

Part I: Introduction

Essay: *What Is Real?*

1. Symbolic interactionists explain people's different appetites for beetle burritos and burnt cow muscle by:
 - a. measuring, within a cultural group, the individuals' tolerance for other cultures.
 - *b. noting the assumptions people make, within social groups, regarding which foods are desirable.
 - c. showing that people's tastes usually lead them to act in ways contradictory to their beliefs.
 - d. asking people, directly, to say why they like the foods they choose to eat.
2. The example of the "mouth rituals" of the Nacirema is used to illustrate:
 - *a. the embeddedness of our own cultural practices
 - b. the prevalence of bizarre rituals
 - c. the separation between the sacred and the profane
 - d. the role of socialization
3. According to social psychologists, we:
 - *a. learn to be human.
 - b. are born human.
 - c. can assume our humanity through individual, rational thinking.
 - d. all of the above.
4. How does the computer in sociologist Thomas Scheff's story translate the sentence "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" into Russian?
 - *a. "The vodka is good but the meat is rotten."
 - b. "The gin is okay but the steak is bland."
 - c. "The vodka is okay but the steak is bland."
 - d. "The gin is good but the meat is rotten."
5. Which of the following accurately describes taking a symbolic interactionist approach within social psychology?
 - a. The focus of the study is observable behavior.
 - b. Symbolic interactionism gives primacy to individual psychology.
 - c. Symbolic interactionism uses interpretive methodologies.
 - *d. Both a and c are correct.

Short answer/essay options

Identify and describe three examples that O'Brien gives regarding what it means to be human.

Explain the tenant of social construction within symbolic interactionism.

Essay: *The Nature of Humanness*

1. Which of the following perspectives argues that humans have certain predetermined traits that exist as part of their biogenetic makeup?

- a. social constructionist perspective
 - *b. sociobiological perspective
 - c. sociological perspective
 - d. social psychological perspective
2. Regarding gender, how many chromosomal variations have been documented?
- a. 2
 - b. 10
 - *c. 5
 - d. 8
3. Which of the following methods of social control was used to enforce gender conformity in U.S. history?
- a. declaring cross-dressing a punishable offense in some states
 - b. labeling non-conformity as mental illness
 - c. surgically correcting inter-sexed infants
 - *d. all of the above
4. Which of the following is not determined by genes?
- a. hair color
 - b. eye color
 - *c. intelligence
 - d. all of the above
5. Which of the following best explains the idea of neuroatypicality as applied to those with autism?
- a. the inability to acquire language
 - b. the responsiveness to the sociemotional environment
 - c. cognitive operation is similar in all cases of autism
 - *d. the idea that there are different ways the brain operates

Short answer/essay options

Using examples from the reading, discuss the case of the false gender binary.

Using examples from the reading, discuss the roles of nature and nurture in human development.

Discuss two examples of how integrated research, involving both nature and nurture perspectives, has led to new insights into human behavior.

Essay: *Perspectives on Social Behavior*

1. From a symbolic interactionist perspective, what did Einstein mean when he said, "It is the theory that decides what we can observe"?
- a. Society forces its members to view the world in socially acceptable ways.
 - b. Social norms and values often prevent humans from seeing reality as it truly exists.
 - *c. Truth is relative to the social context, and reality does not exist outside of our ability to give it meaning.

- d. Facts rarely need to be interpreted and really do “speak for themselves.”
2. Which of the following best describes positivism?
- a. Human behavior is socially constructed.
 - b. Universal truth is relative.
 - *c. Natural laws govern the universe and these laws can be known.
 - d. There are not universal laws.
3. Which social psychological perspective explains that society consists of two or more individuals exchanging resources that have some value to each other?
- *a. utilitarian
 - b. behaviorism
 - c. interpretive
 - d. cognitive
4. Which theory in sociology is known as exchange theory in social psychology?
- a. principle of least interest
 - *b. rational choice theory
 - c. norm of homogamy
 - d. utility theory
5. According to _____, humans and other animals seek pleasure and avoid punishment.
- *a. hedonism
 - b. behaviorism
 - c. positivism
 - d. social learning theory
6. This happens when a concept is treated as if it were real, independent of human activity.
- a. behaviorism
 - *b. reification
 - c. transivity
 - d. behavioral engineering
7. Which of the following statements best defines reification? Reification happens when:
- a. one is aware of how one's beliefs affect one's construction of reality.
 - b. one thinks critically about the real meaning of the IQ test.
 - c. something real is objectified as a concept.
 - *d. a concept is treated as if it was real.

Short answer/essay options

Discuss the concept of the fundamental attribution error within social psychology.

Compare and contrast behaviorism with interpretive perspective in social psychology.

Discuss the three interpretation traps that students of social psychology often experience: individualism, psychologism, and reification.

Reading: *Islands of Meaning*

1. According to Zerubavel, the meaning of things is a function of:
 - a. their historical use among those with whom we share culture.
 - *b. the mental compartment in which we place them.
 - c. their purpose as stated in key texts.
 - d. the emotions we have attached to those things.
2. According to Zerubavel, the Berlin Wall represented the mental separation of democracy from communism by serving as a(n):
 - a. solid obstacle
 - b. visible divider
 - *c. spatial partition
 - d. inverted gateway
3. According to Zerubavel, discontinuous perception happens when we:
 - *a. isolate in our mind supposedly discrete aspects of reality.
 - b. ask other humans what they are experiencing as reality.
 - c. seek new meanings for vaguely familiar aspects of reality.
 - d. consider the consequences of various meanings applied to reality.
4. According to Zerubavel, when we lump together all those whose income falls below a certain "poverty line" as an undifferentiated lot – the poor, we establish:
 - a. symbolic meaning.
 - b. perceptual significance.
 - c. background activities.
 - *d. social clusters.
5. According to Zerubavel, this is the act of surrounding situations, acts, or object with mental brackets that basically transform their meaning by defining them as a game, a joke, a symbol, or a fantasy.
 - a. symbolic meaning
 - b. spatial partition
 - *c. framing
 - d. spatial differentiation

Reading: *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*

1. In the Wagner article, why does Trudy claim to have a raspy voice?
 - a. She got laryngitis as a teenager.
 - *b. She has to yell to get folks to listen.
 - c. She smokes too many cigarettes.
 - d. She doesn't say why.
2. When Trudy the bag lady asks if the aliens "know what 'lunch' means," from a symbolic interactionist perspective she is asking:
 - *a. if she and the aliens attach the same symbolic meaning to the term "lunch"
 - b. if communication can occur between members of different planets
 - c. if the term "lunch" is the same stimulus to both her and the aliens

- d. if objective reality is the same for both her and the aliens
3. In the Wagner article, what happened to the aliens during the play?
- a. They were confused by the performance
 - b. They got goosebumps from the performance
 - c. They were confused by the audience
 - *d. They got goosebumps from the audience
4. In the Wagner reading, what is Trudy describing when she says that she has “lapses of the synapses”?
- a. shock therapy
 - *b. forgetting things
 - c. stress
 - d. communication with aliens
5. In the Wagner reading, what does Trudy compare the human mind to?
- a. a water balloon
 - b. a television
 - *c. a piñata
 - d. a trash can

Reading: *Truth, Objectivity, and Agreement*

1. According to Babbie, dictionary definitions of truth and reality evidence:
- a. that some things are true while other things are real
 - b. the solidity of truth and the questionability of reality
 - c. the solidity of reality and the questionability of truth
 - *d. that things are true if they are real and real if they are true
2. According to Babbie, the possibly inaccurate perceptions and thoughts we have through the medium of our minds is known as the _____ realm.
- a. objective
 - *b. subjective
 - c. intersubjective
 - d. prejective
3. According to Babbie, if you cannot be sure what your mind tells you is true, how can you gain some confidence in that regard?
- *a. Different subjects report the same thing.
 - b. Different subjects report different things.
 - c. Authorities confirm your view.
 - d. Authorities reject your view.
4. According to Babbie, the basis of truth is:
- a. reality
 - b. experience
 - *c. agreement
 - d. confusion

5. According to Babbie, our only proof of objectivity is:
- a. reality
 - *b. intersubjectivity
 - c. acceptance
 - d. experience

Reading: *Strange Creatures: The Meme Machine*

1. According to Blackmore, our ability to do this differentiates us from other animals.
- a. communicate
 - b. cook
 - *c. imitate
 - d. learn
2. Which of the following examples did Blackmore use to illustrate the power of memes?
- a. alien abduction
 - b. life-after-death experiences
 - c. demon possession
 - *d. both a and b are correct
3. According to Blackmore, which of the following is not one of the reasons why abduction memes are successful?
- a. They provide entertainment.
 - b. They provide an explanation for a scary experience.
 - c. The idea is irrefutable and protected by a conspiracy theory.
 - *d. The experience is desirable in American culture.
4. The idea that there is no recorded case in which a religious person has met a deity from a different religion during a near-death experience illustrates that:
- *a. memes are related to personal beliefs.
 - b. memes are generalizable cross-culturally.
 - c. memes are not flexible.
 - d. memes are specific to historical time and place.
5. What was Dr. Blackmore's personal explanation for experiences of alien abductions?
- a. drug abuse
 - b. she believed they really occurred
 - *c. sleep paralysis
 - d. mental illness