

Chapter 1 The Sociological Approach to Social Problems

A. Multiple Choice

1. As the percentage of the U.S. residents who are over 65 years old increases, the divide between workers who support the old with payroll taxes will have a racial dimension because the elderly will be overwhelmingly _____.

- A) African American
- B) Asian
- C) Latin American
- D) White

Answer: D

Page Reference: 2

Learning Objective:

Topic/A-head: An Introduction to Social Issues

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

2. In the underdeveloped world, conflicts over scarce resources are _____.

- A) increasing
- B) decreasing
- C) staying the same
- D) not currently studied

Answer: A

Page Reference: 4

Learning Objective:

Topic/A-head: Introduction to Social Issues

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

3. The United States, with about 4.5 percent of the world's population, consumes _____ of the world's energy.

- A) one-third
- B) one-fourth
- C) one-half
- D) three-fourths

Answer: B

Page Reference: 3

Learning Objective:

Topic/A-head: Introduction to Social Issues

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

4. Based on the measures used in the text, which of the following is the most accurate?

- A) The United States is the only country to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- B) The United States was among the worst countries in the rate teenage births.
- C) Japan has the highest rate of incarceration.
- D) Children have it better in the United States than in any other country in the world.

Answer: B
Page Reference: 5
Learning Objective:
Topic/A-head: Introduction
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

5. Almost all the growth in the world's population by 2050 will take place in the _____.
- A) poorest nations
 - B) wealthiest nations
 - C) United States
 - D) European Union

Answer: A
Page Reference: 3
Learning Objective:
Topic/A-head: Introduction to Social Issues
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

6. Half of the people in the world live on less than _____.
- A) \$0.25 a day
 - B) \$0.50 a day
 - C) \$1 a day
 - D) \$2 a day

Answer: D
Page Reference: 4
Learning Objective:
Topic/A-head: Introduction to Social Issues
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

7. The _____ nature of social problems illustrates that social problems vary by time, place, and definition.
- A) economic
 - B) objective
 - C) political
 - D) subjective

Answer: D
Page Reference: 6
Learning Objective: 1.1
Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

8. In the most recent direction of the study of deviance, _____.
- A) labeling people as abnormal has helped to clarify that they are the source of most social problems
 - B) it is understood that social structures contribute to the perpetuation of deviance
 - C) it is understood that deviants bring their problems on themselves
 - D) labeling is seen as irrelevant in creating and sustaining deviance

Answer: B

Page Reference: 6

Learning Objective: 1.1

Topic/A-head: Defining Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

9. The _____ nature of social problems describes societal conditions that harm certain segments of the population.

- A) economic
- B) objective
- C) political
- D) subjective

Answer: B

Page Reference: 5

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

10. According to the text, _____ often escape criticism and identification as social problems.

- A) institutions
- B) criminals
- C) the mentally ill
- D) school dropouts

Answer: A

Page Reference: 6

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

11. Which of the following is a danger associated with relying on public opinion to define social phenomena as social problems?

- A) It may increase focus on intuitions as the source of social problems.
- B) It may divert attention from problems within the existing social order.
- C) It may overlook conditions that are detrimental to the rich.
- D) It may overlook individual responsibility.

Answer: B

Page Reference: 6

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Analyze It

12. The nations of Western Europe, Scandinavia, and Canada are able to provide generous social welfare policies for their citizens because they _____.

- A) are monarchies
- B) tax their citizens at a higher rate than the United States

- C) restrict the freedoms of their citizens
- D) are communist nations

Answer: B

Page Reference: 8–9

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Social Problems in Global Perspective

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

13. As a result of extensive and universal social services, the social welfare states have _____ than the United States.

- A) higher infant mortality rates
- B) lower literacy rates
- C) lower rates of violent crime
- D) higher rates of violent crime

Answer: C

Page Reference: 8–9

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Social Problems in Global Perspective

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

14. Social welfare states have a(n) _____ life expectancy when compared to the United States.

- A) shorter
- B) longer
- C) identical
- D) nonexistent

Answer: B

Page Reference: 8–9

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Social Problems in Global Perspective

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

15. Citizens in social welfare states likely have better health outcomes than those in the United States because _____.

- A) they provide more tax-funded social services for their people
- B) they have no unemployment
- C) they have a more competitive system for social services
- D) they access social services through private enterprise, which ensures higher quality

Answer: A

Page Reference: 8–9

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Types of Social Problems

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

16. According to the sociological perspective, norm violators are _____.

- A) solely responsible for their actions
- B) universally criticized
- C) the symptoms of social problems, not the cause
- D) guiltless for their actions

Answer: C

Page Reference: 7

Learning Objective: 1.1

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

17. Society-induced conditions that harm any segment of the population, and acts and conditions that violate the norms and values found in society, define _____.

- A) social problems
- B) self-actualization
- C) cultural deprivation
- D) the sociological imagination

Answer: A

Page Reference: 7

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Defining Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

18. According to the text, the key to understanding social problems is understanding the _____.

- A) opinions of the public
- B) personal experiences of those who violate society's norms
- C) needs of victims of deviant behavior
- D) distribution of power in society

Answer: D

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

19. Institutionalized deviance results in a society in which _____.

- A) all law enforcement is corrupt
- B) there is an extremely high rate of crime
- C) some members are disadvantaged
- D) all members are economically equal

Answer: C

Page Reference: 12

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The System-Blame Approach to Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

20. Sociology is distinct from other disciplines in its approach to understanding norm violations as _____.

- A) defined by the least powerful members of society
- B) culturally defined and socially labeled
- C) an inherent property of deviant individuals
- D) universally agreed upon

Answer: B

Page Reference: 7

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Types of Social Problems

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

21. Which of the following is an example of institutionalized deviance?

- A) The equal distribution of health care among all members of society
- B) The equal distribution of income among all members of society
- C) The bias against the poor and people of color by police officers
- D) Tax laws that permit a large business to write off purchases

Answer: D

Page Reference: 9

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Types of Social Problems

Skill Level: Analyze It

22. The idea of the “sociological imagination” was developed by which sociologist?

- A) C. Wright Mills
- B) William Graham Sumner
- C) Karl Marx
- D) Emile Durkheim

Answer: A

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

23. The sociological imagination involves which of the following components?

- A) A focus on your individual point of view
- B) A focus on genetic determinants
- C) A focus on social, economic, and historical circumstances
- D) A focus on individual decision making

Answer: C

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

24. The system-blame approach assumes that social problems results from _____.

- A) psychological conditions
- B) social conditions
- C) religious tradition
- D) institutionalized deviance

Answer: B

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

25. The assumption by the members of a group that the culture of some other group is not only inferior but also deficient is a component of _____.

- A) system-blame
- B) person-blame
- C) Social Darwinism
- D) sociological imagination

Answer: C

Page Reference: 12

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: A Closer Look: William Graham and Social Darwinism

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

26. Recidivism is the _____ crime.

- A) reinvolvement in
- B) retribution for
- C) institutionalized deviance of
- D) cultural deprivation of

Answer: A

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

27. The belief that the place of people in the stratification system is a function of their ability and effort refers to _____.

- A) self-actualization
- B) Social Darwinism
- C) the subjective nature of social problems
- D) the objective nature of social problems

Answer: B

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

28. Relying too heavily on a person-blame approach to social problems is a problem because _____.

- A) it legitimizes the right to initiate system-change rather than person-change
- B) societal conditions (such as norms that are racist, sexist, or homophobic) go unchallenged
- C) it directs blame at the system and away from the individuals
- D) it absolves individuals from responsibility for their actions

Answer: B

Page Reference: 9– 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

29. According to Social Darwinism, disadvantaged members of society _____.

- A) do not have any control over their circumstances
- B) are valuable parts of the community
- C) deserve government welfare
- D) deserve their fate

Answer: D

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

30. The person-blame approach assumes that social problems results from _____.

- A) psychological conditions
- B) social conditions
- C) religious tradition
- D) institutionalized deviance

Answer: A

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

31. Which of the following is a reason for using the system-blame approach in studying social problems?

- A) Individual actors are the source of many social problems.
- B) A balance is needed since most people in our society tend to blame institutions.
- C) It is a necessary first step in restructuring society along more humane lines.
- D) Citizens are eager for societal change.

Answer: C

Page Reference: 12

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The System-Blame Approach to Social Problems

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

32. Relying too heavily on a system-blame approach is a problem because _____.

- A) societal conditions are taken for granted and go unchallenged
- B) it focuses on person-change rather than system-change
- C) it directs blame at individuals and away from the system
- D) it absolves individuals from responsibility for their actions

Answer: D

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The System-Blame Approach to Social Problems

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

33. A person-blame approach advocates social programs that _____.

- A) seek to control individual behavior
- B) produce sweeping social change
- C) reorganize social institutions
- D) change long-held societal norms

Answer: A

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

34. Deviant people are treated as the cause of their own problems by which of the following approaches to studying social problems?

- A) self-actualization
- B) person-blame
- C) system-blame
- D) institutionalized deviance

Answer: B

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

35. Asserting that “the poor are poor because they are not bright enough to succeed” might be said by a _____.

- A) social Darwinist
- B) sociologist
- C) person who focuses on institutionalized deviance
- D) system blamer

Answer: A

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

36. Asserting that “the poor are poor because the institutions around them set them up to fail” might be said by a _____.

- A) social Darwinist
- B) system blamer
- C) person who focuses on norm violators
- D) victim blamer

Answer: B

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

37. According to William Graham Sumner, the rich are successful because _____.

- A) they are superior
- B) they have worked the hardest
- C) there is a conspiracy by the powerful who keep the poor down
- D) they have helped the poor

Answer: A

Page Reference: 12

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: A Closer Look: William Graham Sumner and Social Darwinism

Skill Level: Analyze It

38. The system-blame orientation would attribute students’ failure in schools to _____.

- A) being born with limited intellectual capacities
- B) the failure of the students to work hard to succeed
- C) the failure of the educational system to meet their needs
- D) the failure of their parents to provide proper guidance

Answer: C

Page Reference: 10–11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

39. Which of the following would be a reason for a recently released criminal committing another crime according to the system-blame approach?

- A) The person did not reform in prison.
- B) The person is surrounded by ex-criminals.
- C) The person is inherently criminal.
- D) Many employers do not hire ex-convicts.

Answer: D

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

40. According to the system-blame approach, many ex-convicts can be seen as victims in that _____.

- A) they were born deviant
- B) they have to spend time in prison for their crimes
- C) they do not have the skills and resources to survive without resorting to crime
- D) they are required to spend a year in school after getting released from prison

Answer: C

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

41. According to the sociological perspective, which of the following best explains social problems?

- A) Norm violators
- B) People who seek self-actualization
- C) Problems caused by societal conditions
- D) Biology

Answer: C

Page Reference: 9–10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

42. Our social system is rarely seen as causing social problems because _____.

- A) it is the poor who define what are considered social problems
- B) we tend to focus on the elite who commit “deviant” acts
- C) institutions cannot be changed
- D) we have a hard time questioning our taken-for-granted assumptions

Answer: D

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

43. Social Darwinists would oppose social reforms like social welfare because _____.

- A) they are too expensive to produce viable results
- B) they allow people to get money for doing nothing
- C) they perpetuate the existence of unfit groups in society
- D) it is more effective to provide technical training for the poor

Answer: C

Page Reference: 12

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: A Closer Look: William Graham Sumner and Social Darwinism

Skill Level: Analyze It

44. The authors assert that exclusively focusing on the individual when studying social problems _____.

- A) overlooks deviations from society's norms as potential problems
- B) takes an overly deterministic view of social problems
- C) ignores the strains that are caused by the inequities of the system
- D) treats social problems as being the product of systematic inequity

Answer: C

Page Reference: 12

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

45. The analysis of social problems relies on _____.

- A) politicians
- B) reliable data
- C) public opinion
- D) media representations

Answer: B

Page Reference: 13

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sociological Methods: The Craft of Sociology

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

46. Conclusions made from _____ will be reliable about the entire population.

- A) participant observation
- B) a control group
- C) a probability sample
- D) an experiment

Answer: C

Page Reference: 15

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sources of Data

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

47. Researchers who use _____ collect information about the same persons over many years.

- A) longitudinal surveys
- B) experiments
- C) participant observation
- D) public opinion polls

Answer: A

Page Reference: 15

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sources of Data

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

48. In experimental research, who is the “control” group?

- A) They are the researchers who conduct the study.
- B) They are subjects who are exposed to the independent variable.
- C) They are subjects not exposed to the independent variable.
- D) They are subjects who are aware of the experimental manipulation.

Answer: C

Page Reference: 15

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sources of Data

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

49. Sociologists use _____ to explain a range of human behavior and a variety of social and societal events.

- A) political discourse
- B) media representations
- C) public opinion
- D) sociological theory

Answer: D

Page Reference: 13–14

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sociological Questions

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

50. Which of the following statements is accurate about sociologists doing research on social problems?

- A) Personal values of the researcher do not affect his/her research.
- B) Sociologists agree on a liberal agenda that sides with the disadvantaged.
- C) The study of social problems cannot be value free.
- D) Sociologists largely promote an agenda that maintains the existing social order.

Answer: C

Page Reference: 16–17

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Objectivity

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

B. True/False

51. Early social pathologists assumed that social norms were universally held and viewed social problems as behaviors or social arrangements that disturb the moral order.

Answer: TRUE

Page Reference: 5

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Defining Social Problems

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

52. By referring to the subjective nature of social problems, sociologists have more recently come to acknowledge that what is defined as a social problem is basically the same across audiences and time.

Answer: FALSE

Page Reference: 5

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Defining Social Problems

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

53. With corporations in the process of downsizing their employee base, while at the same time frequently merging with other companies, C. Wright Mills would refer to the resulting unemployment as “private troubles” of the individuals involved rather than a “public issue.”

Answer: FALSE

Page Reference: 9–10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

54. The objective reality of social problems is demonstrated by the fact that some social conditions, which can be identified as such in any given place or time, induce material and psychic suffering for entire segments of the population.

Answer: TRUE

Page Reference: 6

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

55. The textbook examines two types of social problems: (1) acts and conditions that violate social norms and values, and (2) the difficulties for those suffering from the deviant acts of norm violators.

Answer: FALSE

Page Reference: 7–8

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Types of Social Problems

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

56. A person-blame approach advocates social programs that transform existing institutions.

Answer: FALSE

Page Reference: 9–10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

57. The victim-blamer would attribute high rates of recidivism to faults and failures of the individual criminals, including their greed, feelings of aggression, weak control of impulses, and relative lack of conscience.

Answer: TRUE

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

58. Relying solely on a person-blame approach to social problems is the best way to bring about significant social changes.

Answer: FALSE

Page Reference: 10

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

59. An extremely dogmatic system-blame approach to social problems views individuals almost as robots controlled totally by their social environment.

Answer: TRUE

Page Reference: 11–12

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The System-Blame Approach to Social Problems

Skill: Apply What You Know

60. Sociologists' study of social problems is a value-free pursuit.

Answer: FALSE

Page Reference: 16–17

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Objectivity

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

C. Fill in the Blank

61. Compared to all other countries, the United States uses the _____ percentage of the world's energy resources.

Answer: highest

Page Reference: 3

Learning Objective:

Topic/A-head: An Introduction to Social Issues

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

62. There is _____ among sociologists as to what constitutes a social problem.

Answer: disagreement

Page Reference: 7

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Types of Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

63. Advantaged members of society have more _____ to determine what constitutes a social problem than disadvantaged members of society.

Answer: power

Page Reference: 9

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

64. A person-blame approach assumes the _____ should change.

Answer: individual

Page Reference: 10–11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

65. The _____ assumes a child fails in school because the school setting was inappropriate for the child.

Answer: system-blame approach

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

66. Social Darwinism is a theoretical perspective that is often used to argue _____ government social programs (such as those that increase welfare to the poor).

Answer: against

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

67. A _____ is a set of ideas that explains a range of human behavior and a variety of social and societal events.

Answer: sociological theory

Page Reference: 13–14

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sociological Methods: The Craft of Sociology

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

68. A _____ is a representative part of a population that sociologists use to answer sociological questions.

Answer: sample

Page Reference: 15

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sources of Data

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

69. To understand the cause-and-effect relationship among variables, sociologists use controlled _____.

Answer: experiments

Page Reference: 15

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sources of Data

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

70. Sociologists ask three types of questions: empirical, comparative, and _____.

Answer: historical

Page Reference: 13

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sociological Questions

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

D. Short Answer

71. Analyze the differences between the subjective nature and the objective reality of social problems. Give an example of each.

Page Reference: 6–7

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: The Objective and Subjective Nature of Social Problems

Skill Level: Analyze It

72. Analyze the differences between norm violations and institutionalized deviance. Give an example of each.

Page Reference: 7–8

Learning Objective: 1.2

Topic/A-head: Types of Social Problems

Skill Level: Analyze It

73. According to C. Wright Mills, what is the relationship between private troubles and public issues? Give an example of each.

Page Reference: 9–10

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

74. Illustrate how the system-blame approach understands the role of individual responsibility.

Page Reference: 9–12

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

75. Describe some of the different sources of data sociologists use to study social problems.

Page Reference: 14–16

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Sources of Data

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

E. Essay

76. Why do the authors of the text emphasize a system-blame approach?

Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should include the following:

1. Define the system-blame approach to studying social problems.
2. Outline how the system-blame approach provides balance to the person-blame approach.
3. Describe how the system-blame approach analyzes the role of institutions in the study of social problems.
4. Conclude with a brief summary of why the system-blame approach fits within the sociological perspective.

Page Reference: 12–13

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The System-Blame Approach to Social Problems

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

77. Discuss how each of the two main approaches to understanding social problems would explain a social problem like recidivism.

Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should include the following:

1. Define the two main approaches to studying social problems (person-blame and system-blame).
2. Define recidivism.
3. Outline how the person-blame approach explains recidivism.
4. Outline how the system-blame approach explains recidivism.
5. Conclude by giving an example of a sociological approach to solving recidivism using the system-blame approach.

Page Reference: 10–11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

78. William J. Wilson argues that the ghetto poor endure because of the disappearance of low-skill jobs in the past 30 years or so. Discuss how this view differs from the explanation that might be offered by William Graham Sumner.

Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should include the following:

1. Outline the ways in which William J. Wilson's viewpoint represents an example of the system-blame approach.
2. Define Social Darwinism.
3. Describe how William Graham Sumner's viewpoint represents an example of the person-blame approach.
4. Compare and contrast the main differences between how a system-blame approach and a social Darwinist perspective view a social problem like poverty.
5. Conclude by summarizing which perspective current U.S. policy reflects.

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

79. Discuss the dangers of relying solely on the person-blame approach in explaining social problems.

Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should include the following:

1. Define the person-blame approach to studying social problems.
2. Outline how the person-blame approach protects the established order against criticism.
3. Describe what is troublesome about the social control function of the person-blame approach. Give specific examples.
4. Describe how the person-blame approach defines the degree of control individuals have over their fate. Give examples of how this may be problematic.
5. Conclude with an argument against using the person-blame approach. Give specific examples of how the approach has failed in the past.

Page Reference: 11

Learning Objective: 1.3

Topic/A-head: The Sociological Perspective

Skill Level: Analyze It

80. How do the authors justify the claim that the study of social problems cannot be value-free? How do they suggest that we deal with bias?

Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should include the following:

1. Describe the concept of value neutrality.
2. Describe the three primary objections to the ideal of value neutrality in sociological research.
3. Conclude with a discussion of the methods sociologists use to deal with the problem of bias in research.

Page Reference: 16–17

Learning Objective: 1.4

Topic/A-head: Objectivity

Skill Level: Apply What You Know