

Chapter 01: Thinking about Social Problems

Multiple Choice

1. The objective element of a social problem refers to
- a. our attitudes about the social conditions.
 - b. the existence of a social condition.
 - c. the only part of a problem that can be measured.
 - d. our beliefs about the importance of a condition.

ANSWER: b

2. Which of the following best illustrates the subjective element of a social problem?
- a. U.S. Census statistics showing the percentage of the United States population living in poverty
 - b. Reports that show the percentage of people who have lost their jobs due to the closing of factories in the United States
 - c. The percentage of Americans who believe availability of child pornography on the Internet is harmful to society
 - d. World Health Organization estimates of the number of people in the world who have died of the AIDS virus in the last five years

ANSWER: c

The belief that a social condition harms society is the _____ element of the social problem.

3. The belief that a social condition harms society is the ...
- a. objective
 - b. subjective
 - c. operational
 - d. theoretical

ANSWER: b

4. Which is the best example of the objective element of a social problem?
- a. In 2012, over 650,000 daytime drivers operated an electronic device while driving.
 - b. Surveyed Americans most frequently selected inequality as the greatest social problem in the world.
 - c. Some husbands believe they have a right to discipline and control their wives.
 - d. Europeans are less likely than Asians to consider pollution the greatest social problem in the world.

ANSWER: a

5. Definitions of social problems
- a. remain consistent and accurate throughout history.
 - b. vary across societies and over time.
 - c. are determined by a society's governing structure.

d. are determined by academic intellectuals.

ANSWER: b

6. Society's structure is made up of

- a. the people who share a culture.
- b. institutions, social groups, norms, and symbols.
- c. beliefs, values, norms, and symbols.
- d. institutions, social groups, statuses, and roles.

ANSWER: d

7. Which of the following illustrates part of the social structure of a society?

- a. The health care system
- b. A belief in God
- c. The value placed on education
- d. The primary language used

ANSWER: a

8. The _____ of society refers to the way society is organized.

- a. structure
- b. culture
- c. ethos
- d. sociological imagination

ANSWER: a

9. Which of the following is one of the five traditional social institutions?

- a. A university
- b. Religion
- c. A hospital
- d. A prison

ANSWER: b

10. An established pattern of relationships constitutes a(n)

- a. institution.
- b. culture.
- c. social complex.
- d. social element.

ANSWER: a

Modern society includes the _____ of science and technology, mass media, medicine, sports and the military.

11. Modern society includes the ...

- a. social groups
- b. institutions

- c. statuses
- d. roles

ANSWER: b

12. Which of the following is a social group?

- a. All of the people in your favorite shopping mall at noon Saturday
- b. People who usually watch NBC nightly news
- c. Your college sociology class
- d. Fans of the Yankee baseball team

ANSWER: c

13. Which of the following is more likely to be found in primary rather than secondary groups?

- a. Task-oriented actions
- b. Impersonal interaction
- c. Intimate relationships
- d. Formal statuses and roles

ANSWER: c

14. Which of the following illustrates a primary group?

- a. A husband, wife, and child
- b. Your sociology class
- c. The college or university you are attending
- d. Your hometown

ANSWER: a

15. Which of the following is an example of a secondary group?

- a. A single mother and her children
- b. A large corporation
- c. Maria, George, and Felice who have been friends since high school
- d. The siblings in a family

ANSWER: b

16. Sociologists refer to the position a person holds in a group as his or her

- a. status.
- b. folkway.
- c. institution.
- d. role.

ANSWER: a

17. Which of the following is an ascribed status?

- a. Native American
- b. Single parent
- c. High school graduate

d. Football player

ANSWER: a

Edward is an African American male, age 26, who married his high school sweetheart after he graduated from college. He is now the father of two children and employed as a chemical engineer. Which of the following is one of Edward's achieved statuses?

18. Edward is an African American male, age 26, who married his high school sweetheart after he graduate...

- a. African American
- b. Male
- c. Chemical engineer
- d. Adult

ANSWER: c

What type of status is assigned on the basis of some characteristic or behavior over which the individual has some control?

19. What type of status is assigned ...

- a. Ascribed
- b. Elementary
- c. Achieved
- d. Rational

ANSWER: c

20. Roles

- a. help us predict behaviors.
- b. tell us what is true or false.
- c. are general ideas about what is important.
- d. refer to the positions within a social group.

ANSWER: a

A nurse interacts differently with doctors, nursing assistants, and patients. This is primarily because

21. A nurse interacts differently with doctors, nursing assistants ...

- a. everyone is a unique individual.
- b. many roles are associated with a specific status.
- c. institutions are fluid social structures.
- d. of cultural constraints.

ANSWER: b

22. Having to attend classes, read assignments, take exams, and write papers illustrates the _____ of a college student.

- a. status

- b. role
 - c. institution
 - d. sanctions
- ANSWER: b**

23. Culture includes
- a. norms.
 - b. groups.
 - c. institutions.
 - d. roles.
- ANSWER: a**

24. Which of the following is an aspect of the culture, in contrast to the social structure, of a society?
- a. Institutions
 - b. Social groups
 - c. Values
 - d. Statuses
- ANSWER: c**

25. Which term refers to ideas about what is desirable in a social setting?
- a. Norms
 - b. Values
 - c. Roles
 - d. Beliefs
- ANSWER: b**

26. "Secondhand smoke harms nonsmokers." This statement is an example of a
- a. belief.
 - b. value.
 - c. folkway.
 - d. more.
- ANSWER: a**

27. Which of the following is the best example of a value?
- a. Equality
 - b. Being sent to prison
 - c. A cross on a church
 - d. Believing that God exists
- ANSWER: a**

28. Socially defined rules of behavior are
- a. beliefs.
 - b. values.

- c. norms.
- d. sanctions.

ANSWER: c

29. Folkways, laws, and mores are three types of

- a. sanctions.
- b. norms.
- c. values.
- d. master statuses.

ANSWER: b

30. Interrupting others violates a

- a. value.
- b. folkway.
- c. more.
- d. law.

ANSWER: b

31. Carl left his child inside his car on a hot sunny day. Carl

- a. violated a more.
- b. violated a folkway.
- c. underscored a value.
- d. performed a sanction.

ANSWER: a

32. Which of the following is a violation of a more in American society?

- a. Refusing to shake hands with a new acquaintance
- b. Sexual abuse of a child
- c. Eating peas with your fingers
- d. Littering

ANSWER: b

33. Cheating on a spouse is a violation of a

- a. folkway.
- b. more.
- c. value.
- d. belief.

ANSWER: b

34. _____ are norms that are formalized and backed by political authority.

- a. Folkways
- b. Mores
- c. Laws
- d. Values

ANSWER: c

35. Social consequences for conforming to or violating norms are

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

ANSWER: d

Rose was caught speeding and given a fine. The fine is an example of a(n)

36. Rose was caught speeding ...

- a. value.
- b. folkway.
- c. informal sanction.
- d. formal sanction.

ANSWER: d

Janet receives disapproving looks from strangers for singing loudly while walking down the street. The disapproving looks Janet receives are examples of

37. Janet receives disapproving looks from strangers for singing obnoxiously while walking down the stre...

- a. values.
- b. folkways.
- c. informal sanctions.
- d. formal sanctions.

ANSWER: c

Loreli dieted and worked out resulting in significant reduction in size and weight. Which of the following is an informal positive sanction?

38. Loreli dieted and worked out resulting in significant ...

- a. She feels much better about herself than she did before the weight loss.
- b. Friends tell her she looks great.
- c. She lost twenty-five pounds.
- d. She fits into a much smaller size in jeans.

ANSWER: b

The neighbors didn't invite Charlotte to the block barbecue because Charlotte's dog is often on the loose making a mess on their lawns. Not inviting her is an example of a(n)

39. The neighbors didn't invite Charlotte ...

- a. formal positive sanction.
- b. informal positive sanction.

- c. formal negative sanction.
- d. informal negative sanction.

ANSWER: d

40. A _____ is something that represents something else.

- a. sanction
- b. more
- c. folkway
- d. symbol

ANSWER: d

41. A neon sign advertising beer is an example of a

- a. value.
- b. belief.
- c. symbol.
- d. sanction.

ANSWER: c

42. Which of the following is an example of a symbol?

- a. The word "jacket"
- b. A sneeze
- c. The smell of warm toast
- d. Shivering when you are cold

ANSWER: a

43. Which of the following conclusions BEST illustrates use of the sociological imagination?

- a. Jody's parents are getting a divorce because they do not love each other anymore.
- b. Helen is not attending college because her parents do not have enough money to pay her expenses.
- c. Tony's college failure illustrates problems of inner-city children whose schools inadequately prepare them for the rigor of college courses.
- d. Megan has to request welfare payments because she lost her job.

ANSWER: c

An inner-city youth was caught burglarizing houses. Which of the following explanations views the youth's crime as a public issue?

44. An inner-city youth was caught burglarizing houses. Which of the following explanations views the yo...

- a. The youth was unable to find a job because most of the factories had moved out of the inner city.
- b. The youth dropped out of school because he did not like his teachers
- c. The youth's mother did not provide adequate supervision because she was more interested in her boyfriend.

d. The youth thought burglarizing homes would be an easier way to make money than to work in a job.

ANSWER: a

45. According to C. Wright Mills, the _____ is the ability to see the connections between our personal lives and the social world.

- a. functional perspective
- b. sociological imagination
- c. ascribed status
- d. anomie

ANSWER: b

46. The sociological imagination allows us to see the connections between private troubles and _____.

- a. social institutions
- b. sociology
- c. social problems
- d. public issues

ANSWER: d

47. A social theory refers to

- a. a prediction or educated guess about how one variable is related to another.
- b. the ability to distinguish between “private troubles” and “public issues” and see the connections between the two.
- c. interconnected ideas explaining an event or situation.
- d. a set of procedures for collecting data about a particular topic.

ANSWER: c

48. Structural-functionalists

- a. emphasize the feelings of powerlessness of workers in industrialized societies.
- b. focus on how groups with different interests compete for scarce resources.
- c. view society as a system of interconnected parts that work together to maintain balance.
- d. focus on how a person’s self-concept is formed by his or her interaction with others.

ANSWER: c

49. Recognized and intended results are called

- a. manifest functions.
- b. latent functions.
- c. dysfunctions.
- d. anomies.

ANSWER: a

50. Which of the following illustrates a latent function of education?

- a. The transmission of knowledge
- b. Development of reading and writing skills
- c. A source of friends and potential mates
- d. The high cost of a college education

ANSWER: c

51. Colleges are good places for young adults to meet potential mates. This is an example of

- a. a manifest function.
- b. a latent function.
- c. the sociological imagination.
- d. a dysfunction.

ANSWER: b

According to social disorganization theory, _____ is an example of the kind of rapid social change that disrupts norms in society.

52. According to social disorganization theory, ...

- a. a labor strike
- b. the cultural revolution of the 1960s
- c. a fashion trend
- d. the increasing age of the population

ANSWER: b

According to the _____, social problems result from breakdown of the family, religious, economic, educational, or political institutions of a society.

53. According to the _____, social problems result from breakdown of the family, religious, economic, educational...

- a. symbolic interactionist perspective
- b. social pathology model
- c. Marxist conflict theory
- d. non-Marxist conflict theory

ANSWER: b

54. A society is in a state of "anomie" when

- a. the standards for behavior are not clear.
- b. the major social institutions reinforce the same cultural values.
- c. there are more secondary groups than primary groups.
- d. some segments of society have more wealth than others.

ANSWER: a

55. Structural-Functionalist theories of social problems include social pathology and

- a. social disorganization.
- b. labeling theory.

- c. non-Marxist conflict theory.
- d. social construction of reality.

ANSWER: a

Which perspective sees the solution to social problems in slowing down change and strengthening norms?

56. Which perspective sees the solution to social problems ...

- a. Labeling theory
- b. Social evolution theory
- c. Social disorganization
- d. Social pathology

ANSWER: c

Which perspective argues that the division of society into the "haves" and "have-nots" will create social problems?

57. Which perspective argues that the division of society ...

- a. Functionalist
- b. Interactionist
- c. Conflict
- d. Anomie

ANSWER: c

58. Contemporary Marxist theories point to the main source of social problems as

- a. the weak social norms of capitalist societies.
- b. class inequality that is inherent in a capitalistic system.
- c. social disorganization that exists in both capitalist and communist societies.
- d. lack of social communication among individuals in society.

ANSWER: b

59. Which of the following illustrates "corporate violence"?

- a. Contract killings ordered by organized crime
- b. The lack of action by BP prior to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico despite knowledge of unstable seals
- c. A fired employee who seeks revenge by murdering his employer and fellow workers
- d. The terrorist bombing of a U.S. corporation's factory in a foreign country

ANSWER: b

60. The two general types of conflict theories are Marxist and

- a. dysfunction analysis.
- b. social pathology.
- c. non-Marxist.
- d. alienation.

ANSWER: c

Magda feels powerless in her job as a warehouse worker. She finds little meaning in her work. According to conflict theorists, Magda is experiencing

61. Magda feels powerless ...

- a. anomie.
- b. dysfunction.
- c. alienation.
- d. social pathology

ANSWER: c

62. Which of the following is a major source of alienation in industrial societies, according to Marxist conflict theorists?

- a. Lack of socially shared symbols of communication
- b. The primary groups to which individuals belong
- c. Limited and repetitive tasks of specialized workers
- d. Lack of effective sanctions in society

ANSWER: c

63. Non-Marxist conflict theories focus on social conflict that results from

- a. weak norms.
- b. social disorganization.
- c. competing values and interests among groups.
- d. lack of communication among groups.

ANSWER: c

_____ are most likely to see the solution to social problems as solving differences through negotiation or mediation and finding win-win answers.

64. are most likely to see the solution to social problems as solving differences ...

- a. Non-Marxist conflict theorists
- b. Marxist conflict theorists
- c. Symbolic interactionists
- d. Structural functionalists

ANSWER: a

The dynamics of individuals interacting in small groups is the focus of

65. The dynamics of individuals interacting ...

- a. micro-sociology.
- b. macro-sociology.
- c. structural-functionalism.
- d. the sociological imagination.

ANSWER: a

66. Symbolic interactionism emphasizes that
- a. societal institutions meet the needs of people in society.
 - b. institutional inequalities cause social problems.
 - c. human behavior is influenced by meanings that are created through social interaction.
 - d. the important symbols of society are distributed unequally.

ANSWER: c

67. Microsociologists, such as W. I. Thomas, believe that human action is influenced mostly by
- a. the social organization of a social situation.
 - b. definitions of a situation.
 - c. objective inequalities that exist in a situation.
 - d. feelings of alienation that occur from lack of power.

ANSWER: b

68. Which perspective claims our identity or sense of self is shaped by social interaction?
- a. Social disorganization
 - b. Social pathology
 - c. Symbolic interactionism
 - d. Non-Marxist conflict theory

ANSWER: c

Which perspective is most likely to look at the dynamics of interpersonal relationships in small groups?

69. Which perspective is most likely to look at ...
- a. Conflict theory
 - b. Structural-functionalism
 - c. Symbolic interactionism
 - d. Marxist theory

ANSWER: c

Max Weber's concept of _____ implies that, in conducting research, social scientists must try to understand others' view of reality and the subjective aspects of their experiences, such as symbols, values, and beliefs.

70. Max Weber's concept of _____ implies that, in conducting research, social scientists must try to understand...
- a. anomie
 - b. looking-glass self
 - c. verstehen
 - d. alienation

ANSWER: c

71. According to Herbert Blumer the first stage of a social problem is

- a. mobilization for action.
- b. societal recognition.
- c. implementation of a plan.
- d. social legitimation.

ANSWER: b

Symbolic interactionist Herbert Blumer said that social problems develop in stages. In the _____ stage, a condition is recognized as a social problem by the larger community, such as media, schools, and churches.

72. Symbolic interactionist Herbert Blumer said that social problems develop in stages. In the social s...

- a. objectification
- b. social legitimation
- c. mobilization
- d. implementation

ANSWER: b

To reduce the social problem of underage drinking, _____ would recommend a campaign to encourage teenagers to define alcohol consumption as “un-cool.”

73. To reduce the social problem of underage drinking, _____ would recommend a campaign to encourage teenager...

- a. labeling theory
- b. social pathology
- c. social disorganization
- d. conflict theory

ANSWER: a

The _____ perspective often questions the origin and evolution of social problems and examines how research, government agencies, and the media influence the public's view of social problems.

74. The _____ perspective often questions the origin and evolution of social problems ...

- a. labeling
- b. social pathology
- c. social disorganization
- d. social constructionism

ANSWER: d

75. Which of the following topics is most likely to be the topic of study of a social constructionist?

- a. Why marijuana use, but not alcohol and nicotine use, are illegal

- b. How rapid social change weakened traditional rules about sexual behavior
- c. How the economic structure of society influences elections
- d. How different social classes view the police

ANSWER: a

Which theoretical perspective emphasizes that a condition must be defined or recognized as a social problem in order to be a social problem?

76. Which theoretical perspective emphasizes that a condition must be defined or recognized as a social ...

- a. Structural-functionalism
- b. Marxist conflict theory
- c. Non-Marxist conflict theory
- d. Symbolic-Interactionism

ANSWER: d

77. Which of the following social policies is most likely to be advocated by a conflict theorist?

- a. Repair weak institutions
- b. Assure proper socialization
- c. Create an equitable system for the distribution of resources
- d. Reduce the pace of social change

ANSWER: c

Conflict theory is more likely than structural-functionalism or symbolic interactionism to view the cause of social problems as

78. Conflict theory is more likely than structural-functionalism or symbolic interactionism to view the ...

- a. rapid social change.
- b. different interpretations of social roles.
- c. inequality.
- d. inadequate socialization.

ANSWER: c

79. The first stage in conducting a research study is

- a. reviewing the literature.
- b. formulating a research question.
- c. formulating a hypothesis.
- d. defining variables.

ANSWER: b

80. Gender, self-esteem, crime rates, and religiosity are examples of

- a. variables.
- b. hypotheses.

- c. operational definitions.
- d. samples.

ANSWER: a

81. An event or characteristic that is measurable and varies or is subject to change is a(n)
- a. hypothesis.
 - b. sample.
 - c. variable.
 - d. operational definition.

ANSWER: c

82. Which is the best example of an operational definition?
- a. Sexual harassment
 - b. Conflict theory
 - c. The number of students reporting sexual harassment on a college campus
 - d. The variable that is expected to explain the change

ANSWER: c

83. In research, an operational definition
- a. identifies the measurement procedure for a variable.
 - b. explains the relationship between two variables.
 - c. defines the researcher's hypothesis.
 - d. refers to any variable that cannot be measured.

ANSWER: a

A(n) ____ of religiosity could be the number of times respondents report going to church or synagogue in a month or year.

84. A(n) ____ of religiosity could be the number of times respondents report going to church or synagogue in...

- a. theory
- b. operational definition
- c. hypothesis
- d. sample

ANSWER: b

85. The researcher's hypothesis
- a. identifies a sample to use for the research.
 - b. explains how to measure the variables.
 - c. summarizes the review of literature.
 - d. predicts a relationships between the variables.

ANSWER: d

Anna is studying whether drug use contributes to lower academic achievement of high

school youth. Anna's independent variable is

86. Anna is studying whether drug use contributes to lower academic achievement of high school youth. An...

- a. youth.
- b. drug use.
- c. high school.
- d. academic achievement.

ANSWER: b

The _____ variable is the variable that is expected to explain change in the dependent variable.

87. The _____ variable is the variable that is expected to explain ...

- a. independent
- b. dependent
- c. operational
- d. theoretical

ANSWER: a

88. Which research method involves manipulating a variable in order to determine how it affects another variable?

- a. Experiment
- b. Field research
- c. Survey
- d. Secondary data

ANSWER: a

Alice wanted to study the effects of a new teaching technique on learning. She randomly divided her student subjects into two groups and used the new teaching technique with just one of the groups. Then she administered an exam to the two groups and compared their grades. Her experimental group was the group who

89. Alice wanted to study the effects of a new teaching technique on learning. She randomly divided her ...

- a. got the highest grades.
- b. was exposed to the new teaching technique.
- c. was not exposed to the new teaching technique.
- d. got the lowest grades.

ANSWER: b

90. The major strength of the experimental method is that

- a. experimental research findings are easily generalized to larger groups in society.
- b. it provides evidence for causal relationships.
- c. it is more likely than other methods of data collection to show an association between the variables of interest.

d. it is an easy way to collect information on almost all sociological variables.

ANSWER: b

For which method of data collection is it most important to select a representative sample so that the information may be generalized to a larger population?

91. For which method of data collection is it most important to select ...

- a. An experiment
- b. A survey
- c. Participant observation
- d. A case study

ANSWER: b

A method of data collection in which a researcher asks respondents a series of questions and makes written notes or recordings to be analyzed later is called a(n)

92. A method of data collection in which a researcher asks respondents a series of questions and makes ...

- a. questionnaire.
- b. experiment.
- c. secondary data analysis.
- d. interview.

ANSWER: d

93. For which data collection method is response rate the major problem?

- a. Experiment
- b. Field research
- c. Questionnaire
- d. Secondary data research

ANSWER: c

Jasmine received a list of questions in the mail. She was asked to answer the questions on paper and return them to a researcher. Jasmine was asked to participate in

94. Jasmine received a list of questions in the mail. She was asked ...

- a. an experiment.
- b. a questionnaire.
- c. non-participant observation.
- d. participant observation.

ANSWER: b

Researchers observe social behavior in the settings in which it occurs naturally when using the _____ method of data collection.

95. Researchers observe social behavior in settings in which it occurs naturally ...

- a. experiment
- b. questionnaire
- c. field research
- d. secondary data analysis

ANSWER: c

To study interaction between prison guards and inmates, a sociologist lived at a prison for several months. Only the warden and a few other administrators knew he had not been convicted of a crime. This is an example of

96. To study interaction between prison guards and inmates, a sociologist lived at a prison for several ...

- a. secondary data research.
- b. non-participant observation.
- c. participant observation.
- d. an experiment.

ANSWER: c

Studying white power groups by observing their activities without participating in their activities is considered an example of

97. Studying white power groups by observing their activities without participating in their activities ...

- a. secondary data.
- b. experimental.
- c. survey.
- d. field research.

ANSWER: d

98. One of the biggest disadvantages of secondary data research is that the

- a. sample seldom represents the population of interest to the researcher.
- b. researcher is limited to data already collected.
- c. researcher may become too involved with the group to remain unbiased.
- d. participants may act differently in a laboratory setting.

ANSWER: b

True / False

99. A social problem is defined as any condition that is harmful to society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

100. The definition of a social problem involves a combination of objective and subjective criteria.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

101. Recognized social problems vary by historical time period.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

102. An ascribed status is based on factors over which an individual has no control.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

103. College graduate is an example of an ascribed status.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

104. A single status, such as mother, can involve more than one role.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

105. Freedom and individualism are examples of American values.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

106. Values are characteristic of individuals rather than societies.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

107. Being granted a citizen's award for organizing a crime watch is an informal sanction.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

108. Symbols include language, gestures, and objects.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

109. Karl Marx developed the structural-functionalist perspective.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

110. Public schools serve as babysitters for employed parents. This is a manifest function of a public school.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

111. According to structural functionalists, social problems occur when some part of the structure or culture of a society fails to work properly.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

112. When norms are weak, absent, or conflicting we experience anomie.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

113. The social pathology model advocates proper socialization and moral education as a solution to social problems.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

114. Marxist conflict theories focus on the ways in which individuals create meaning through interaction.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

115. Non-Marxist conflict theorists focus on order and stability in a society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

116. According to symbolic interactionists, a condition must be defined or recognized as a

social problem for it to be a social problem.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

117. According to Herbert Blumer, “social legitimation” of a social problem takes place when the problem achieves recognition by the larger community, such as the media.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

118. Labeling theory and social constructionism are parts of the structural-functionalist perspective.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

119. The first stage of conducting a research study is developing a hypothesis.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

120. A researcher can draw on his or her life experience when formulating a research question for scientific study.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

121. A dependent variable is the variable that the researcher believes contributes to change in the variable of interest.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

122. Sociologists seldom use questionnaire research because it is a relatively expensive way to do research.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

123. A researcher who analyzes information collected by the United States Bureau of Census is using secondary data research.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

124. A researcher's literature review involves secondary data research.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

125. An advantage of experiments is that they typically take place in natural settings.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

126. Field research usually involves small samples.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

127. The sociological imagination enables us to understand how social forces influence our personal misfortunes and failures.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

Subjective Short Answer

128. Select a social problem and identify possible objective and subjective elements of that social problem.

ANSWER: will vary

129. Identify a social phenomenon that some groups or societies view as a social problem and others do not. What differences in values or beliefs might account for this variability in definition of a social problem?

ANSWER: will vary

130. How does an achieved status differ from an ascribed status? Give an example of how an ascribed status can affect an achieved status.

ANSWER: will vary

131. What are values? Give an example of how values play an important role in the interpretation of a condition as a social problem.

ANSWER: will vary

132. List and describe the three types of social norms and provide an example of each.

ANSWER: will vary

133. Choose a private trouble you have experienced. Use your “sociological imagination” to explain how this problem can also be viewed as a public issue.

ANSWER: will vary

134. How do the concepts of anomie and alienation differ? Give an example of each.

ANSWER: will vary

135. Explain the concept of verstehen and how it applies to social science research.

ANSWER: will vary

136. List and briefly describe the first four stages in conducting a research study.

ANSWER: will vary

137. If you wanted to study the extent to which youth engage in behavior that puts them at high risk for transmitting or contracting HIV, what method of data collection would you use? Explain the advantage of the method you select for studying this topic.

ANSWER: will vary

138. What is the purpose of conducting a literature review as part of the research process?

ANSWER: will vary

Essay

139. List five major social institutions in society and, for each, give an example of possible breakdown in the institution and a social problem that might have resulted from that breakdown.

ANSWER: will vary

140. List and define the five elements of culture. For each element, explain how it contributes to social problems and give examples to illustrate your explanations.

ANSWER: will vary

141. What is the sociological imagination? Using two specific examples, explain how it can be used to understand social problems.

ANSWER: will vary

142. Many colleges offer online classes. What is the manifest function of an online college class? What would be some latent functions of taking an online college class? What might be some dysfunctions of taking an online college class instead of a class in a regular classroom?

ANSWER: will vary

143. Choose one of the major social institutions in American society and identify two social problems associated with this institution. For one of the social problems, describe a possible cause of and solution to the problem from the "social pathology model." For the other social problem, describe a possible cause of and solution to the problem from the "social disorganization model."

ANSWER: will vary

144. Explain the similarities and differences between contemporary Marxist conflict theory and non-Marxist conflict theory. Choose a social problem and discuss possible explanations of the problem from each conflict perspective (Marxist and non-Marxist).

ANSWER: will vary

145. Explain the differences among the three major theoretical perspectives in sociology (structural-functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) in their view of social problems.

ANSWER: will vary

146. From each of the three major theoretical perspectives (structural-functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) explain how mass media might contribute to social problems.

ANSWER: will vary

147. Describe each of the following research methods and explain the main strengths and weaknesses of each: experiments, survey research, field research, secondary data research.

ANSWER: will vary

148. Suppose you were interested in studying the relationship between violence on television and aggression in children. Generate two possible hypotheses and identify the independent and dependent variables in each hypothesis. Which research method would you select and why?

ANSWER: Answer not provided.

149. Design a research study on a particular social problem that interests you. Include your research question, variables of interest, hypothesis, sample, and method of data

collection, and provide a rationale for each.

ANSWER: will vary

150. Chapter 1 includes a discussion of good reasons for students to study social problems. Discuss at least four of the reasons given.

ANSWER: will vary