

## Chapter 1 Sociology and the Real World

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### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. How do sociologists observe society?
  - a. by studying the various parts of a society and the ways they interact and influence one another
  - b. by studying society as if it were a concrete object, in the same way a geologist studies rocks
  - c. by comparing the past and present, with a focus on the past
  - d. by studying the relationship between individuals and society, specializing in internal states of mind

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: 1.1 What Is Sociology?

MSC: Applying

2. Sociology can be defined as the systematic and scientific study of human society and social behavior from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. large-scale institutions; individual interactions
  - b. practical knowledge; scientific knowledge
  - c. individual interactions; small groups
  - d. economics; political science

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.1 What Is Sociology?

MSC: Remembering

3. What is a key difference between anthropology and sociology?
  - a. Anthropology is concerned with on-the-ground interaction among people, whereas sociology is only about hard numbers and data.
  - b. Anthropology is focused on historical societies, whereas sociology is focused on present-day societies.
  - c. Anthropology largely concentrates on traditional, small, or indigenous cultures, whereas sociology is interested in societies at all levels of development.
  - d. Anthropology is prescriptive, whereas sociology is descriptive.

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.1 What Is Sociology? | InQuizitive

MSC: Applying

4. What makes sociology exceptional among the social sciences?
  - a. Society is always changing.
  - b. Sociologists are trained to be everyday actors.
  - c. There is no disagreement among sociologists about how to define the discipline.
  - d. Sociology encompasses a huge intellectual territory, making it more comprehensive.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.1 What Is Sociology?

MSC: Applying

5. There is a close relationship between sociology and the other social sciences. Why does sociology still exist as a separate discipline given how much overlap there is between these fields?
  - a. All the other social sciences are more specialized, but sociology is a field that considers a huge intellectual territory.
  - b. Sociology does not use historical context, which other social sciences do.
  - c. Sociology departments are an academic tradition and would be difficult to disband.
  - d. Political science and economics are more politically conservative, and sociology provides

a liberal counterbalance.

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.1 What Is Sociology?  
MSC: Applying

6. What practice did Bernard McGrane suggest that individuals adopt to better understand the world around them?
- beginner's mind
  - expert's mind
  - the sociological perspective
  - reciped, or practical, knowledge

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist |  
InQuizitive  
MSC: Remembering

7. A researcher spends years conducting fieldwork with an indigenous tribe in Papua New Guinea and has a difficult time reacclimating to Western society when he returns to it. He uses the experience of returning home to view his own society from an outsider's perspective and learn something new about it. Which sociological concept best exemplifies the experience of this researcher?
- expert's mind
  - beginner's mind
  - culture shock
  - microsociology

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist |  
InQuizitive  
MSC: Applying

8. Regardless of their various approaches to social phenomena, what are all sociologists aiming to accomplish with their work?
- illuminating the connection between the individual and society
  - explaining why poverty and inequality still exist
  - comparing the present with the past
  - understanding how our society is different from other societies

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Understanding

9. C. Wright Mills was critical of social science and worked to connect the academic side of sociology to more tangible social debates of the time. Mills was convinced that sociology had something to offer everyone, not just academics. For these reasons, which term best describes C. Wright Mills?
- microsociologist
  - macrosociologist
  - conflict theorist
  - public intellectual

ANS: D                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist |  
InQuizitive  
MSC: Remembering

10. According to C. Wright Mills, what is one quality of mind that all great sociologists possess?
- open-mindedness
  - sociological imagination
  - praxis

d. attention to detail

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Applying

11. What is the sociological imagination?
- a characteristic of society that ensures people remain ignorant of the connections between their lives and social change
  - a particular way of understanding the criminal mind, such as that of a serial killer
  - the ability to understand the interplay between the self and larger social forces
  - the sociological approach that assumes individual decisions and interactions are independent of larger social institutions

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Remembering

12. Why did C. Wright Mills think that it is important for everyone, even people who will never take a sociology class, to develop a sociological imagination?
- It will help create more jobs for sociologists.
  - Many people are unaware of the connections between their own lives and the larger course of history.
  - The sociological perspective is innately understood by nearly everyone, but we rarely acknowledge it.
  - It will encourage growth in the field of microsociology.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Analyzing

13. Why is it beneficial for sociologists to experience culture shock?
- It makes us unable to function even in simple, everyday ways.
  - It requires us to travel, which helps us grow as human beings.
  - It shows us that people in foreign cultures have a way of life that seems strange to us.
  - It makes us realize we lack an understanding of our surroundings so we can perceive what is right in front of us.

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Understanding

14. Who must the social analyst take the perspective of in order to verify that which the everyday actor might just accept or assume to be true?
- social worker
  - native
  - stranger
  - insider

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Remembering

15. What is a weakness of the sociological approach?
- It accepts many things as true that cannot be verified or confirmed.
  - It attempts to grasp things that everyday actors understand implicitly.
  - It is a practical approach rather than a scientific approach.
  - It requires one to travel in order to experience culture shock.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Understanding

16. What is one of the weaknesses of being an everyday actor when it comes to understanding everyday life?
- a. being forced to see everything from the perspective of a stranger
  - b. struggling to grasp even simple, common occurrences
  - c. only seeing things from a historical perspective
  - d. making assumptions and failing to investigate or verify those assumptions

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Understanding

17. Many everyday cultural practices such as greeting a friend, giving someone flowers, or using a thumbs-up seem like natural ways of acting. Why does having an awareness of how these practices vary across cultures demonstrate a healthy sociological imagination?
- a. It reminds us that everyday interactions are connected to larger societies and norms.
  - b. It helps us economically when we do business in different countries.
  - c. It lets us understand how immigrants perceive America when they move here.
  - d. It shows us that cultures are not as different as we sometimes think they are.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Understanding

18. How do sociologists study the way in which people, as part of groups, organize their lives and social interactions to produce a real and meaningful world?
- a. They are interested in all aspects of human psychology.
  - b. People organize their lives in patterned ways.
  - c. Sociology understands the importance of human psychology.
  - d. We often assign characteristics to an entire group based on experience with a single group member.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Remembering

19. A reality television show called *Wife Swap* exchanged the mothers from two very different families and filmed the result as the participants were exposed to radically different ways of life. Although the television network was simply trying to be entertaining, the show also demonstrates the sociological principle of
- a. the sociological imagination.
  - b. globalization.
  - c. quantitative methods.
  - d. culture shock.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Applying

20. You have just begun studying unemployment rates in a city with fifty million people, of which fifteen million are unemployed. If you are using your sociological imagination, what is your first consideration?
- a. the economic and political structures of the society
  - b. the work ethic of the average citizen
  - c. the intelligence level of the workers who have lost their jobs
  - d. how much the people who are unemployed want to work

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Understanding

21. The divorce rate has steadily increased over time, and now more than a quarter of all marriages end within the first four years. What sort of factors would C. Wright Mills suggest investigating to explain this increase?
- a. religious
  - b. personal
  - c. structural
  - d. psychological

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Applying

22. You are looking over the courses that are offered at your school, and you see a class called “The Sociology of Media and Popular Culture.” You don’t think you need this course because you listen to lots of music, watch a wide variety of television shows, and often go to the movies. What would a sociologist tell you?
- a. You are a specialist in mass media.
  - b. You should try to watch media from other cultures to really understand popular culture.
  - c. You should take classes in film studies instead.
  - d. You only have “reciped,” or practical, knowledge.

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Applying

23. Is the microsociological or macrosociological perspective more useful in analyzing social phenomena?
- a. The macrosociological perspective is more useful because it explains how large-scale social institutions influence individuals.
  - b. The microsociological perspective is more useful because it explains how individuals shape and create large-scale social institutions.
  - c. Both are useful, and any study that uses only one or the other will be unable to explain anything useful about society.
  - d. Both are useful in different ways because they each provide different types of information about the same object of study.

ANS: D

DIF: Difficult

REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology

MSC: Applying

24. Microsociology is an approach that
- a. examines interactions between individuals and how those interactions reflect larger societal patterns.
  - b. examines institutional interactions that occur over time.
  - c. quantifies data about social structures so they can be analyzed statistically.
  - d. focuses exclusively on gender and power as they manifest themselves socially.

ANS: A

DIF: Moderate

REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology

MSC: Understanding

25. Researcher Pam Fishman studied the conversations of heterosexual couples to determine how power is created and maintained through everyday, face-to-face interactions. How would you describe her approach?
- a. macrosociological
  - b. historical
  - c. microsociological
  - d. comparative

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate  
REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology                      MSC: Understanding

26. Macrosociology is an approach that
- relates to the way large social institutions are created through individual interactions.
  - examines large-scale social structures to see how they affect individual lives.
  - focuses on creating a beginner's mind, in contrast to microsociology, which uses an expert's mind.
  - focuses on creating scientific knowledge of the world rather than practical knowledge, in contrast to microsociology, which focuses on creating practical knowledge.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate  
REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology                      MSC: Understanding

27. Researcher Christine Williams looked at patterns of occupational sex segregation by examining the ways large-scale social structures create the constraints within which individuals live their lives. Her work would be characterized as what kind of sociology?
- microsociology
  - symbolic interactionist
  - Chicago School
  - macrosociology

ANS: D                      DIF: Difficult  
REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology                      MSC: Understanding

28. Macrosociology and microsociology approach the study of society from different perspectives. How does the discipline of sociology deal with these two very different approaches?
- Most sociologists are macrosociologists; microsociologists are only a small minority.
  - These two perspectives are on a continuum, and sociologists can adopt the perspective most useful for a particular problem.
  - Although the field is fairly evenly split between these two perspectives, almost every sociologist feels strongly that their perspective is the correct one.
  - Microsociology used to dominate the field, but more recently macrosociology has become the dominant perspective.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult  
REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology                      MSC: Understanding

29. Metaphorically, what part of sociology is most like a zoom lens on a camera?
- qualitative research
  - microsociology
  - quantitative research
  - macrosociology

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate  
REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology                      MSC: Applying

30. Many Marxist sociologists assume that large-scale economic structures are the most important factors in shaping people's lives. This assumption is an example of
- microsociology.
  - macrosociology.
  - rationalization.
  - symbolic interactionism.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult

31. What could you determine about Pam Fishman if you didn't know anything about her except that she studied conversation patterns?
- She is a conflict theorist.
  - She is a macrosociologist.
  - She is a structural functionalist.
  - She is a microsociologist.

ANS: D

DIF: Moderate

REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology

MSC: Applying

32. The theory of positivism contrasted earlier religious traditions that attempted to determine the ultimate cause or source of reality. Why did Auguste Comte develop it?
- to explain how class conflict led to social change
  - to argue that symbolic interactions between individuals were the basis for social life
  - to justify a particular kind of social system based on hierarchy and privilege
  - to identify laws, such as those in mathematics and physics, that describe the behavior of a particular reality

ANS: D

DIF: Moderate

REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

33. A paradigm is
- an abstract proposition that explains the social world and makes predictions about the future.
  - a set of assumptions, theories, and perspectives that makes up a way of understanding social reality.
  - the theory that sense perceptions are the only valid source of knowledge.
  - the application of the theory of evolution and the notion of "survival of the fittest" to the study of society.

ANS: B

DIF: Moderate

REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

34. What historical events convinced Auguste Comte that society needed to be guided by thinkers who understood social laws?
- the American Civil War and the battle over slavery
  - globalization and the rise of international trade and commerce
  - the French Revolution and the instability that followed it
  - the age of exploration and the expansion of European powers into Africa

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

35. What ideas did Harriet Martineau support that were radical for her time?
- the liberation of French colonies in Africa
  - international communism and socialism
  - labor unions and the abolition of slavery
  - the French Revolution and the abolition of the monarchy

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

36. What was probably Harriet Martineau's MOST important contribution to the development of sociology as a discipline?
- a. her theory of alienation
  - b. her translation of the work of Auguste Comte into English
  - c. her work on an early theory of symbolic interactionism
  - d. her struggle for women's rights

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree  
MSC: Remembering

37. The phrase "the survival of the fittest" is credited to whom?
- a. Charles Darwin
  - b. Karl Marx
  - c. Émile Durkheim
  - d. Herbert Spencer

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree  
MSC: Remembering

38. Which social theorist sought to bring the scientific method to the discipline of sociology?
- a. Harriet Martineau
  - b. Émile Durkheim
  - c. Auguste Comte
  - d. Karl Marx

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree | InQuizitive  
MSC: Remembering

39. Why might Karl Marx and Émile Durkheim be placed far apart on sociology's family tree?
- a. Marx's work is no longer considered very important.
  - b. Durkheim was more of a psychologist than a sociologist.
  - c. The theoretical approaches they founded are very different.
  - d. Durkheim was French, whereas Marx was German.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Understanding

40. \_\_\_\_\_ is the economic system that emerged during the Industrial Revolution.
- a. Communism
  - b. Humanitarianism
  - c. Globalization
  - d. Capitalism

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

41. According to Émile Durkheim, what was the basis for the bonds created through mechanical solidarity in traditional societies?
- a. interdependence and a division of labor
  - b. shared traditions and similar experiences
  - c. a strong ruler who exercised absolute control over the population
  - d. anomie

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering



42. On any given day, you probably depend on many strangers to provide electricity, water, natural gas, weather forecasts, and other services. According to Émile Durkheim, this interdependence gives rise to
- mechanical solidarity.
  - class consciousness.
  - organic solidarity.
  - pragmatism.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

43. Émile Durkheim's study on suicide found that not only did suicide rates increase when the economy slumped; they also increased when the economy boomed. Which of Durkheim's concepts explains why both positive and negative economic conditions could increase suicide rates?
- alienation
  - anomie
  - mechanical solidarity
  - organic solidarity

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

44. According to Émile Durkheim, what is the basis for the bonds created through organic solidarity in industrialized societies?
- religion and tradition
  - shared experiences and similar beliefs
  - globalization, mass communications, and technology
  - difference, interdependence, and individual rights

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

45. Durkheim theorized that the rapidly changing conditions of modern life lead to anomie. What is anomie?
- normlessness or a loss of connections to the social world
  - anger and disillusionment with progress
  - the transfer of destructive urges to socially useful activities
  - a kind of social solidarity based on interdependence

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

46. Why did Durkheim, in *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, argue that religion was a powerful source of social solidarity?
- Religion established authorities who had control over entire societies.
  - Different religions were constantly appearing and disappearing.
  - There were many arguments about which religion represented the truth.
  - Religion reinforced collective bonds and cultivated shared moral values.

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Understanding

47. According to the theoretical position developed by Karl Marx, what is the catalyst for social change?
- conflict between social groups
  - exploration beyond the boundaries of a given society
  - development of technology

d. shared moral values

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

48. What was the most important factor in social life according to Karl Marx?

- a. race or ethnicity
- b. religious beliefs
- c. relationship to the means of production
- d. level of education

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

49. According to Marx, the primary tool for the oppression of the lower social classes in modern society is

- a. increasing power of the police state.
- b. religious authorities.
- c. aristocracy.
- d. industrial capitalism.

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

50. What term did Karl Marx use to describe the fact that most of the population accepts inequality even when it does not benefit them personally?

- a. class consciousness
- b. existentialism
- c. ethnomethodology
- d. false consciousness

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

51. The \_\_\_\_\_ of white supremacy in the United States was a system of beliefs and attitudes that maintained the status quo of slavery and segregation.

- a. praxis
- b. antithesis
- c. false consciousness
- d. ideology

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

52. What was Marx criticizing when he said that religion is “the opiate of the masses”?

- a. the way religion defines what is sacred and what is profane
- b. the way religion increases anomie among the working class
- c. the use of religion by the ruling class to oppress the working class
- d. the way individuals use religion to support their actions

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

53. After studying the indigenous peoples of Australia, \_\_\_\_\_ concluded that any form of religion is united in its definition of what is considered to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Talcott Parsons; manifest functions; latent functions
- b. Émile Durkheim; sacred; profane

- c. Karl Max; manifest functions; latent functions
- d. Robert Merton; sacred; profane

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

54. According to Karl Marx, a belief in heaven as a reward for earthly suffering serves the interests of the ruling class by
- a. keeping the lower classes from demanding better treatment in this life.
  - b. distracting the lower classes with fantastic spectacles.
  - c. using the church as a means to extract economic resources from the poor.
  - d. keeping working class individuals busy with religious activities and no time to organize.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

55. Karl Marx believed the lower classes, in order to end their oppression, needed to develop
- a. a critical theory of gender.
  - b. a stronger sense of *verstehen*.
  - c. class consciousness.
  - d. false consciousness.

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

56. According to Karl Marx, class consciousness is developed
- a. by a Eurocentric party leading a violent revolution.
  - b. through a religious awakening.
  - c. by achieving perfect industrial production so that most workers are unemployed.
  - d. by the lower classes recognizing how society works and challenging those in power.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Understanding

57. Karl Marx thought intellectuals should engage in praxis, which meant that they should
- a. constantly practice and develop the craft of social analysis.
  - b. not just theorize about the world but change it.
  - c. evaluate ideas based on their usefulness in everyday life.
  - d. analyze and give meaning to every action.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Understanding

58. In 2007, the richest 1% of the American population owned 35% of the country's wealth, and the bottom 80% of the population owned 14%. Karl Marx would call this
- a. alienation.
  - b. bourgeoisie.
  - c. social inequality.
  - d. organic solidarity.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

59. If someone makes money exclusively by selling their own labor, then they must be a member of what social group?
- a. bureaucrats

- b. proletariat
- c. bourgeoisie
- d. capitalists

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

60. The Egg McMuffin is a vastly more efficient version of eggs Benedict. Egg McMuffins are cheaper, ready almost instantly at drive-through windows, and can be eaten with one hand while driving. However, they do not improve on the taste of or experience eating eggs Benedict. Max Weber might have described the Egg McMuffin as the \_\_\_\_\_ of breakfast.
- a. iron cage
  - b. alienation
  - c. praxis
  - d. rationalization

ANS: D                      DIF: Difficult                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

61. Max Weber believed that society became increasingly rationalized as the Industrial Revolution progressed. How did he define rationalization?
- a. an increasing number of rules that limit personal freedom
  - b. an increasing emphasis on *verstehen*, or the attempt to understand others' experiences
  - c. the application of psychology to the economy to understand how to increase productivity
  - d. the application of economic logic to all aspects of social life

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

62. Max Weber believed that modern industrialized societies were characterized by which of the following institutions?
- a. churches
  - b. central governments
  - c. bureaucracies
  - d. prisons

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

63. What did Max Weber mean when he said that modern people are trapped in an "iron cage"?
- a. Most aspects of life are increasingly controlled by rigid rules and rationalization.
  - b. More and more people live under totalitarian dictators and therefore lose their basic rights and freedoms.
  - c. Increasingly, modern society has more laws and it uses them to put more people in prison.
  - d. The conditions of modern life create a psychic prison that leaves most people discontent with civilization.

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Understanding

64. Max Weber helped lay the groundwork for sociologists who would develop symbolic interactionism as a theory because he believed that a social scientist should approach the study of human action
- a. through a theoretical lens that emphasizes disenchantment and bureaucracy.
  - b. from a value-free point of view.
  - c. with *verstehen* (understanding), which emphasizes empathy with individuals'

experiences.

d. through psychoanalysis and the work of Sigmund Freud.

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

65. What school of social theory believes that society is a stable system of structures that contribute to the equilibrium of the whole?

- a. symbolic interactionism
- b. dramaturgy
- c. structural functionalism
- d. conflict theory

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

66. Critical race theory is associated with which of the major theoretical perspectives or schools of thought in sociology?

- a. structural functionalism
- b. conflict theory
- c. functional theory
- d. symbolic interactionism

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

67. Structural functionalist theory is concerned with the ways in which structures contribute to the stability of society. What is a structure?

- a. a social institution that is stable over time and helps meet the needs of society
- b. any aspect of society that generates conflict or change
- c. a class hierarchy
- d. an informal agreement between people over a wide geographical area

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

68. According to Robert Merton, manifest functions

- a. usually have something to do with social conflict and change.
- b. are intended and obvious.
- c. are designed to alleviate inequality.
- d. are designed to critique the social system that produced them.

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

69. Which of the following is a latent function of the U.S. educational system?

- a. teaching reading and writing
- b. keeping children out of trouble while parents are at work
- c. preparing a modern workforce to use technology
- d. teaching new immigrants about American values and history

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

70. The most significant criticism of structural functionalism is that it

- a. tends to argue that intellectuals should act on what they believe.

- b. overemphasizes the importance of the economy.
- c. fails to provide a universal social theory.
- d. tends to argue that any social feature that exists must serve a function.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate              REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Understanding

71. Which of the following theories views society as a whole unit made up of interrelated parts that work together?
- a. structural functionalism
  - b. conflict theory
  - c. symbolic interactionism
  - d. postmodernism

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

72. In his *Theses on Feuerbach*, Karl Marx argued that “the philosophers have only interpreted the world; the point is to change it.” What Marxist principle is defined by this quote?
- a. *verstehen*
  - b. rationalization
  - c. praxis
  - d. conflict

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate              REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

73. What do feminist theory and conflict theory have in common?
- a. They both see the economy as central to the functioning of society.
  - b. They both seek to not only understand inequality but also to remedy it.
  - c. They both see gender as the most important aspect of social identity.
  - d. They both developed at about the same time.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

74. Why is the term “queer” used to describe queer theory?
- a. It emphasizes that some people are born with a fixed orientation and cannot change it.
  - b. It emphasizes the importance of difference and rejects a single gay or lesbian identity.
  - c. It is an easily definable category.
  - d. It has a long history of use within the gay and lesbian community.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult              REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

75. The application of economic logic to all human activity is known as
- a. Weberian theory.
  - b. critical theory.
  - c. class consciousness.
  - d. social Darwinism.

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

76. How was Harriet Martineau similar to W.E.B. DuBois?
- a. Both made careers of studying race and racism.

- b. Both were from the American South.
- c. Both saw symbolic interactionism as the most promising aspect of social theory.
- d. Both were intrigued by America's democratic promise, but disappointed in its hypocritical injustices.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

77. Jane Addams was an early advocate of applied sociology. This means that she did not just do research but that she also
- a. reported illegal activities to the proper authorities.
  - b. examined the historical origins of the phenomena she researched.
  - c. addressed social problems through activity in the communities she researched.
  - d. compared the communities she studied to communities from other cultures.

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

78. What is the term used to describe sociological research that is intended to solve social problems, such as the research done by Jane Addams?
- a. practical sociology
  - b. postmodern sociology
  - c. moral sociology
  - d. applied sociology

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

79. Although she made contributions to sociology, Jane Addams is perhaps best remembered for her embrace of praxis, which means that she
- a. was a pragmatist.
  - b. acted on her intellectual convictions in practical ways.
  - c. applied dialectics to her understanding of history.
  - d. embraced conflict theory.

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

80. Which of the following theories focuses on how our behaviors are dependent on the ways we interpret, make sense of, and define ourselves, others, and social situations?
- a. conflict theory
  - b. symbolic interactionism
  - c. pragmatism
  - d. structural functionalism

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

81. Which social theory focuses on micro-level interactions?
- a. symbolic interactionism
  - b. structural functionalism
  - c. conflict theory
  - d. pragmatism

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

82. What is the relationship between the self and society according to symbolic interactionism?
- a. The development of a sense of self is guided by society.
  - b. The self is shaped by society, but society is also shaped by the self.
  - c. Both the self and society are created by the course of history.
  - d. Both the self and society are shaped by larger external forces.

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate              REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Understanding

83. Symbolic interactionism was established by
- a. the Chicago School of sociology.
  - b. French positivists.
  - c. structural functionalists.
  - d. queer theorists.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate              REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Remembering

84. Symbolic interactionism argues that people act toward things on the basis of their meaning. According to this perspective, how does meaning arise?
- a. Meaning is inherent in objects and actions.
  - b. Meaning is learned through the study of philosophy and history.
  - c. Meaning is negotiated through interaction with others.
  - d. Meaning is learned through the study of science and nature.

ANS: C                      DIF: Difficult              REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

85. A dishonest judge must pretend to be an honest judge, but even an honest judge must play the role of “honest judge” for an audience in order to interact and work with others effectively. This performance is an example of what theoretical perspective?
- a. structural functionalism
  - b. dramaturgy
  - c. ethnomethodology
  - d. conflict theory

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult              REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory  
MSC: Applying

86. What is a sociologist’s theoretical perspective if they argue that we have seen the “dissolution of master narratives or metanarratives”?
- a. feminist theory
  - b. conflict theory
  - c. structural functionalism
  - d. postmodernism

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate              REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches  
MSC: Applying

87. Sarah believes the ability of science and technology to create progress will solve problems and improve everyone’s life. Sarah would best be described as a
- a. Marxist.
  - b. positivist.
  - c. modernist.



d. postmodernist.

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches

MSC: Applying

88. Postmodernists are interested in \_\_\_\_\_, or taking apart and examining stories and theories.

- a. dramaturgy
- b. praxis
- c. antitheses
- d. deconstruction

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches

MSC: Remembering

89. Identify what is not an example of postmodernism in popular culture.

- a. *The Grey Album* by DJ Danger Mouse, which uses tracks from the Beatles' *The White Album* and Jay-Z's *The Black Album*
- b. hip-hop
- c. copies of famous landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas
- d. Liberty University, the college associated with fundamentalist Christianity

ANS: D

DIF: Difficult

REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches | InQuizitive

MSC: Applying

90. A postmodernist writes an essay arguing that the "factual" history of a Native American tribe in a textbook is no more accurate than a collection of short oral stories about the tribe. The postmodernist is engaging in what type of critical analysis?

- a. deconstruction
- b. reconstruction
- c. symbolic interactionism
- d. factual interactionism

ANS: A

DIF: Moderate

REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches | InQuizitive

MSC: Understanding

## TRUE/FALSE

1. C. Wright Mills described a process by which biography (individual lives) and history (larger social forces) are related. He argued that this process works in two ways: individual lives influence society, while society also influences individuals.

ANS: T

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Remembering

2. A sociologist's responsibility is to question everything the everyday person would take for granted.

ANS: T

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Remembering

3. The sociological imagination conceived by C. Wright Mills incorporates the ideas of biography and autobiography.

ANS: F

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Remembering

4. There is only one correct theoretical explanation for any particular social phenomenon.

ANS: F                      DIF: Moderate

REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology                      MSC: Remembering

5. The writings of Émile Durkheim, Karl Marx, and Max Weber were deeply influenced by their life experiences.

ANS: T                      DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

6. Symbolic interactionism analyzes social phenomena at the macro level, while structural functionalism and conflict theory analyses are at the micro level.

ANS: F                      DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

## SHORT ANSWER

1. How does taking the sociological perspective enable sociologists to understand human life in society?

ANS:

Taking the sociological perspective enables sociologists to view the world through a beginner's mind. They are able to learn about the familiar world in new ways by eliminating their personal experiences, opinions, and biases.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Remembering

2. What are we failing to see, according to C. Wright Mills, when we think of our personal problems as character flaws?

ANS:

Mills argued that we need to view our personal problems through the larger perspective of how they are related to the social structure in which we live and the historical context of our society.

DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist

MSC: Applying

3. Which level of analysis and theoretical perspective would be best for a sociologist interested in studying your sociology class?

ANS:

Microsociology would be most appropriate to study a class, as it typically focuses on relatively small, face-to-face interactions. Symbolic interactionism would be the best choice regarding a sociological perspective, given that it is the only one of the three that is associated with the micro level.

DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology

MSC: Remembering

4. Émile Durkheim's pioneering study *Suicide* used statistical data to look for correlations between demographic variables and suicide. In what ways is his work compatible with Auguste Comte's ideas about how society should be studied?

ANS:

Durkheim used Comte's theory of positivism in the manner Comte intended when he conducted his famous suicide study in 1897. Positivism was a concrete form of social research that suggested social life could be studied in a manner comparable to the hard sciences.

DIF: Moderate      REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree      MSC: Applying

5. In what ways does queer theory suggest that no category of sexual identity is fundamentally deviant or normal?

ANS:

According to queer theory, sexuality is a social construct. Therefore, it is fluid and is viewed differently according to the social structure of the time period. Conventional dichotomies of gay and straight are limited in defining human sexual preferences and sexual involvement because these views are constantly changing.

DIF: Easy      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory      MSC: Remembering

6. According to conflict theory, how do most major social institutions remain integrated into the economy and therefore reinforce the class structure?

ANS:

Conflict theorists believe that the capitalist system of for-profit businesses causes mass poverty and class division. Karl Marx argued that capitalism, which emerged during the Industrial Revolution, enabled the owners of the means of production (the bourgeoisie) to exploit the masses of workers (the proletariat), creating an inherently unequal system of social class. Additionally, false consciousness can lead oppressed people to accept inequality and not challenge their position in the class structure.

DIF: Moderate      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory      MSC: Applying

7. Why do structural functionalists argue that dysfunction tends to create social change?

ANS:

When one structure of society encounters a disruption, there is a ripple effect across all social structures. This leads to the need for social change so that social systems may restore balance. For example, if a country goes to war, there will be a deficit in the economy. As a result, money available for education decreases as tax dollars are given to the military; soldiers die, resulting in single-parent, single-income households; and people begin to struggle with their religious beliefs, reducing involvement in the volunteer structure of communities. The system will fight for equilibrium and will eventually function, albeit in a different manner than it did before the war.

DIF: Moderate      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory      MSC: Applying

8. Describe the three main theoretical perspectives of macrosociology, and name at least one theorist for each perspective.

ANS:

Conflict theory, which emphasizes social inequality as the basic characteristic of society, developed out of the work of Karl Marx. Structural functionalism looks at society as a unified whole that needs separate structures to function. Robert Merton, a well-known sociologist who developed strain theory, would be considered a structural functionalist. Weberian theory, which derives its name from Max Weber, studied the process of rationalization and bureaucracies.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory                      MSC: Remembering

9. According to Erving Goffman's theory of dramaturgy, why might you dress differently for a date than you would for a sociology class?

ANS:

Goffman believed that the self is created through our interactions with other people and that how we present ourselves changes depending on the social context. You can wear casual attire without paying heed to your hair and/or makeup because a sociology class is an informal social setting. On the other hand, your clothing and grooming choices for a date would be significantly different. In this case, you would want to make a good impression, so you would present yourself in a way that emphasizes your positive personal qualities.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory                      MSC: Applying

10. How is hip-hop music an example of a postmodern art form?

ANS:

Hip-hop uses several genres of music, such as reggae and rock, and it overlays beats and words to create new sounds from old, established musical forms.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches                      MSC: Applying

11. What are the advantages of midrange theory?

ANS:

Midrange theory merges micro and macro levels of analysis. This approach to theorizing makes sociological research more feasible because it does not simply rely on the polarities of small- and large-scale analyses.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches                      MSC: Remembering

## ESSAY

1. The sociological perspective, as a way of thinking about the world, includes the concepts of sociological imagination from C. Wright Mills, beginner's mind from Bernard McGrane, and culture shock from anthropology. Define each concept in your own words and then explain what all three of these concepts have in common.

ANS:

The sociological imagination is about looking for connections between the personal and the social. The beginner's mind is a technique for ignoring old knowledge in order to find new ways of seeing the world. Culture shock is a way of seeing things as if we had never seen them before. All three concepts advocate ways of thinking that help us clear away preconceptions that may be blocking us from seeing and understanding things that are directly in front of us. They all help us achieve a sociological perspective.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Understanding

2. Consider the contrast between practical knowledge and scientific knowledge. Describe an activity or social phenomenon of which you have practical knowledge, and then list the steps you might take to develop scientific knowledge of it. Describe how your knowledge might change as you develop this scientific approach to the subject and demonstrate that you understand the difference between the two types of knowledge.

ANS:

Any answer should demonstrate knowledge of some everyday activity the student can use in a functional way but about which they do not have completely coherent, excruciatingly clear, consistent, or complete knowledge. Examples of ways to develop scientific knowledge could include schools, bookstores, libraries, or some other source of learning.

DIF: Moderate              REF: 1.2 How to Think Like a Sociologist  
MSC: Remembering

3. Sociologists often have to decide if they are going to adopt a microsociological or macrosociological approach for any given project. Explain how these perspectives differ, paying special attention to the different assumptions about how society works that are contained within each perspective. In other words, what do they seek to reveal considering the starting point of each perspective?

ANS:

Microsociology focuses on the interactions between individuals, whereas macrosociology examines large-scale social structures. Microsociologists tend to think that individual-level interactions create the larger patterns, processes, and institutions of society. Macrosociologists tend to assume that large social structures create the context and conditions within which individuals act.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.3 Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology  
MSC: Understanding

4. Identify and describe the most essential elements of the theories of the classical sociological thinkers—Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. How do their visions of modernity differ?

ANS:

Marx's conflict theory centers on alienation (the sense of dissatisfaction workers feel when they are producing goods that are controlled by someone else). Durkheim's theory of structural functionalism focuses on anomie (the loss of norms and purpose that results from weaker social ties and an increased pace of change). Weberian theory emphasizes that modern industrialized society controls our lives through rigid rules and rationalization, trapping us in a so-called iron cage of bureaucracy.

DIF: Difficult              REF: 1.4 Sociology's Family Tree              MSC: Analyzing

5. Compare and contrast conflict theory with structural functionalism. Pay special attention to the way each theoretical perspective treats the origin of social change.

ANS:

Structural functionalism begins with the study of structures identified as social institutions. Any answer should emphasize that society is a stable, ordered system of interrelated parts or structures and that each structure has a function that contributes to the continued stability or equilibrium of the whole.

Conflict theory treats social conflict as the basis of society and suggests that disagreements over values and beliefs actually reflect struggles over resources and power. Conflict theory emphasizes a materialist view of society based on the economy, a critical stance toward the status quo, and a dynamic model of historical change. Conflict theorists see social change as the inevitable consequence of the struggle over resources.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory                      MSC: Analyzing

6. Classical sociological theory arose in the nineteenth century in the aftermath of the American and French revolutions and during the Industrial Revolution. Summarize how the theories of Karl Marx, Émile Durkheim, and Max Weber all reflect a concern for the consequences of modern life.

ANS:

The textbook describes several concepts from each theorist that relate directly to the problems of modern life. Marx focused on the alienation and social inequality created by the rise of urban capitalism and on how false consciousness and ideology contributed to the oppression of the working classes. Weber was concerned about how the shift to a modern industrialized society resulted in disenchantment with the world as well as the “iron cage” of bureaucratic rules. Durkheim theorized that anomie, or normlessness resulting from social disconnection, was a consequence of the transition from mechanical solidarity to organic solidarity.

DIF: Moderate                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory                      MSC: Analyzing

7. Structural functionalism attempts to explain the social world by examining social structures, which perform functions that contribute to the stability of society as a whole. What are some of the types of functions that social structures can perform?

ANS:

The textbook examines two ways of categorizing functions. First, Talcott Parsons proposed that social structures can fulfill such functions as helping us adapt to our environment and providing us with opportunities to realize goals. They also contribute to the equilibrium of society by increasing social cohesion and maintaining cultural patterns. Second, Robert Merton theorized that functions performed by social structures can be either manifest (intended) or latent (unintended).

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory                      MSC: Remembering

8. According to Karl Marx, what is the relationship between the economy and other parts of society, including intellectual, religious, and political life?

ANS:

Marx argued that because the ruling class controls the economy, it controls the rest of society as well. Therefore, he argued that the dominant ideology justifies and benefits those who own the means of production, religion is used by the ruling class to create false consciousness and perpetuate oppression of the working class, and the prevailing ideas are the ideas of the ruling class. Answers might also explain the distinction between false consciousness (a denial of the truth about the real circumstances in which one lives) and class consciousness, which is an understanding of the economic exploitation inherent in capitalism.

DIF: Easy                      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory                      MSC: Analyzing

9. If you were feeling very generous to shoe manufacturers, you might argue that the manifest function of the production of newer and more expensive athletic shoes is to increase athletic performance. For a moment, let's not be generous. Explain another manifest function of the appearance of new athletic shoes and at least two latent functions.

ANS:

A manifest function is the obvious, intended function of a social structure, whereas a latent function is the less obvious and sometimes unintentional function. In this case, the obvious manifest function would be to increase revenue for makers of athletic apparel. The latent functions might include increased jealousy and competition among teenagers, violence and muggings in order to obtain shoes, teenage boys showing increased fashion consciousness, and the creation of a subculture that bonds over its interest in shoes.

DIF: Difficult      REF: 1.5 Macrosociological Theory      MSC: Applying

10. Symbolic interactionism is a micro-level approach to sociology. It considers face-to-face interactions as the building blocks of larger social institutions. Describe how individuals interacting with each other can produce larger social institutions. Pick an example and describe how specific social acts can, when repeated by many people, create large-scale social structures.

ANS:

The textbook uses the example of the meaning of a tree to demonstrate the relationship between “meaning” and “interaction.” The key point is that society and the self are twinborn—social structures that only exist because they are created through individual action.

DIF: Moderate      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory      MSC: Analyzing

11. According to symbolic interactionism, describe how meaningful reality is created.

ANS:

The textbook uses the example of how a tree can mean different things to different people in different social situations. We act toward things on the basis of their meaning, which is not inherent in the things themselves but is negotiated through interaction and can change or be modified over time. This demonstrates that meaningful reality is created through interaction.

DIF: Easy      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory      MSC: Applying

12. Describe the sociological theories that developed from symbolic interactionism. What do they have in common, and how do they contribute to the perspective?

ANS:

There are three offshoots of symbolic interactionism described in the textbook: Erving Goffman’s theory of dramaturgy, Harold Garfinkel’s theory of ethnomethodology, and the theory of conversation analysis. Each theory emphasizes “social acts rather than social facts,” demonstrating that larger social institutions are constantly made and remade through individual actions and interactions. They expand on the original ideas of symbolic interactionists by reinforcing specific aspects of culture as meaningful and important in the formation of society.

DIF: Moderate      REF: 1.6 Microsociological Theory      MSC: Remembering

13. Describe the main features of postmodern social theory and explain both positive and negative reactions to postmodernism.

ANS:

In postmodern theory, social reality is diverse, pluralistic, and constantly in flux. In postmodernism, there are no absolutes—no claims to truth, reason, right, order, or stability. Everything is therefore relative—fragmented, temporary, situational, provisional, and contingent. Postmodernists believe that certainty is illusory, and they prefer to explore the possibilities created by fluidity, complexity, multidimensionality, and even nonsense. They propose that there is no constant or universal human truth from which we can know or interpret the meaning of existence.

For proponents, postmodernism can be celebrated as a liberating influence that can rescue us from the stifling effects of rationality, essentialism, and tradition. For opponents, it can be condemned as a detrimental influence that can imprison us in a world of relativity, nihilism, and chaos.

DIF: Easy

REF: 1.7 New Theoretical Approaches

MSC: Understanding