

Test Bank

for

Sanderson and Alderson

World Societies The Evolution of Human Social Life

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Chapter 1

10,000 Years of Social Evolution

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Prior to 10,000 years ago, all humans everywhere lived by:
 - a. hunting and gathering (*)
 - b. hunting and gathering and horticulture
 - c. simple horticulture
 - d. animal herding
2. By the ancestral environment is meant:
 - a. any society in which people revere their ancestors
 - b. the hunting and gathering lifestyle in which anatomically modern humans have lived until very recent times (*)
 - c. the cold environment of the Neandertals
 - d. none of these
3. The argument that anatomically modern humans originated in Africa about 160,000 years ago and began to migrate out of Africa around 100,000 years ago, eventually populating the globe, is known as the:
 - a. African origins hypothesis
 - b. multiregional evolution hypothesis
 - c. Out of Africa hypothesis (*)
 - d. modern speciation hypothesis

4. Sanderson and Alderson consider the three greatest social transformations of the past 10,000 years to be:
 - a. the Neolithic Revolution; the rise of civilization; the rise of postindustrial society
 - b. the rise of civilization; the rise of the state; the Industrial Revolution
 - c. the rise of civilization; the Industrial Revolution; the postindustrial revolution
 - d. the Neolithic Revolution; the rise of civilization and the state; the rise of capitalism and industrialism (*)
5. The Neolithic Revolution:
 - a. involved the transition from hunting and gathering to early agriculture (*)
 - b. marked the transition to pastoral and agrarian societies
 - c. was sudden and occurred in only one or two parts of the world
 - d. none of these
6. In which of the following parts of the world did the transition to agriculture occur more or less independently:
 - a. the Middle East
 - b. China
 - c. Southeast Asia
 - d. Mesoamerica
 - e. all of these (*)
7. The region of the world that was the last to develop agriculture was:
 - a. Southeast Asia
 - b. Mesoamerica
 - c. China
 - d. sub-Saharan Africa (*)
8. How did agriculture develop in Europe?
 - a. it emerged as a result of new ideas developed by existing hunter-gatherer communities
 - b. it was carried there by people migrating from the Middle East (*)
 - c. it was carried there by people migrating from north Africa and parts of China
9. As recently as the 1960s, it was generally thought that agriculture:
 - a. was invented once, in the Middle East, and then spread from there all over the world (*)
 - b. did not develop until people began to live in settled villages
 - c. originated in China and Southeast Asia
 - d. was only about 3,000 years old
10. Which of the following is (or are) characteristic of civilizations?
 - a. they are politically ruled by states
 - b. many of their members lived in towns and cities
 - c. they have craft specialization, writing, and record keeping

- d. they have monumental architecture
 - e. all of these (*)
11. The earliest civilizations and states arose in:
 - a. China
 - d. Mexico
 - c. Egypt and Mesopotamia (*)
 - d. North America
 12. Theocratic political systems are ones in which:
 - a. governance is in the hands of priests (*)
 - b. religion is outlawed by political rulers
 - c. political rulers become increasingly religious over time
 - d. political rulers are religious but the common people lack religion
 13. The dramatic social transformation that began, mostly in Europe, in the sixteenth century was the:
 - a. Industrial Revolution
 - b. emergence of urban life
 - c. radical alteration of religion
 - d. rise of modern capitalism (*)
 14. Which of the following was a consequence of industrialization?
 - a. increasing economic productivity
 - b. urbanization
 - c. increasing specialization of labor
 - d. the creation of an urban working class
 - e. all of these (*)

TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

15. In the Old World, agriculture and sedentary village life emerged together, whereas in the New World sedentary village life developed several thousand years after agriculture was first practiced. (T)
16. In the Old World, large animals were domesticated at about the same time that crops began to be planted, but the New World lacked large animals suitable for domestication. (T)
17. In the various regions of the world where it developed, agriculture emerged very rapidly. (F)
18. As agricultural societies developed and became larger, more complex societies known as chiefdoms and states emerged. (T)

19. The first civilizations and states arose around 2,000-3,000 years ago in Mesoamerica. (F)
20. The regions where civilizations and states first emerged were not the same regions where agriculture had emerged thousands of years earlier. (F)
21. In ancient Mesopotamia and Mexico, class distinctions were a major part of the earliest civilizations. (T)
22. A major consequence of the rise of capitalism was the industrialization of society. (T)
23. Marx thought that capitalism created a new form of labor in which workers were more fulfilled and took greater pride in their work. (F)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

24. What were the three most important social transformations in human history? What were some of their leading characteristics?
25. When and where did agriculture develop? Was the development of agriculture sudden or gradual? How did it relate to settled village life? What were some of the main domesticates? Was agriculture invented only once, or several times?
26. When and where did the first civilizations and states arise? What were the leading characteristics of these types of societies? Why do you think it was that the first civilizations and states arose in essentially the same parts of the world where agriculture was first developed?
27. When did capitalism and industrialism first develop? What were some of the major consequences of industrialization?

Chapter 2

Theories of Social Evolution and Development

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. By definition, theories of social evolution:
 - a. explain how and why the “fittest” societies survive and change
 - b. explain and describe the biological adaptations of individuals and their impact on society
 - c. explain and describe sequences of long-term social change (*)
 - d. none of these
2. According to Erik Olin Wright, evolutionary theories have which of the following characteristics:
 - a. they organize history into a typology of stages
 - b. they assume there is a greater chance of societies evolving to a higher stage rather than regressing back to an earlier one
 - c. they identify mechanisms that explain the movement from one societal stage to another
 - d. all of these (*)
 - e. none of these
3. The classical evolutionist Herbert Spencer assumed which of the following about social evolution:
 - a. societies evolve in the direction of increasing social differentiation (*)
 - b. language, myth, and religion are the key evolutionary features of human societies
 - c. human history is divided into three great stages of technological development
 - d. none of these

4. Lewis Henry Morgan argued that the major mechanism that explains the change from "primitive society" to "civil society" is:
 - a. the domestication of plants and animals
 - b. the change from polytheistic to monotheistic religion
 - c. the development of a phonetic alphabet and writing (*)
 - d. the move from incoherent homogeneity to coherent heterogeneity
5. Which classical evolutionist was interested primarily in the ideational or mental aspects of social evolution?
 - a. Lewis Henry Morgan
 - b. Herbert Spencer
 - c. Karl Marx
 - d. Edward Burnett Tylor (*)
6. Which of the following do Sanderson and Alderson consider a major flaw in classical evolutionary theorizing:
 - a. there was not enough emphasis on the ideational or mental aspects of social evolution
 - b. the classical evolutionists passed off mere descriptions of evolutionary changes as explanations
 - c. the early evolutionary theories were rather ethnocentric
 - d. two of these (*)
 - e. none of these
7. Sanderson and Alderson believe that the most important part of Marxian evolutionism is its _____ conception of social life:
 - a. idealist
 - b. materialist (*)
 - c. revolutionary
 - d. Hegelian
8. Marx and Engels explained that human societies are comprised of two major components
These are:
 - a. *societas* and *civitas*
 - b. religion and philosophy
 - c. materialism and idealism
 - d. infrastructure and superstructure (*)
9. According to Marx and Engels, the last stage of human history will be:
 - a. capitalism
 - b. feudalism
 - c. socialism (*)
 - d. slavery

10. Sanderson and Alderson argue which of the following about Marxian evolutionism?
- its predictions have failed, but it still provides important insight into social evolution (*)
 - it is the best evolutionary theory we have
 - it is useless and should be discarded
 - none of these
11. The Neolithic Revolution of V. Gordon Childe is associated with which of the following:
- the emergence of agriculture (*)
 - the move from *societas* to *civitas*
 - the invention of the plow
 - the shift from polytheism to monotheism
12. Leslie White identifies two major transitions in human history, which are the:
- Neolithic Revolution and Urban Revolution
 - fall of feudalism and the rise of capitalism
 - Agricultural Revolution and Fuel Revolution (*)
 - development of tools and the rise of agriculture
13. The evolutionary theorist Julian Steward placed special emphasis on which of the following as a major causal force in social evolution?
- technology
 - ecology (*)
 - economics
 - ideology
14. Steward argued against _____ evolutionism and in favor of _____ evolutionism:
- multilinear; unilinear
 - parallel; convergent
 - divergent; convergent
 - unilinear; multilinear (*)
15. The evolutionary theory of sociologist Talcott Parsons can be considered a(n) _____ theory:
- idealist (*)
 - materialist
 - generalist
 - adaptive
16. Parsons distinguished three types of societies in social evolution, which were:
- primitive, intermediate, and modern (*)
 - parallel, convergent, and divergent
 - archaic, modern, and postmodern
 - simple, complex, and doubly complex

17. A key evolutionary concept for Parsons was that of evolutionary universals. These are:
- a. social innovations that allow a society to undergo adaptive upgrading (*)
 - b. social innovations that spread to every single society on earth
 - c. philosophical breakthroughs
 - d. features that all societies have but that aid the functioning of only some
18. Gerhard Lenski argued that the key driving force of social evolution was:
- a. ecology
 - b. economics
 - c. technology (*)
 - d. religion
19. Lenski's main evolutionary stages were _____ societies:
- a. hunter-gatherer, horticultural, pastoral, and agrarian
 - b. hunter-gatherer, horticultural, agrarian, and industrial (*)
 - c. horticultural, pastoral, agrarian, and industrial
 - d. hunter-gatherer, agricultural, industrial, and postindustrial
20. Sanderson and Alderson argue that Lenski's theory of social evolution:
- a. was a very important contribution to sociology when it first emerged
 - b. overemphasizes technological advancement as the ultimate cause of societal evolution
 - c. both of these (*)
 - d. neither of these
21. Marvin Harris's *Principle of Infrastructural Determinism* assumes that the _____ conditions the _____, which in turn conditions the _____:
- a. superstructure; structure; infrastructure
 - b. economy; politics; religion
 - c. infrastructure; structure; superstructure (*)
 - d. technology; economy; ideology
22. According to Harris, the overall process of social evolution is driven by:
- a. technological change
 - b. automatic social differentiation
 - c. environmental depletion and the intensification of production (*)
 - d. philosophical change
23. Harris is one of the few evolutionists to:
- a. be a progressivist
 - b. be an antiprogessivist or nonprogressivist (*)
 - c. emphasize growing complexity as the key feature of social evolution
 - d. emphasize the causal role of ideas rather than technology

24. Sanderson's evolutionary materialism differs from Harris's in which of the following ways?
- a. Sanderson emphasizes that at different stages of social evolution different "evolutionary logics" operate (*)
 - b. Sanderson emphasizes only economic forces, whereas Harris emphasizes mostly ecological and demographic forces
 - c. Sanderson emphasizes only ecological and demographic forces, whereas Harris emphasizes mostly economic forces
25. According to Sanderson, parallel evolution occurs when:
- a. societies that were once dissimilar evolve in ways that make them more alike
 - b. societies that were once similar evolve in ways that make them less alike
 - c. societies evolve along similar lines at similar rates (*)
 - d. none of these
26. Sanderson argues that social evolution is a(n) _____ process whereby social patterns are created by humans as rational responses to the problems of existence.
- a. idealist
 - b. adaptive (*)
 - c. maladaptive
 - d. materialist
27. The disappearance of many hunter-gatherer societies and Indian tribes is an example of:
- a. social continuity
 - b. social devolution
 - c. adaptation
 - d. social extinction (*)
28. Sanderson's evolutionary approach makes which of the following arguments about social adaptations?
- a. individuals are the units of adaptation in any society
 - b. an adaptive social pattern should not necessarily be considered "good" or "morally desirable"
 - c. a new social adaptation may not benefit all individuals in a society
 - d. all of these (*)

TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

29. Evolutionary theories are those that assume that societies have been progressing through a uniform set of stages of development since earliest times. (F)
30. Sanderson's *evolutionary materialism* contains a modified version of Harris's *Principle of Infrastructural Determinism*. (T)

31. The primary purpose of social evolutionary theories is to explain the biologically evolved adaptations that drive human social behavior. (F)
32. An important feature of all social evolutionary theories is that they organize history into a typology of stages. (T)
33. According to Sanderson and Alderson, the strongest evolutionary theories are those that focus on the ideational aspects of human society. (F)
34. A major flaw of early evolutionary theorizing was its rather ethnocentric nature. (T)
35. Karl Marx's approach to social evolution was strongly materialist in nature. (T)
36. The evolutionary theories of Edward Burnett Tylor are most noted by their emphasis on the ideational aspects of human society. (T)
37. Herbert Spencer argued that language, myth, and religion are the most important evolutionary features of human societies. (F)
38. Karl Marx argued that human societies are made up of two important components, the infrastructure and superstructure. (T)
39. According to Karl Marx's theory of social evolution, capitalism is the last stage of human history. (F)
40. Sanderson and Alderson strongly agree with Marx's predictions concerning the emergence of a future socialist society. (F)
41. According to V. Gordon Childe, the rise of agriculture was the key features of the Neolithic Revolution. (T)
42. Julian Steward was especially concerned with the role technology plays in social evolution. (F)
43. According to Sanderson and Alderson, the weakest point of the social evolutionary ideas of Talcott Parsons is their excessive materialism. (F)
44. Gerhard Lenski's theories of social evolution are most concerned with the role of technology as an evolutionary force. (T)
45. According to Marvin Harris's *Principle of Infrastructural Determinism*, the superstructure is causally prior to the structure. (F)
46. According to Sanderson and Alderson, all social adaptations made by humans are good and morally desirable. (F)

47. Sanderson's *evolutionary materialism* modifies Harris's *Principle of Infrastructural Determinism* by focusing more heavily on the ideational aspects of human societies. (F)
48. The survival of some preindustrial societies into the modern era is an example of social adaptation. (F)
49. Societies evolving in similar ways at similar rates is what is meant by parallel evolution. (T)
50. Parsons and Spencer both emphasized social differentiation or increasing complexity as the key dimension of social evolution. (T)
51. The key difference between Harris's evolutionism, and the evolutionism of Childe, White, and Lenski, is that Harris sees technological change occurring because of environmental depletion, whereas the others see technological change resulting from the gradual accumulation of knowledge. (T)
52. Sanderson's evolutionary materialism claims that as societies evolve they function more efficiently. His approach is therefore in agreement with Parsons's concept of "increased adaptive capacity." (F)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

53. What is an evolutionary theoretical strategy? What different sorts of evolutionary strategies exist in the social sciences, and what are their important similarities and differences?
54. Explain the differences between idealist and materialist perspectives in evolutionary theorizing.
55. Choose two evolutionary theorists from Chapter 2 and compare and contrast their theoretical perspectives.
56. Describe the basic goal of social evolutionary theories and the key characteristics of these theories.
57. What are the differences between parallel, convergent, and divergent evolution? What would be some examples of each?
58. Discuss what Sanderson and Alderson mean when they say that social evolution is an "adaptive" process. Then, explain their argument that individuals are the units of adaptation in human societies.