philosophy
 - c. Economics
 - d. Linguistics

Answer: A; page 15

- 4) Who was a chief architect of early functionalist theory?
 - a. Herbert Spencer
 - b. Michel Foucault
 - c. Max Weber
 - d. William James

Answer: A; page 15

- 5) The substratum that appears to underlie all social life is known as
- a. A social network
 - b. Deep structure
 - c. Social relationships
 - d. None of the above

Answer: B; page 16

- 6) Although he made important contributions to the development of sociological theory, Malinowski could best be categorized as a
- a. Philosopher
 - b. Historian
 - c. Economist
 - d. Anthropologist

Answer: D; page 16

- 7) The Kula Ring ritual of the Trobriand Islanders of New Guinea involved
- a. Courtship and mating
 - b. Childhood gender socialization
 - c. Trading and exchange
 - d. The selection of new leadership

Answer: C; page 16

- 8) Talcott Parsons AGIL system was concerned with:
- a. The functional imperatives that kept a social system alive and well
 - b. The factors that contribute to social disintegration
 - c. The processes through which individuals adapt to local environments
 - d. Physical agility

Answer: A; page 18

9) Talcott Parsons trained under:

- a. Auguste Comte
- b. Emile Durkheim
- c. Vilfredo Pareto
- d. Bronisław Malinowski

Answer: C; page 18

10) Although similar in many ways, a key difference between Talcott Parsons and Niklas Luhmann was:

- a. Parsons did not think consensus among members of society was crucial to social functioning, while Lehmann did
- b. Luhmann did not think consensus among members of society was crucial to social functioning, while Parsons did
- c. Parsons did not draw on biological models of society, while Lehmann did
- d. Luhmann did not draw on biological models of society, while Parsons did.

Answer: B; page 20

11) Luhmann placed a great deal of emphasis on _____ in modern society due to its increasing complexity

- a. Trust
- b. Money
- c. Laws
- d. Incarceration

Answer: A; page 20

12) A major movement in social theory in the beginning of twentieth century involved

- a. A new focus on class relations under capitalism
- b. A focus on language as having potential to give meaning to the world in very particular ways
- c. Defragmentation of knowledge and truth
- d. None of the above

Answer: B; page 21

13) Much of the linguistic turn was inspired by:

- a. Emile Durkheim
- b. August Comte
- c. Stewart Hall
- d. Ludwig Wittgenstein

Answer: D; page 22

14) Wittgenstein's theory rested on which crucial insight?

- a. Social structures and their functions were inherently related
- b. Thought and language were separate, autonomous systems
- c. All thought had to emerge from language, and language set the boundaries of one's world
- d. The desires embedded in the unconscious drove much of human behavior

Answer: C; page 22

15) According to Louis Althusser, structure was

- a. Overemphasized on the social sciences
- b. The primary determinant of all social activity
- c. Less important than the unconscious in determining social behavior
- d. Driven by economic incentives

Answer: B; page 24

16) According to Althusser, ideology is

- a. Codes or frameworks used to understand society
- b. An ideal vision of what society should be
- c. Used as a tool to control the masses
- d. Less important than pragmatism

Answer: A; page 25

17) A key assertion of exchange theory is that

- a. People are irrational, and easily manipulated
- b. People want to maximize their rewards and minimize their hurt
- c. Exchange rituals differ across cultural contexts
- d. None of the above

Answer: B; page 30

18) One critique of network analysis is that it

- a. Is too heavy on methodologies and lacks theoretical depth
- b. Is too heavy on theory, and lacks methodological depth
- c. Ignores social structure
- d. Hasn't contributed to structural analysis

Answer: A; page 32

19) A key distinction in narrative theory is

- a. What is narrated and who is narrating it
- b. Who is narrating and where it is being narrated
- c. What is narrated and how it is narrated
- d. Who is the reader

Answer: C; page 34

20) A key contention of Anthony Giddens's theory of structuration is that

- a. Structure is more important than agency
- b. Agency is more important than structure
- c. Both structure and agency are important in explaining social processes
- d. Agency and structure are dead ends. Theory should focus instead on identity

Answer: C; page 36

True or False:

- 21) One of the key foci of structural functionalism, especially that of Comte and Durkheim, was the relationship between structure and function of those units thought to constitute society.

Answer: True; page 15

- 22) Structuralists often viewed the individual actor as little more than a passive reflection of social processes.

Answer: True; page 15

- 23) Rational choice theory is often referred to as exchange theory.

Answer: True; page 30

Short Answer:

- 24) What does AGIL stand for?

- 25) What are the key components of network analysis?

- 26) What assumptions about human nature does rational choice theory make?

Essay

- 27) Describe and explain three ways in which the linguistic turn changed structuralism.

- 28) In what ways have critics claimed that structuralism failed? Do you agree?

- 29) What role does language play in maintaining social structure? Choose two theorists who included language in their theories, and describe how they viewed it.