

Chapter 2

Theoretical Perspectives

Note that this Test Bank may contain extension questions that have not been covered as such in the textbook.

Multiple-choice questions

1. Which one of the following is a *false statement* regarding the relationship between theory and research?
- A. Theory inspires research.
 - B. Research inspires theory creation.
 - C. Theory is used to interpret research findings.
 - D. Theory comes before research.

ANS: D SEC: Why focus on TYP: comprehension

2. Sociologists view theory and research as
- A. interdependent.
 - B. independent.
 - C. separate but equal.
 - D. unrelated.

ANS: A SEC: Why focus on TYP: comprehension

3. A _____ is a framework for thinking about what is going on in the world around us.
- A. fact
 - B. theoretical perspective
 - C. concept
 - D. method of research

ANS: B SEC: Why focus on TYP: knowledge

4. A _____ is the contribution a part makes to order and stability within the society.
- A. dysfunction
 - B. façade of legitimacy
 - C. symbol
 - D. function

ANS: D SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: comprehension

5. _____ are consequences disruptive to the system or to some segment of society.

- A. Functions
- B. Dysfunctions
- C. Facades of legitimacy
- D. Symbols

ANS: B SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: comprehension

6. _____ use the human body as a metaphor for society.
- A. Conflict theorists
 - B. Symbolic interactionists
 - C. Functionalists
 - D. Action theorists

ANS: C SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: comprehension

7. From a purely functionalist perspective, sports teams
- A. divide the community and benefit team owners.
 - B. foster a sense of belonging to a school, city, or country associated with them.
 - C. direct fans' attention away from the real issues a city faces.
 - D. are ultimately a drain on the economy.

ANS: B SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: comprehension

8. According to functionalists, poverty exists because
- A. poor people lack skills to do better.
 - B. it contributes in some way to the stability of the overall society.
 - C. poor people lack the drive to do better.
 - D. somebody has to be on the bottom.

ANS: B SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: comprehension

9. 'Poor people often "volunteer" for over-the-counter and prescription drug tests.' From a functionalist perspective, this statement is describing
- A. a façade of legitimacy.
 - B. the negotiated order.
 - C. a function of poverty.
 - D. human nature.

ANS: C SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

10. _____ means anticipated or intended.
- A. Latent
 - B. Manifest
 - C. Function
 - D. Dysfunction

ANS: B SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: comprehension

11. _____ means unanticipated or unintended.
- A. Latent

- B. Manifest
- C. Function
- D. Dysfunction

ANS: A SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: comprehension

12. A community celebration provides an occasion to plan activities with family and friends. This represents a
- A. manifest function.
 - B. latent function.
 - C. manifest dysfunction.
 - D. latent dysfunction.

ANS: A SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

13. Community-wide celebrations have the unintended consequence of breaking down barriers across neighbourhoods. Such a consequence is known as a
- A. manifest function.
 - B. latent function.
 - C. manifest dysfunction.
 - D. latent dysfunction.

ANS: B SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

14. Which one of the following is a latent or unexpected function of community-wide celebrations (as discussed in the textbook)?
- A. The celebration functions as a marketing and public relations event for the corporate sponsors.
 - B. The celebration provides an occasion to plan activities with friends.
 - C. Community celebrations give a visible role to public transportation systems.
 - D. The celebration unifies the community through a shared experience.

ANS: C SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

15. Sometimes community-wide celebrations have the unexpected consequence of turning into an occasion in which people drink too much alcohol and miss work or class the next day as a result. This represents a _____ of the community-wide celebration.
- A. latent dysfunction
 - B. latent function
 - C. manifest function
 - D. façade of legitimacy

ANS: A SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

16. Traffic jams, closed streets, piles of rubbish, and shortages of clean public toilets are some of the anticipated disruptions to order and stability that accompany community-wide celebrations. These kinds of disruptions are known as
- A. manifest dysfunctions.
 - B. latent functions.
 - C. manifest functions.

D. latent dysfunctions.

ANS: A SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

17. The question ‘Who benefits from a particular pattern or social arrangement?’ is of most interest to a(n)
- A. functionalist.
 - B. conflict theorist.
 - C. symbolic interactionist.
 - D. action theorist.

ANS: B SEC: Conflict theory TYP: comprehension

18. Conflict theorists maintain that exploitation by the dominant group is disguised by the
- A. proletariat.
 - B. means of production.
 - C. façade of legitimacy.
 - D. bourgeoisie.

ANS: C SEC: Conflict theory TYP: comprehension

19. A woman argues that the low salary she pays someone from Lesotho to work in her garden is fair because ‘he got paid more than he would have been paid in Lesotho’. Conflict theorists call this line of reasoning
- A. cultural relativity.
 - B. the façade of legitimacy.
 - C. a latent function.
 - D. class consciousness.

ANS: B SEC: Conflict theory TYP: application

20. An employer tells workers ‘if you aren’t happy with the pay and working conditions here, go work somewhere else! It’s a free country.’ Conflict theorists call this line of reasoning
- A. cultural relativity.
 - B. sympathetic knowledge.
 - C. the façade of legitimacy.
 - D. good business practice.

ANS: C SEC: Conflict theory TYP: application

21. Which one of the following concepts applies to the façade of legitimacy?
- A. complete analysis
 - B. well-documented and supported assertions
 - C. misleading arguments
 - D. strong premises

ANS: C SEC: Conflict theory TYP: comprehension

22. Who is most likely to ask how people involved in interaction take account of what each

other is doing or is about to do, and then direct their own conduct accordingly’?

- A. functionalists
- B. conflict theorists
- C. symbolic interactionists
- D. classic theorists

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

23. _____ consist(s) of situations in which two people communicate, interpret, and respond to each other’s words and actions.

- A. Symbols
- B. Social interaction
- C. The façade of legitimacy
- D. Functions

ANS: B SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: comprehension

24. A _____ is any kind of physical phenomenon – a word, object, colour, or sound to which people assign a name, meaning, or value.

- A. value
- B. preconception
- C. symbol
- D. observation

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: comprehension

25. _____ maintain that people must share a symbol system if they are to communicate with one another.

- A. Functionalists
- B. Conflict theorists
- C. Symbolic interactionists
- D. Social action theorists

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: comprehension

26. Charity is from Zimbabwe but is now a South African citizen. She speaks Chishona, English and isiZulu, but speaks only isiZulu or English in public because she imagines people will think she is an undocumented immigrant if she speaks in Chishona.

Symbolic interactionists would call this

- A. symbolism.
- B. self-preservation.
- C. the negotiated order.
- D. self-awareness.

ANS: D SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

27. Within a classroom, it is expected that teachers stand at the front of the room and lecture while students sit at desks, pay attention, take notes and raise their hands to ask questions. However, on the first day of class, Professor Sithole tells her students that they are free to ask questions at any point without raising their hands. Symbolic

interactionists would call this

- A. symbolism.
- B. self-preservation.
- C. the negotiated order.
- D. self-awareness.

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

28. Which one of the following topics would be of greatest interest to a symbolic interactionist?

- A. Unintended disruptions to order and stability associated with the construction of border fences.
- B. Expected disruptions to order and stability associated with the construction of border fences.
- C. The ways in which South African consumers and employees benefit from low wage labour of undocumented immigrants.
- D. Strategies undocumented immigrants use to escape detection when passing through official border crossings.

ANS: D SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

29. Which one of the following questions about undocumented immigration from Zimbabwe to South Africa would be of most interest to a conflict theorist?

- A. How does undocumented immigration contribute to order and stability in Zimbabwe and South Africa?
- B. Who benefits from the existence of undocumented immigration, and at whose expense?
- C. Does everyone in South Africa and Zimbabwe see undocumented immigration in the same way?
- D. Why does South Africa not close its borders to foreign workers?

ANS: B SEC: Conflict theory TYP: application

30. Which one of the following questions about undocumented immigration from Zimbabwe to South Africa would be of most interest to a functionalist?

- A. How does undocumented immigration contribute to order and stability in Zimbabwe and South Africa?
- B. Who benefits from the existence of undocumented immigration, and at whose expense?
- C. Does everyone in South Africa and Zimbabwe see undocumented immigration in the same way?
- D. Why doesn't South Africa close its borders to foreign workers?

ANS: A SEC: Conflict theory TYP: application

31. Which one of the following questions about undocumented immigration from Zimbabwe to South Africa would be of most interest to a symbolic interactionist?

- A. How does undocumented immigration contribute to order and stability in Zimbabwe and South Africa?
- B. Who benefits from the existence of undocumented immigration, and at whose

expense?

- C. How do undocumented immigrants come to interact with potential employers?
- D. Why doesn't South Africa close its borders to foreign workers?

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

32. _____ would emphasise that without some shared meanings, encounters with others would be very confusing.
- A. Functionalism
 - B. Conflict theory
 - C. Symbolic interaction

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

33. The construction of border fences is associated with an overall drop in the crime rate. This finding is one associated with
- A. functionalism.
 - B. conflict theory.
 - C. symbolic interaction.

ANS: A SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

34. Many unauthorised immigrants manage to blend in with the crowds passing through official ports of entry. This finding is one associated with
- A. functionalism.
 - B. conflict theory.
 - C. symbolic interaction.

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

35. _____ would point out that South African employers benefit from the barriers along the South Africa-Lesotho border at the expense of low-wage labourers from Lesotho.
- A. Functionalism
 - B. Conflict theory
 - C. Symbolic interaction

ANS: B SEC: Conflict theory TYP: application

36. _____ would argue that 'the real purpose of the fence construction is to prevent the free movement of labour from a low wage economy into a high wage one'.
- A. Functionalism
 - B. Conflict theory
 - C. Symbolic interaction

ANS: B SEC: Conflict theory TYP: application

37. _____ would ask 'how does undocumented immigration contribute to order and stability in Zimbabwe and South Africa'?
- A. Functionalism

- B. Conflict theory
- C. Symbolic interaction

ANS: A SEC: Functionalist theory TYP: application

38. _____ would ask ‘how do undocumented immigrants come to interact with potential employers’?
- A. Functionalism
 - B. Conflict theory
 - C. Symbolic interaction

ANS: C SEC: Symbolic interaction TYP: application

39. Which one of the following statements best describes how the three perspectives should be viewed?
- A. A single perspective can give us a complete picture of a process or an event.
 - B. Most sociologists maintain that one perspective only should be adopted when analysing an issue.
 - C. The three perspectives should be viewed as opposing viewpoints.
 - D. We can gain greater understanding of a process or an event if we examine it from the point of view of more than one perspective.

ANS: D SEC: Critique of theories TYP: application

40. Which one of the following statements represents a criticism of the functionalist perspective?
- A. It is too liberal.
 - B. It focuses on the ‘small stuff’.
 - C. It offers no technique for determining the ‘overall net effect’.
 - D. It focuses on the ‘have nots’.

ANS: C SEC: Critique of theories TYP: comprehension

41. A major criticism of the conflict theory is that it
- A. overemphasises the stability and order that exist in a society.
 - B. presents a simplistic view of the relationship between dominant and subordinate groups.
 - C. focuses too strongly on consumer groups, citizen groups, and the worker’s ability to promote change.
 - D. understates the tensions and divisions that exist in society.

ANS: B SEC: Critique of theories TYP: comprehension

42. One of the strengths of the _____ perspective is that it offers a balanced view that includes intended and unintended consequences related to order and disorder.
- A. functionalist
 - B. conflict
 - C. symbolic interaction
 - D. sociological

ANS: A SEC: Critique of theories TYP: comprehension

43. One of the strengths of the _____ perspective is that it forces us to look beyond popular justifications and explore questions about whose interests are being protected and promoted and at whose expense.
- A. functionalist
 - B. conflict
 - C. symbolic interaction
 - D. sociological

ANS: B SEC: Critique of theories TYP: comprehension

44. One weakness of the _____ perspective is that specific observations are difficult to generalise.
- A. functionalist
 - B. conflict
 - C. symbolic interaction
 - D. sociological

ANS: C SEC: Critique of theories TYP: comprehension

45. One of the strengths of the _____ perspective is that it encourages first-hand, extensive observation of an issue.
- A. functionalist
 - B. conflict
 - C. symbolic interaction
 - D. sociological

ANS: C SEC: Critique of theories TYP: comprehension

46. Choose the incorrect option in relation to the stem.
Decoloniality is described as _____.

- A. an alternative theoretical approach to western theories of sociology.
- B. a concept developed by a Peruvian sociologist, Aníbal Quijano.
- C. focussing on accepting diversity, difference and understanding the human person in his/her own cultural setting.
- D. a theory that sets itself up as the standard of thought and the central foundation of all knowledge.

ANS : D SEC : Decolonial responses to colonialism TYP : comprehension

47. The decolonial response to colonialism is best described in the related concepts of _____. Choose the incorrect option.

- A. Coloniality of Colonisation
- B. Coloniality of Being
- C. Coloniality of Knowledge
- D. Coloniality of Power

ANS: A SEC: Decolonial responses to colonialism TYP: comprehension

48. Choose an option that is not correct in relation to this statement: Coloniality of power refers to the _____ ordering of the world.

- A. uneven, unequal and asymmetrical
- B. racial
- C. equal, fair and just
- D. exploitative

ANS: C SEC: Decolonial responses to colonialism TYP: comprehension

49. Which one of the following statements best describes the phrase Coloniality of Being?

- A. It is a celebration of difference and variations in cultural experiences of the human person of different parts of the world.
- B. It is a process proposing modernisation of the underdeveloped world.
- C. It is a justification for the colonisation of non-European nations.
- D. It is a celebration of the domination of weaker countries by stronger powerful countries.

ANS: A SEC: Decolonial responses to colonialism TYP: comprehension

50. Which one of the following statements best describes the phrase Coloniality of Knowledge?

- A. It has to do with the impact of colonisation on various aspects of knowledge production and on control of the mind of the colonised.
- B. It has to do with the impact of globalisation in sharing knowledge equally across different nations.
- C. It has to do with the production of resources that is transported to the poorest parts of the world.
- D. It has to do with a philosophy supporting modernisation and westernisation.

ANS: A SEC: Decolonial responses to colonialism TYP: comprehension

True/False questions

1. Functionalists focus on the strategies dominant groups use to create and protect the social arrangements that give them an advantage.

ANS: False SEC: Functionalist theory

2. From a functionalist viewpoint, poverty contributes to the stability of the overall society.

ANS: True SEC: Functionalist theory

3. Functionalists argue that sports teams have no real purpose in society.

ANS: False SEC: Functionalist theory

4. 'Manifest' means intended, anticipated, or expected.

ANS: True SEC: Functionalist theory

5. Conflict theorists focus on how the 'parts' of society contribute in expected and unexpected ways to maintain an existing social order.

ANS: False SEC: Conflict theory

6. The façade of legitimacy is an explanation that members of dominant groups give to justify exploitive actions.

ANS: True SEC: Conflict theory

7. An employer states 'getting paid R30 an hour is better than not having a job at all'. Conflict theorists call this line of reasoning the façade of legitimacy.

ANS: True SEC: Conflict theory

8. Conflict theorists state out that the biggest threat to South African jobs is undocumented labour from Zimbabwe.

ANS: False SEC: Conflict theory

9. Conflict theorists would argue that South African employers benefit from the border barriers at the expense of undocumented immigrants.

ANS: True SEC: Conflict theory

10. A symbolic interactionist focuses on social interaction.

ANS: True SEC: Symbolic interaction

11. Symbolic interactionists ask 'how do people involved in interaction take account of what each other is doing or is about to do' and then direct their own conduct accordingly.

ANS: True SEC: Symbolic interaction

12. The ability to observe and evaluate the self from another's viewpoint is known as the negotiated order.

ANS: False SEC: Symbolic interaction

13. One of the strengths of the symbolic interactionist perspective is that it gives a balanced overview of intended and unintended consequences.

ANS: False SEC: Symbolic interaction

14. Decolonisation presents an alternative explanation for the relationships among nations that includes how the process of colonisation led to the underdevelopment of many nations.

ANS: True SEC: Decolonial responses to colonialism

15. Coloniality of being refers to the extension of the process of colonisation to dominating and controlling the colonised person's self worth and identity among other things.

ANS: True SEC: Decolonial responses to colonialism

16. Coloniality of knowledge describes the process of bringing equal education to the masses in the developed world.

ANS: False SEC: Decolonial responses

17. Decolonial theorising is different to western theorising because it does not set itself up as the standard of all thought and as the centre of all knowledge.

ANS: True SEC: Decolonial responses

18. Coloniality of power refers to the equal sharing of power among nations represented on the United Nations Council.

ANS: False SEC: Decolonial response

19. Colonialism is a political process of transferring wealth equitably across nations in order to develop their economic systems.

ANS: False SEC: Decolonial response

20. Among other things, the coloniality of knowledge describes a process in which the production of knowledge, which occurs in the mind through thought, language and speech, is controlled by the colonising oppressor.

ANS: True SEC: Decolonial response

Concept Application Questions

1. Consider the theoretical perspectives (A, B and C) below. Match an appropriate theoretical perspective to the scenarios between the two debating parties, Sam and Elliot and to the scenarios 2 and 3 as well. Note that Sam and Elliot may only be assigned one perspective each in the scenario.

- A. Conflict perspective
- B. Symbolic Interactionism
- C. Functionalist perspective

Scenario 1

Sam and Elliot, both second-year social science sociology students, get into a discussion about the depletion of the earth's natural resources that quickly turned into a debate about why these resources were being depleted. The summary of Elliot's arguments were that the greed of a dominant group of conglomerates and producers were harvesting the earth's limited resources to produce profits from products that were not even necessary to human survival. Sam, on the other hand, argued that the earth resources were naturally used for human consumption to meet the needs of people and that these resources, such as food, would be replenished by farming. Hence, there is a mutual and functional relationship between the nature and human survival.

ANS: Elliot = A and Sam = C

Scenario 2

When a small intimate group of people are concerned about how they are each seen within the group by others and vice versa, how these others in the group feel that they are seen by the rest of the group, they draw a self concept of how they should behave in the group. This describes which perspective? Compare this with another group of oppressed people in society who organise themselves to overthrow the dominant oppressive group, but no longer than they do this they replace and become the dominant group. Which perspective describes these people?

ANS: First group = B, Second group = A.

Scenario 3

The United Nations World Health Organisation is a functional representative body of world nations and leaders that work cooperatively to ensure global unity, peace and co-existence among other things.

ANS: C

2. Consider the concepts below. Apply each one to the most relevant and suitable statement below them.

- A. Coloniality of Being
- B. Coloniality of Knowledge

- C. Decoloniality
- D. Coloniality of Power

Statements:

1. The world order is uneven, asymmetrical and unequal favouring the powerful over the weak and the rich over the poor.
2. The poor and marginalised are often unable to overcome poverty because they cannot think of an alternative life or, in their minds, that they have the capacity to improve their lot.
3. As a 'response' to colonialism, it gave rise to alternative ways of thinking about the modern world and conceptual means to question the historical colonial world order.
4. Colonialism not only removed material well-being from the colonised but also stripped away the identity and sense of purpose and belonging of the colonised.

ANS: 1= D, 2= B, 3= C, 4= A

Short essay questions

1. Name the three western theoretical perspectives discussed in Chapter 2. How do these three theoretical perspectives explain any social event or issue?

ANS: Will vary

2. What is a function? Give an example.

ANS: Will vary

3. According to the functionalist perspective, why has poverty not been eliminated?

ANS: Will vary

4. What concepts did Robert K. Merton introduce to counter criticisms of the functionalist perspective? Briefly define each concept, and explain how they strengthen the perspective. What criticism is not addressed by Merton's concepts?

ANS: Will vary

5. Use the following chart to summarise a functionalist analysis of community-wide celebrations.

	Function	Dysfunction
Manifest		
Latent		

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ANS: Will vary

6. What question guides conflict theorists in their analysis of any social issue? In answering that question, you should focus on what conflict theorists emphasise.

ANS: Will vary

7. What central concepts and questions guide the symbolic interactionist perspective?

ANS: Will vary

8. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each theoretical perspective?

ANS: Will vary

9. What is the decolonial approach and its related conceptual ideas?

ANS: Will vary

10. Explain and give examples of what these terms mean: coloniality of being, coloniality of knowledge and coloniality of power.

Ans: Will vary

11. Compare the conceptual terms, *decoloniality of power* and *decoloniality of being*.

ANS: Will vary

12. Explain, according to the text, how coloniality gave rise to decoloniality.

ANS: Will vary

13. Explain what *coloniality of knowledge* is and offer examples that apply the concept to real life experiences or situations.

ANS: Will vary

14. What are the weaknesses of the three theories of the conflict, structural functionalist and symbolic interactionist perspectives as discussed in the textbook? Explain in your own words.

ANS: Will vary

15. Why are western theoretical perspectives and alternative theoretical perspectives such as decoloniality both relevant today in sociology and both necessary to understand social life?

ANS: Will vary

Comprehensive essay questions

1. Compare and contrast the conflict and functionalist perspectives. In answering the question, be sure to consider the central questions, key terms, visions of society, and the focus.

ANS: Will vary

2. Think of an event that has been the centre of recent media attention. How would the three perspectives help give focus to that event?

ANS: Will vary