

Manza, *The Sociology Project: Essentials 1e*, Test Bank  
Chapter 1 The Sociological Imagination

**Multiple-Choice Questions**

People in our society tend to think of themselves in terms of their individuality, but we are also all products of our \_\_\_\_\_, such as the time and place we live and the family we were born into.

- a. social contexts
- b. genetic makeup
- c. likes and dislikes
- d. interests and skills

Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.1: Analyze how families and communities shape the social development of children.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

The *sociological imagination* is the capacity to think systematically about how the things we experience as personal problems \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. are really social issues shared by others living in a similar time and location
- b. reflect our individual choices and not the culture as a whole
- c. most likely do not have roots in social contexts
- d. are the result of psychological forces, which guide our daily life

Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 1.1.1: Discuss how a sociological imagination helps to challenge stereotypes.

Topic: What Is the Sociological Imagination, and Why Is It Worth Acquiring?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

According to C. Wright Mills, the sociological imagination enables us to grasp the relations between \_\_\_\_\_ in society.

- a. money and power
- b. biology and destiny
- c. history and biography
- d. students and teachers

Answer: c

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.4: Analyze the ways in which the social and economic context we are born into shapes the opportunities available to us.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

At each stage of our development, we are both individuals and \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. products of our historical context
- b. members of politicized bodies

- c. social innocents
- d. sole determiners of our own fate

Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.4: Analyze the ways in which the social and economic context we are born into shapes the opportunities available to us.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

When understanding intimate relationships, a sociological imagination allows us to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. recognize that marriage is not always monogamous, but is a lifetime commitment between a man and a woman
- b. challenge the assumption that particular forms of marriage are natural as opposed to social in origin
- c. understand the lack of diversity in intimate relationships cross-culturally
- d. observe the natural differences in intimate relationships within our own culture

Answer: b

Learning Objective: LO 1.1.1: Discuss how a sociological imagination helps to challenge stereotypes.

Topic: What Is the Sociological Imagination, and Why Is It Worth Acquiring?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Which of the following is true of the sociological imagination?

- a. It challenges stereotypes by proving that stereotypes benefit no one.
- b. It shows that circumstances we take for granted are often simpler than they appear.
- c. It raises questions about the origin, benefit, and harm of stereotypes.
- d. It allows us to enjoy society without over complicating social life.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: LO 1.1.1: Discuss how a sociological imagination helps to challenge stereotypes.

Topic: What Is the Sociological Imagination, and Why Is It Worth Acquiring?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

In an ongoing study of more than 2,000 young adults as they progress through college and into their postcollegiate years, sociologist Richard Arum has found that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. all graduates in the study had jobs in their fields within five years of graduation
- b. college had little impact on the earnings of graduates in the study
- c. 24 percent of graduates in the study were back living with their parents two years after graduation
- d. sociology majors were 50 percent more likely to be employed than other students in the study

Answer: c

Learning Objective: LO 1.1.3: Identify the types of questions that sociologists are particularly well equipped to explore.

Topic: What Is the Sociological Imagination, and Why Is It Worth Acquiring?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Although psychologists and sociologists study similar subjects and phenomena, what is a significant

difference in the types of questions they ask?

- a. Sociologists are interested in understanding the philosophy of the individual; psychologists are interested in understanding the ideology of the individual.
- b. Sociologists are interested in understanding how people think; psychologists are interested in understanding why people think.
- c. Sociologists are interested in understanding the intrinsic causes of behavior; psychologists are interested in understanding the motivational effects on behavior.
- d. Sociologists are interested in understanding broad social factors; psychologists are interested in understanding how individuals think.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: LO 1.3.3: Compare and contrast sociology with the other social sciences.

Topic: Where Did Sociology Come From, and How Is It Different from Other Social Sciences?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

Why would sociologists who study academic performance be interested in the lives of college freshmen before they enter college?

- a. Sociologists are particularly well equipped to study individuals' intelligence quotients and the impact of intelligence on academic performance.
- b. Sociologists are particularly well equipped to study the influences of students' backgrounds—such as family influences—on academic performance.
- c. Sociologists who took sociology courses in high school are particularly well equipped to study the academic performance of students entering college for the first time.
- d. Students who excel academically are likely to attend schools closer to home.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: LO 1.1.3: Identify the types of questions that sociologists are particularly well equipped to explore.

Topic: What Is the Sociological Imagination, and Why Is It Worth Acquiring?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Which of the following statements about social contexts would sociologists agree is true?

- a. Social contexts can be easily overcome by the will of the individual.
- b. Social contexts are important but ultimately cannot be used to determine anything about an individual.
- c. Social contexts can sometimes be used to understand some types of group situations.
- d. Social contexts can have a huge impact on where individuals end up in life.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.4: Analyze the ways in which the social and economic context we are born into shapes the opportunities available to us.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Which social context is likely to have a more significant impact on a child's life experience from birth than the others?

- a. his or her parents' income and wealth
- b. his or her parents' age

- c. his or her parents' recycling habits
- d. his or her birth order

Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.1: Analyze how families and communities shape the social development of children.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Why is the family of interest to many sociologists?

- a. Government funding generously supports family research.
- b. Families are a key to understanding how individuals develop.
- c. Families are a new area of sociological research.
- d. Families, which tend to be similar, are ideal cross-cultural subjects.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.1: Analyze how families and communities shape the social development of children.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Living in high-crime areas has obvious risks: being a victim of physical violence, for example. What is one of the more subtle risks faced by people who live in high-crime areas that is mentioned by Pat Sharkey?

- a. impaired job or school performance because of stress
- b. increased forgetfulness because of rampant escapism
- c. increased attention from politicians trying to court nonaffiliated voters
- d. decreased access to housing that allows pets

Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.1: Analyze how families and communities shape the social development of children.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

What can applying the sociological imagination tell us about unemployment and homelessness?

- a. Homelessness and unemployment are almost always the result of individual choices.
- b. Unemployment, but not homelessness, is almost always the result of individual choices.
- c. Anyone is just as likely as another to become either unemployed or homeless.
- d. Unemployment and homelessness can be due to changing social forces beyond an individual's control.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.4: Analyze the ways in which the social and economic context we are born into shapes the opportunities available to us.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Two key components to understanding the social worlds humans create are \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. social interaction and social structure
- b. social space and social time
- c. social deviance and social applications
- d. social critique and social acceptance

Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.5: Explain the distinction between social interaction and social structure.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Norms, the basic rules of society that help us know what is or is not appropriate in a social situation, govern\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. the sociological imagination
- b. social contexts
- c. social interaction
- d. historical contexts

Answer: c

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.5: Explain the distinction between social interaction and social structure.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

\_\_\_\_\_ refers to the way people act together, including how they modify and alter their behavior in response to the presence of others.

- a. Social interaction
- b. Self-consciousness
- c. Social structure
- d. Presentation of self

Answer: a

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.5: Explain the distinction between social interaction and social structure.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Sociologists' understanding of social contexts, social interactions, and social structures teaches us that people \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. typically present themselves in the same way to everyone they meet
- b. often behave in highly unpredictable ways
- c. never present themselves in the same way twice
- d. present themselves in different ways based on the social situation they are in

Answer: d

Learning Objective: LO 1.2.5: Explain the distinction between social interaction and social structure.

Topic: What Are Social Contexts, and Why Do They Matter?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

\_\_\_\_\_ refers to the enduring patterns that shape and guide social interaction.