

Ravelli/Webber: Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective, Third Edition
Chapter 02: Classical Social Theories

1) Benjamin Franklin is quoted to have said, “*Those who would sacrifice freedom for security deserve neither.*” How does this contrast with Hobbes’s ideas of the role of the state?

Answer:

Hobbes believed that, at their most basic, people are motivated by self-interest and the pursuit of power. Living in a natural state would have been a brutal existence; since everyone was in direct competition with each other, people would have lived in a constant state of fear. With their wants always seeming to exceed what was available, there was constant potential for a “war of all against all.” Hobbes thus argued that since people are naturally rational beings, in order to gain peace and protection they would be willing to enter into a collective agreement that would see them give up some of their individual freedom and autonomy to an absolute authority (e.g., democracy, monarchy). This collective agreement represented an important transition in that it demonstrated the human capacity to forgo independence and autonomy in return for collective benefit. In essence, it promotes exactly what Franklin warns against: sacrificing freedom for security.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 32

Skill: Applied/Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

2) Develop an essay in which you discuss the relationship between Enlightenment thinking and the birth of sociology.

Answer:

The textbook argues that sociology was born not from the revolutionary ideas of Enlightenment thinking but, rather, from the conservative reaction against them. Before the Enlightenment, people’s thinking was directed by God, the Church, and the aristocracy. Enlightenment thinking, however, promoted human agency and thus was a clear continuation of the writings of Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau. Today, seeing ourselves as engaged and autonomous beings seems obvious, but at the time this independence of thought created a great deal of turmoil, not only for the Church but also for society as a whole. The Enlightenment was nothing less than a reordering of how people saw the world and their role in it.

Enlightenment philosophers challenged many beliefs that were grounded in tradition (e.g., inherited titles and wealth that were not based on demonstrated ability or skill) and encouraged the ability of the masses to take control of their lives and challenge their oppressors. This ultimately led to the American and French revolutions, which resulted in thousands of deaths. Both revolutions had a lasting influence: for the first time in history,

entire societies were completely reorganized according to the secular ideals of social equality and liberty.

However, the chaos and disruption brought on by these ideals of individual autonomy, liberty, and the primacy of rationality and reason were challenged by conservatives, who promoted a return to earlier times when society was more stable. In effect, conservatives challenged the very basis of Enlightenment thinking. After all, they would suggest, the culmination of that thinking led to revolution, something no one should want. As discussed, one of the guiding principles of the Enlightenment was the belief in individual autonomy and the absolute necessity of independent thought and reflection. To Enlightenment thinkers, the individual was the building block for the entire society. In contrast, conservatives believed that society is not the product of individuals but, rather, an entity in itself, independent and separate from the individuals who make it up.

Enlightenment and conservative perspectives are both represented in sociology through the micro (individual) and macro (society-wide) approaches, respectively.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 35-37

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

3) Compare and contrast functionalism and conflict theory as discussed in the text. How would the two perspectives explain crime? Which perspective do you agree with on this issue and why?

Answer:

Functionalists view the social world as a dynamic system of interrelated and interdependent parts. Social structures exist to help people fulfill their wants and desires as defined by social values.

Conflict theory is based on the assumption that society is grounded on inequality and competition over scarce resources that ultimately result in conflict, which often inspires social change. Two basic principles that all conflict theorists share are that (1) power is the core of all social relationships and is scarce and unequally divided among members of society, and (2) social values and the dominant ideology are vehicles by which the powerful promote their own interests at the expense of the weak.

For functionalists, crime might be considered functional or dysfunctional, whereas conflict theorists would view crime as a product of an unequal system that produces inequality between those in power and those who are marginalized. In the latter case, crime reflects the interests of those in power.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 38-39/47

Skill: Applied/Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists, review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

4) Explain how Spencer's idea of "*survival of the fittest*" led to the concept and practice of social Darwinism in the US. How is this position inconsistent with the sociological imagination, and why do sociologists tend to be quite critical of these ideas?

Answer:

Spencer came to believe that overpopulation would become a social problem over time and believed that, as a result, people would be forced to compete over increasingly scarce resources. This led him to coin the term *survival of the fittest*. Spencer argued that societies can be selected for in the same way as biological organisms.

This resulted in Spencer's concept of *social Darwinism*, which employs a functionalist approach by suggesting that societies evolve because there is a *reason* for the changes (i.e., they need to survive). Spencer's approach became very popular in the United States, as it helped to explain why some in society were doing well and others were not. Some were simply more evolved or better adapted than others. And since this was a *natural* process, many believed that nature should be allowed to take its course and that to interfere would only make matters worse.

This position is inconsistent with the sociological imagination since it denies an appreciation of inherited social disadvantage and outright discrimination. As such, sociologists view Spencer's ideas with a critical eye for a number of reasons. First, these ideas provided justification for colonial expansion by rich and powerful countries to poor and weak ones simply because these countries were capable of it. Second, how would Spencer explain the fact that some children of the rich maintain their advantage even though they do not possess any of their parents' positive attributes? Third, Spencer's argument equates evolution with progress and assumes that over time human society will inevitably improve, which has not been proven over time.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 39-40

Skill: Applied/Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists, review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

5) Discuss how Spencer's ideas of social Darwinism were used to justify the eugenics movement in the US and Canada during the early part of the twentieth century.

Answer:

Herbert Spencer took the ideas of Darwin and adapted them to the study of society. Spencer applied Darwin's evolution to human *societies* and this approach was referred to as *social Darwinism*. He believed that evolution occurs in the social environment as well as the biological—societies that are better suited to their environment flourish while those that are not die out. Applied to individuals, this perspective became known as eugenics, and justified the launching of a national campaign of “ethnic cleansing” by the US that involved subjecting the “unfit” population to legislated segregation and sterilization programs. The victims included poor people, brown-haired white people, blacks, immigrants, Indians, Eastern European Jews, the sick, and anyone else classified outside the superior genetic lines drawn up by American “raceologists.” The campaign sterilized around 60 000 Americans. In Canada, eugenicists encouraged the National Council of Women to support the forced sterilization of “degenerate” mothers in order to prevent the birth of “degenerate” babies.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 39-40;42-43

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

6) Discuss Parson's four functional imperatives (AGIL) required for social equilibrium.

Answer:

1. *Adaptation*. The social system must be able to gather and distribute sufficient environmental resources. Further, the system must be able to adapt to changes in the environment or manipulate the environment to achieve system needs.

2. *Goal attainment*. The system needs to establish clear goals and priorities. The central question that goal attainment must answer for the social system is how to use legitimate power to implement social decisions.

3. *Integration*. The system needs to maintain solidarity within it as well as have the different units in society work together. The system must coordinate and adjust to the needs and aspirations of the various subgroups in society. It must find ways to motivate actors to play their roles and to regulate their actions when they do not.

4. *Latency*. The system needs to motivate individuals to release their frustrations in socially appropriate ways and to the imperatives of tension maintenance and pattern maintenance. To maintain equilibrium, the social system must find ways to both motivate

individual actors and provide them with opportunities to release their frustrations in socially sanctioned ways.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 45

Skill: Conceptual/Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

7) Discuss Parsons's four-step process to explain the motivations and goals of students in post-secondary.

Answer:

Parsons viewed people as “actors” in that they played roles either as individuals or as collectives, and he outlined a four-step process to explain their motivations and goals. First, actors are *motivated* to achieve a goal or end as defined by the cultural system in which they live. For example, your decision to attend university or college and achieve good grades occurred because you are motivated to have a productive and satisfying career, which you believe requires a post-secondary education. Second, actors must find the *means* to achieve their goals. Students need to gather the financial resources necessary to cover the costs of going to school (e.g., tuition, books, living expenses). Third, actors need to face the challenging *conditions* that stand in the way of achieving their goals. Students may have to complete difficult required courses, take classes from teachers who are hard to understand, and write term papers on topics in which they are not interested. Finally, actors must work within the *social system* to achieve their goals. Students are required to pay all of their fees on time and comply with the rules of the institution.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 45

Skill: Conceptual/Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

8) Discuss how Marx and Engel's concept of class consciousness is related to Mills's concept of the quality of mind, using examples.

Answer:

Marx and Engels believed that people could liberate themselves from oppression through class consciousness. Class consciousness occurs when the proletariat realize their domination and oppression by the bourgeoisie and commit to doing something about it. According to Marx, the proletariat become class conscious when they recognize their mutual interests and begin to create their own political organizations. Marx and Engels expected that over time, the proletariat would develop a sense of common destiny with other workers because they worked and lived so close together. By talking to each other, workers would begin to understand their plight and the necessity of advocating for their collective needs. By taking such action, by seeing the world as it really is, the proletariat's false consciousness would be destroyed—no longer would workers be alienated from themselves or each other.

In terms of quality of mind, achieving class consciousness is effectively seeing the world in shades of grey, understanding the world as socially constructed, and appreciating your role in it. As a conflict theorist, Mills was well aware of macro-level Marxist terminology (class consciousness) but his terminology (quality of mind) accentuated the changes also occurring on the micro level.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 54

Skill: Conceptual/Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

9) Discuss four of the seven fundamental principles of symbolic interactionism.

Answer:

Symbolic interactionism maintains seven fundamental principles:

1. Unlike other animals, human beings have the capacity for thought.
2. Human thinking is shaped by social interaction.
3. In social settings, people learn meanings and symbols that allow them to exercise their distinctively human capacity for thought.
4. Meanings and symbols enable people to carry on uniquely human actions and interactions.
5. People are able to change meanings and symbols that they use given their interpretation of various social situations.
6. People are able to make these modifications in part because they have the unique ability to interact with themselves. By doing so, they examine different courses of actions and select the one with the most advantages and the least disadvantages.
7. The culmination of patterns of action and interaction make up groups and societies.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 55

Skill: Factual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

10) Choose three of the marginalized Western voices from social theory and discuss their contributions to sociology.

Answer:

Answers will vary by student. Choices include:

Mary Wollstonecraft

Harriet Martineau

Annie Marion MacLean

Anna Julia Cooper

Ida Wells-Barnett

W.E.B. DuBois

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 60-61

Skill: Factual/Conceptual

Objective: Describe how marginalized voices contributed to sociological theory.

- 1) Most generally, a theoretical statement is one that attempts to explain how certain facts or events are
- understood.
 - related.
 - caused.
 - predictable.

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 31

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 2) Which of the following statements does *not* explain why sociologists use theories?
- Theories are used to help direct and inform research.
 - Theories are used to inspire discussion and debate about the workings of the world.
 - Theories are used to provide explanations about why things happen as they do.
 - Theories are used to decide what is right and wrong in order provide a better social world.

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 31

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 3) _____ is well known for his analysis of how humans existed in their natural state, before the emergence of formal social structures.
- Thomas Hobbes
 - Karl Marx
 - John Locke
 - Charles de Montesquieu

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 32

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

4) Hobbes was one of the first social theorists to view people as _____ the society they create.

- a. determined by
- b. products of
- c. responsible for
- d. existing in tension with

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 32

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

5) *Tabula rasa* refers to the idea that people

- a. are born with specific knowledge.
- b. are born with a blank slate.
- c. have knowledge independent of experience.
- d. are born with a full slate of knowledge.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 33

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 6) The idea that people were born *tabula rasa* was purported by
- Thomas Hobbes
 - Karl Marx
 - John Locke
 - Charles de Montesquieu

Answer: c

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 33

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 7) Whereas Hobbes viewed the emergence of the state in terms of the protection of individuals from each other, Locke viewed the state's emergence in relation to the
- need for a social safety net.
 - defensibility of borders.
 - formalization of consensus.
 - preservation of private property.

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 33

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 8) _____ suggested that people have never existed outside, or without, society; humans are defined and created by society.
- Thomas Hobbes
 - Karl Marx
 - John Locke
 - Charles de Montesquieu

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 34

Skill: Factual/Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

9) Which of the following is *not* associated with the work of Charles de Montesquieu?

- a. Challenged views before him that people never existed outside society
- b. Suggested that humans were defined and created by society
- c. There was an original natural state
- d. Wrote *The Persian Letters*

Answer: c

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 34

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

10) According to Jean-Jacques Rousseau,

- a. the natural state was an awful existence where people fought against each other.
- b. there was no need to understand the basic nature of the human condition.
- c. people existed in a symbiotic and idyllic relationship based on equality.
- d. human beings are not perfectible.

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 34

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

11) Which classical theorist believed that people entered into the social contract as free and equal individuals?

- a. Hobbes
- b. Locke
- c. Rousseau
- d. Plato

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 35

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

12) Approximately when did the period of the Enlightenment begin and end?

- a. 1980–1999
- b. 1960s
- c. 1818–1883
- d. 1650–1789

Answer: d

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 35

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

13) Which of the following is false about the Enlightenment and its thinkers? They

- a. challenged 400 years of Christian scholarship.
- b. advocated critical thinking and practical knowledge.
- c. agreed that free thinking and expression should be limited.
- d. reordered how people saw the world and their role in it.

Answer: c

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 35

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

14) Which answer best describes the conservative reaction to Enlightenment thinking? It was

- a. based purely on science.
- b. purported by some to be bad because it led to revolution.
- c. based on the belief that society is a product of the individual.
- d. based on the belief that society is not an entity in itself.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Applied

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

15) Which of the following was *not* a conservative reaction to Enlightenment thinking?

- a. Society exists on its own.
- b. Change is a threat to both individuals and society as a whole.
- c. Parts of society are interdependent.
- d. Individuals, not society, are the most important unit of social analysis.

Answer: d

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

16) The conservative reaction that advocated for a return to social hierarchies because they promote a system of differential status and reward, something that would be good for both individuals and the collective best, aligns with

- a. conflict theory.
- b. functionalism.
- c. symbolic interactionism.
- d. feminism.

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Applied

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

17) Which of the following is a major tenet of functionalism?

- a. The social world is a dynamic system of interrelated and interdependent parts.
- b. People are in a constant struggle over scarce resources.
- c. Meaning is created through ongoing interactions with others.
- d. Social structures work against people in achieving success.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 38

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

18) Which of the following does the organic analogy *not* refer to?

- a. Society is made up of interrelated and interdependent parts.
- b. It is associated with functionalism.
- c. The system's natural state of affairs is one of equilibrium where the system is stable and homeostatic.
- d. Structures work against each other for the good of the collective.

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 38-39

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

19) _____ is considered by many to be the founder of modern sociology.

- a. Auguste Comte
- b. Karl Marx
- c. Émile Durkheim
- d. Talcott Parsons

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 40

Skill: Factual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

20) Which of the following is *not* true, according to Durkheim?

- a. Individual behaviours are not inspired by collective social forces.
- b. Culture and society exist outside of the individual.
- c. Culture and society are independent of the individual.
- d. Culture and society outlive the individual.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 40

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

21) Durkheim's concept of _____ highlights the totality of a society's beliefs and sentiments.

- a. collective conscience
- b. latent function
- c. class consciousness
- d. anomie

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 41

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

22) A sociologist from this tradition is most likely to argue that society consists of diverse structures that work together for the good of the collective.

- a. Functionalist
- b. Conflict
- c. Symbolic interactionist
- d. Post-modern feminist

Answer: a

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 38

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

23) Anomic suicide might occur when

- a. people do not feel connected to others.
- b. people are too connected to others.
- c. people lack purpose.
- d. people are overregulated.

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 43

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

24) Which of the following is *not* one of the four functional imperatives outlined by Parsons?

- a. Assimilation
- b. Goal attainment
- c. Integration
- d. Latency

Answer: a

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 45

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

25) The unintended consequences of an action or social pattern are referred to by functionalist theorists, such as Merton, as

- a. manifest functions.
- b. latent functions.
- c. hidden functions.
- d. invisible functions.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 46

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

26) Which of the following is *not* a critique of functionalism?

- a. It overemphasizes harmony and stability in society.
- b. It overlooks positive consequences that can result from conflict.
- c. It focuses primarily on human agency.
- d. It suggests that the status quo is almost always desirable.

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 46

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

27) _____ is based on the assumption that society is grounded upon inequality and competition over scarce resources.

- a. Symbolic interactionism
- b. Conflict theory
- c. Functionalism
- d. Post-modernism

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 47

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

28) For conflict theorists, society is characterized by

- a. goods and services.
- b. power and inequality.
- c. symbols and meanings.
- d. structures and changes.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 47

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

29) Marx and Engels would argue that

- a. social revolution was the inevitable result of capitalism.
- b. conflict is functional for society.
- c. social inequality best reflects an individual's biological possibilities.
- d. those in power justly run society objectively.

Answer: a

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 50

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

30) The physical and intellectual resources a society has with which to make a living, which include human labour power and the means of production, are referred to by Marx as

- a. forces of production.
- b. relations of production.
- c. tools of production.
- d. the capitalist infrastructure.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 50

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

- 31) In a classical Marxian sense, in a capitalist economy, the worker and owner
- a. have deeply shared interests, in spite of the appearance of opposition.
 - b. are in diametrically opposed positions.
 - c. should learn how to understand each other's positions better in order to foster a more positive and forward-thinking society.
 - d. can both prosper if they commit to it.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 51

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

- 32) Clarice is conducting an examination of the beliefs and values that support and justify the interests of the ruling class in contemporary Canadian society. She is, in effect, studying Canada's
- a. dominant ideology.
 - b. humanistic tendencies.
 - c. central value system.
 - d. false consciousness.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 54

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

- 33) Ideology is
- a. empirically based on scientific findings.
 - b. used to justify current systems of domination and inequality.
 - c. a device used by functionalists to explain the workings of society.

d. a term used by symbolic interactionists to explain how individuals interact with each other.

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 53

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

34) When the proletariat realize their domination and oppression by the bourgeoisie and commit to organizing together and doing something to challenge this, a Marxist would say they have acquired

- a. self-consciousness.
- b. false consciousness.
- c. class consciousness.
- d. self-confidence.

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 54

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

35) In Marx's analysis of class society, there is a strong relationship between the ruling (material) class and

- a. the dominant ideas.
- b. the Protestant work ethic.
- c. truth.
- d. necessary functions in the social body.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 54

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

36) A sociologist who emphasizes how people learn meanings and symbols in social settings is most likely to come from which theoretical tradition?

- a. Formal sociology
- b. Symbolic interactionism
- c. Symbolic conflict theory
- d. Structural symbolism

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 55

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions to its founding theorists.

37) This German term was used by Weber to describe deep understanding and interpretation of subjective social meanings.

- a. *bildung*
- b. *sui generis*
- c. anomie
- d. *verstehen*

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 56

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions to its founding theorists.

38) The Thomas theorem refers to

- a. the idea that people give subjective meaning to situations and such meaning has real consequences.

- b. people's struggling over scarce resources.
- c. the theory that people continuously interact with each other to succeed in society.
- d. physical interactions with individuals.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 55

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions to its founding theorists.

39) The theoretical perspective that analyzes society in terms of social processes and forms of interactions that can be isolated from their content is known as

- a. formal sociology.
- b. content sociology.
- c. post-modernism.
- d. rational choice theory.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 57

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions to its founding theorists.

40) According to Mead, human behaviour is virtually always the product of

- a. competition for scarce resources.
- b. biology and culture.
- c. interaction with others.
- d. human instincts.

Answer: c

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 57

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions to its founding theorists.

41) How is the relative absence of women sociological theorists in standard sociological histories accounted for?

- a. Inexplicable
- b. A consequence of different priorities
- c. The unfortunate result of biology
- d. An effect of patriarchy

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 60

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe how marginalized voices contributed to sociological theory.

42) Successful sociology students develop the ability to

- a. determine which sociological theory can correctly explain social phenomena.
- b. distinguish between correct and incorrect ways of analyzing world events.
- c. synthesize and compare different theoretical perspectives.
- d. view sociological theories impartially and without judgment.

Answer: c

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 31

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

43) Contrary to earlier thinkers who believed that humans existed because of and acted according to God's will, Thomas Hobbes

- a. believed that religion actually had a detrimental effect on society.
- b. stressed that humans were responsible for the society that they created.

- c. stated that humans lacked individual agency.
- d. argued that humans rarely impacted their social and physical environments.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 32

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

44) *Tabula rasa*, a Latin term meaning _____, suggests that _____.

- a. "blank slate"; humans cannot acquire knowledge independent of their experiences
- b. "empty table"; humans are born without the ability to learn from their experiences
- c. "blank slate"; humans are unable to acquire knowledge without the help of God
- d. "empty table"; humans develop knowledge over time based on their experiences

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 33

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

45) At the time of Locke and Hobbes, most philosophers were engaged with the question of

- a. whether or not a God existed.
- b. where and why society originated.
- c. the nature of human beings.
- d. whether or not the social contract was mandatory.

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 33

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 46) Rousseau believed that people entered into the social contract
- because they required protection from each other.
 - because people had a natural fear of the government and governing parties.
 - on their own will, as free and equal individuals.
 - in order to keep the government accountable to citizen groups.

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 35

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 47) According to Enlightenment thinkers, the most important unit of social analysis was
- the family.
 - the individual.
 - the scientific method.
 - society as a whole.

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 48) Who believed that change is a threat to both individuals and society as a whole?
- Enlightenment philosophers
 - Rousseau
 - Conservatives reacting to the Enlightenment

d. Locke

Answer: c

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

49) According to the organic analogy, how is society similar to the human body?

- a. Both are made up of interrelated and interdependent parts.
- b. Both society and the human body will eventually expire.
- c. Neither can exist and thrive without human interaction.
- d. Both are essentially biological in nature.

Answer: a

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 38

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

50) Which of the following best illustrates a "laissez-faire" approach?

- a. A provincial government increases funding for programs serving people with developmental disabilities.
- b. The federal government earmarks money for three new maximum-security prisons.
- c. A provincial government decreases the amount of funding it provides to non-profit daycare centres.
- d. The federal government announces that it will impose more regulations and travel restrictions on people travelling to Canada by plane.

Answer: c

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 40

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

51) Which of the following assertions could be attributed to Emile Durkheim?

- a. Only the most “fit” members of any society will be able to adapt and thrive.
- b. Personal choices have social origins.
- c. Manifest functions are the intended consequences of an action.
- d. The government is a corrupting element of society that will try to undermine the autonomy of the individual.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 40

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

52) Which philosopher most strongly influenced the work of Karl Marx?

- a. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
- b. Friedrich Engels
- c. Charles ee Montesquieu
- d. Thomas Hobbes

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 47

Skill: Factual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

53) According to Marx, the most important social relationship is that between

- a. the bourgeoisie and the owners of the means of production.
- b. the workers and the owners of the means of production.

- c. the forces of production and the means of production.
- d. the proletariat and the working class.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 51

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

54) Which of the following best describes the "Thomas Theorem"—a saying attributed to sociologist W.I. Thomas?

- a. "With great power comes greater responsibility."
- b. "The more wealthy a society becomes, the less likely they are to achieve class consciousness."
- c. "He who has the most money makes the rules."
- d. "If men define situations as real, they are real in their consequences."

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 55

Skill: Factual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

55) Which of the following is the best example of a self-fulfilling prophecy?

- a. Working very hard over the semester, Matthew is able to increase his mark in macroeconomics from 55 percent to 86 percent.
- b. After being dumped by his girlfriend, Matthew decides to stop dating for a while and focus on his studies.
- c. After receiving a low grade on his calculus exam, Matthew complains to the head of his department about his calculus professor.
- d. After seeing four students fall asleep during his lecture, Matthew decides that he is a poor public speaker.

Answer: d

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 58

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

56) Which of the following is a major criticism of symbolic interactionism?

- a. Symbolic interactionism fails to take into account the importance of personal relationships.
- b. Symbolic interactionism is not useful for studying everyday social situations.
- c. Symbolic interactionism does not account for the importance of social structures and institutions.
- d. Symbolic interactionism underestimates the power of the self-fulfilling prophecy.

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 59

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

57) Which of the following nineteenth-century women did *not* write about sociological issues?

- a. Mary Woolstonecraft
- b. Florence Nightingale
- c. Fanny Mendelsohn
- d. Rosa Luxemburg

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 60

Skill: Factual

Objective: Describe how marginalized voices contributed to sociological theory.

58) Which of the following is *not* a contribution that George Herbert Mead made to the discipline of sociology?

- a. Establishing the Chicago School of Sociology
- b. Writing the famous "Mind, Self, and Society" in 1934
- c. Bringing conflict theory to North American sociology departments
- d. Suggesting that individual actions can only be understood in the context of social actions that involve other individuals

Answer: c

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 57-58

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

59) Which of the following statements about ideology are *not* true?

- a. Ideologies are sets of beliefs and values that support and justify the ruling class of a society.
- b. Ideologies exist in all societies.
- c. Different political parties always have different ideologies.
- d. Marx was particularly critical of capitalist ideologies.

Answer: c

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 53

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

60) According to Karl Marx, forces of production are best described as

- a. the human and animal labour required to make products in a society.
- b. the physical and intellectual resources a society has at its disposal.
- c. factories, industrial parks, refineries, offices, and other places where work is done in a society.
- d. industries such as farming, mining, forestry, and oil production.

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 50

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

61) Which of the following criticisms of conflict theory is *most* valid?

- a. Karl Marx was never trained as a sociologist.
- b. Conflict theory has sometimes inspired advocacy and social activism.
- c. Conflict theorists tend to downplay the importance of social motivation, social organization, and individual agency.
- d. Conflict theory is essentially a mirror image of functionalist theory.

Answer: c

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 55

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

62) Classifying Canada as being an *ideal type* of capitalism would be applying the ideas of which classical theorist?

- a. John Locke
- b. Thomas Hobbes
- c. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- d. Charles de Montesquieu

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 34

Skill: Applied

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

- 63) According to the organic analogy, increasing crime rates within a society would signal a need for
- a. more prisons to be built.
 - b. more laws to define and address criminal behaviour.
 - c. social programs to address the issues causing crime.
 - d. harsher penalties for convicted criminals.

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 38

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

- 64) The enormous monetary bailouts of major American corporations by the federal government in 2008 was the opposite of what _____ would suggest.
- a. natural selection
 - b. the laissez-faire approach
 - c. the organic analogy
 - d. evolution

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 40

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

- 65) The practice of celebrating birthdays with gifts and cake would be classified by Émile Durkheim as
- a. a social fact.
 - b. the collective conscience.

- c. mechanical solidarity.
- d. organic solidarity.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 41

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

66) A surgeon's reliance on his/her medical and administrative team in order to perform complex medical procedures would be an example of Durkheim's concept of

- a. mechanical solidarity.
- b. organic solidarity.
- c. anomie.
- d. the collective conscience.

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 43

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

67) The rules and penalties associated with acts of academic dishonesty in a post-secondary institution are an example of which of Parsons's four functional imperatives?

- a. Adaptation
- b. Goal attainment
- c. Integration
- d. Latency

Answer: c

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 45

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

68) The fact that the women's movement was enormously disruptive to North American society yet led to many positive changes for women in many sectors of society would be an example of

- a. idealism.
- b. dialectics.
- c. class conflict.
- d. alienation.

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 48

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

69) The Occupy movement of 2011–12 represented Marx's concept of

- a. class conflict.
- b. alienation.
- c. exploitation.
- d. ideology.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 51

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

70) The fact that we accept that CEOs of major corporations make salaries in the millions while their employees make on average 171 times less is an example of Marx's concept of _____ at work.

- a. class conflict
- b. alienation
- c. exploitation
- d. ideology

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 53

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

71) A protest where non-Aboriginal Canadians demand better conditions for Aboriginals living on reserves would be an example of Marx's concept of

- a. the superstructure.
- b. false consciousness.
- c. exploitation.
- d. ideology.

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 54

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

72) The fact that we as a society feel that women convicted of crimes should be treated differently than men and should build more rehabilitative facilities for women than punitive, ensuring better outcomes for women when released, is an application of

- a. the Thomas Theorem.
- b. a self-fulfilling prophesy.
- c. *verstehen*.
- d. sympathetic introspection.

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 55

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

73) According to symbolic interactionist theory, the little voice in your head informing you that, despite their polite laughter, your friends are not amused with your sarcastic comebacks, is an example of

- a. the I.
- b. the Me.
- c. sympathetic introspection.
- d. the looking glass self.

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 57-58

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

74) Stephanie tells her friends what she thinks is funny story, but they don't respond as she expected, and there is only silence instead of laughter. Stephanie interprets this as a critique of her sense of humour and determines to not try to be amusing anymore, preferring to stay quiet. This is an example of _____ at work.

- a. the I
- b. the Me
- c. sympathetic introspection
- d. the looking glass self

Answer: d

Diff: Moderate

Type: MC

Page Reference: 58

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

75) At the end of a first date, you attempt to determine how it went by thinking about what was said and done during the course of the evening, and particularly you and your date's reactions to one another. This is an example of

- a. double consciousness.
- b. dramaturgical analysis.
- c. sympathetic introspection.
- d. the looking glass self.

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: MC

Page Reference: 58

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

76) Hyphenated-Canadian syndrome, the divided identity that so many new immigrants to Canada face as a result of our multicultural mosaic, is an example of whose concept of double consciousness?

- a. Frantz Fanon
- b. Annie Marion MacLean
- c. W.E.B. Du Bois
- d. Ida Wells-Barnett

Answer: c

Diff: Easy

Type: MC

Page Reference: 61

Skill: Applied

Objective: Describe how marginalized voices contributed to sociological theory.

1) Identify the two distinct components of Montesquieu's contribution to sociological theory.

Answer:

Montesquieu's contribution to sociological theory is his appreciation for cultural diversity, as evidenced in his book, *The Persian Letters*, which demonstrated his ability to write from the perspective of someone outside his own culture. In effect, he practised the sociological imagination by forcing himself, and his readers, to look at themselves and see the *strange* in the *familiar*.

Second, his interest in studying other countries and cultures demonstrated his comparative approach to research methods, which allowed social scientists to analyze various social phenomena cross-nationally.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 34

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

2) According to Rousseau, what is the relationship between the social contract and the need for government?

Answer:

Rousseau believed that we needed to understand the basic nature of the human condition so we could build a society that most closely resembled our natural tendencies and desires. A perfect society would mirror our natural state. But when social arrangements were inconsistent with these natural rules, society suffered social problems (e.g., high crime and suicide rates). Increasing population pressures forced people to work together to meet their material (e.g., food) needs. As humans progressed as a collective, certain individuals prospered because they were more gifted farmers, orators, or artisans, and for the first time society began to experience social and economic inequality. It was in this environment that Rousseau saw the greatest need for government; he saw that people needed to be protected from each other and needed to secure their private property. The rise of government, then, was really the manifestation of the social contract. People would willingly enter into the social contract because of the potential for individual and social benefit.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 34-35

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

3) How did Enlightenment thinking challenge the power structure in place during that time?

Answer:

Enlightenment thinking challenged 400 years of Christian scholarship devoted to discovering God's intentions and the domination of knowledge practised by the Church. The intellectuals of the day fought any attempt to limit free thinking and expression and believed that over time the human condition could be improved for all. Before the Enlightenment, people's thinking was directed by God, the Church, and the aristocracy. Enlightenment thinking, however, promoted human agency and autonomy. Today, seeing ourselves as engaged and autonomous beings seems obvious, but at the time this independence of thought created a great deal of turmoil, not only for the Church but also for society as a whole.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 35

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

4) Discuss the importance of the conservative reaction to classical theory.

Answer:

Enlightenment thinking was inherently revolutionary as it confirmed the importance of self-reflection, and challenged tradition, the Church, and the rich and powerful. Conversely, conservative reaction thinking suggested that society was independent of human experience; that change threatened everyone, and that hierarchical arrangements were natural and necessary for a stable society. The legacy of the conservative reaction to sociological theory is evident even today.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

5) Explain social Darwinism. Is social Darwinism consistent or inconsistent with the sociological imagination? Why?

Answer:

Social Darwinism is the application of the principles of biological evolution to human societies, a functionalist approach that suggests that societies evolve because there is a *reason* for the changes (i.e., the need to survive). It helps to explain why some in society are doing well and others are not. Some are simply more evolved or better adapted than others. And since this is a *natural* process, many believe that nature should be allowed to take its course and that to interfere would only make matters worse.

This approach is inconsistent with the sociological imagination because it denies an appreciation of inherited social disadvantage and outright discrimination.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 39-40

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

6) Define and explain what is meant by *social facts*. Give one example.

Answer:

Social facts are general social features that exist on their own and are independent of individual manifestations. Social facts are the creation of human actions but are not the intended consequences of them—they are unintentional outcomes of collective behaviour and interaction.

Social facts operate outside of anyone alive today but also can be seen as givens since they provide the context for our thinking; and by doing so they constrain us and coerce us to behave in established, predictable ways.

Examples will vary by student.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 41

Skill: Conceptual/Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

7) What does Durkheim suggest about social organization as it relates to suicide?

Answer:

Durkheim investigated his assertion that the degree of social integration (i.e., the extent to which individuals feel connected to each other in social networks) and the degree of social regulation (i.e., the extent to which individual desires, behaviours, and emotions are regulated by society) are important causes of a society's suicide rate. He argued that societies with levels of integration or regulation that are too high or too low will suffer from higher suicide rates. As such, any social organization that increases a person's healthy connection to others (e.g., marriage, family, organized religion) will decrease the likelihood of suicide.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 41/43

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

8) Describe what Durkheim meant by *anomie* and discuss its relation to suicide. Give an example from modern life.

Answer:

Anomie is a state of normlessness that results from a lack of clear goals and creates feelings of confusion that may ultimately result in higher suicide rates. The feeling of doing everything right but not getting the intended rewards can make people feel restless and unfulfilled; that is, they are suffering from anomie.

Using various national statistics, Durkheim was able to link what we consider to be one of the most personal acts (suicide) to large-scale collective phenomena. Thus, the individual's decision to commit suicide is a function of his or her relationship, or lack thereof, to the group.

Examples will vary by student.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 43

Skill: Conceptual/Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

9) What is the relation between the collective conscience and social facts in Durkheim's theory?

Answer:

Social facts are general social features that exist on their own and are independent of individual manifestations—for example, laws, beliefs, customs, and morals. Social facts are the creation of human actions but are not the intended consequences of them—they are unintentional outcomes of collective behaviour and interaction.

Social facts, like the collective conscience, operate outside of anyone alive today but also can be seen as givens since they provide the context for our thinking; and by doing so they constrain us and coerce us to behave in established, predictable ways. According to Durkheim, the significance of social facts is that they are evidence of the collective conscience. Since we cannot see the collective conscience directly, we are forced to study reflections of it; these reflections are the social facts.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 56

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

10) What does *verstehen* refer to, and what is its relation to the sociological imagination?

Answer:

Verstehen is a German term meaning to employ a deep understanding and interpretation of subjective social meanings in order to appreciate both the intention and the context of human action; it is entirely consistent with symbolic interactionism. *Verstehen*, then, refers to understanding the meaning of an action from the actor's point of view. Human actors are not seen as the product of external forces that direct their lives but instead as active agents who engage with others to organize their world and give it meaning. This approach is also entirely consistent with the sociological imagination—to put yourself in another person's shoes and see the world from his or her position.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 56

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

11) Create a scenario or give an example that demonstrates how the self is created through Charles Horton Cooley's concept of the looking glass. Using the same experience or scenario, explain how a positive self-concept *or* a negative self-concept could be created.

Answer:

There are three basic components to the looking-glass self. First, we must imagine how we appear to others. Second, we need to imagine how others would judge that appearance. Third, we must reflect on that image and develop some self-feeling (e.g., pride, fear, embarrassment) as a result.

Examples/scenarios will vary by student.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 58

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

12) Using George Herbert-Mead's concepts of the I and the Me, create a real-life scenario or provide a real-life example of how the self is developed through the interaction of the I and the Me.

Answer:

According to Mead, the self is developed through social interaction. It is made up of two components: the I and the Me. The I represents the individual's response to the actions of others and the Me controls the response of the I. The individual personality (i.e., the self) then emerges with the combination of the I and the Me.

Examples/scenarios will vary by student.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 57-58

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

13) Durkheim would argue that in today's modern society, we are living in a state of organic solidarity. What does he mean by this, and do you agree? Why or why not?

Answer:

Organic solidarity is organized around interdependence and the increasing division of labour.

Durkheim argued that while we are more collectively oriented and live in a less punitive society today than in the past, we no longer have the *choice* to coexist—instead, we *need* each other to survive. Losing the ability to choose to live with the collective takes away our independence and results in more social unrest and tension because we lack a basic sense of freedom and independence. Our increasing division of labour and the resulting specialization means that we have become completely interdependent. Durkheim argued that this increasing differentiation of our roles in society was the inevitable outcome of progress since all organisms develop from simple to complex through time.

Answers will vary by student.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 43-44

Skill: Conceptual/Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

14) According to Marx, how do the relations of production in a capitalist system lead to exploitation, and inescapable inequality?

Answer:

In a capitalist economy, the worker and owner are in diametrically opposed positions: the worker wants to make the most money for the least amount of effort, and the owner wants to obtain the most labour for the least amount of money. Workers feel that owners do not care about their well-being—they are interested only in profits. Conversely, owners know that workers do not care about the quality of the products they produce—they are interested only in how much they are paid for their work. To generate a healthy return on their investment (e.g., factories, raw materials), owners are motivated to exploit their workers. Thus, exploitation is the difference between what workers are paid and the wealth they create for the owner. For capitalism to prosper, workers should be paid as little as possible. The owner has costs associated with producing the widgets (raw materials, factory costs, packaging, distribution, advertising), so the real level of exploitation depends on many factors. In addition, owners need to generate surplus/profit so they can invest in new technology in order to stay competitive in the marketplace. As such, the relationship between owners and workers can and will never be equal.

Diff: Moderate

Type: ES

Page Reference: 51-52

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

15) Explain Marx's concept of ideology and discuss how the demographics of Canada's social, political, and economic elite support Marx's ideas of the role of the dominant ideology in society.

Answer:

Ideology can be defined as a set of beliefs and values that support and justify the ruling class of a society. Canada's political, economic, and social elite are Caucasian men. As a society, we tend to believe that these people are where they are because they have earned it. However, if you begin to look beyond these individuals' capacities, you will find that as a society, we rarely challenge the ideological assumptions that support either the accumulation of wealth by individuals at the exclusion of the poor (i.e., capitalism) or the belief that what men do is more important than what women do. The dominant ideology of a society, then, is one that maintains the position of the ruling elite.

Diff: Challenging

Type: ES

Page Reference: 53-54

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

1) The idea that people are responsible for creating the social world around them was completely accepted by those who believed that human beings existed by virtue of God's will.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: TF

Page Reference: 32

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

2) Social theorist Hobbes argued that, at their most basic, human beings are motivated by self-interest and the pursuit of power.

a. True

Correct: *Correct*

b. False

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: TF

Page Reference: 32

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

3) Locke viewed people in their natural state as fearful of each other and in need of a government to protect them.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: TF

Page Reference: 33

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

4) Rousseau suggested that human beings are the only animal that is intrinsically imperfect and thus imperfectible.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: TF

Page Reference: 35

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

5) Enlightenment thinkers suggested that individuals had limited human agency due to divine intervention.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: TF

Page Reference: 35

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

6) The conservative reaction to the Enlightenment was based on the belief that society is not the product of individuals but, rather, an entity in itself.

a. True

Correct: *Correct*

b. False

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: TF

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

7) Charles Darwin coined the term *survival of the fittest*, which implies that the strong will survive.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: TF

Page Reference: 39

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

8) Conflict theorists suggest that those in power should stay in power because it results in stability.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: TF

Page Reference: 47

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

9) Functionalist theorists offer no account of social change in their emphasis on stability and equilibrium.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: TF

Page Reference: 46

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

10) For symbolic interactionists, human actors are the product of external and constraining social forces.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: TF

Page Reference: 55

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

11) Conservative reactionaries to the enlightenment felt that healthy competition between individuals was a good thing.

a. True

Correct: *Correct*

b. False

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

Answer: a

Diff: Moderate

Type: TF

Page Reference: 37

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Describe the early contributions of social philosophers and their relevance to classical sociological theory.

12) Karl Marx would view our current university system as a functional and practical way to help young people fulfill their wants and desires.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: TF

Page Reference: 51

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique conflict theory and the contributions of its founding theorists.

13) Herbert Spencer's critique of social welfare programs shows that he saw great utility in applying his sociological imagination.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Challenging

Type: TF

Page Reference: 40

Skill: Applied

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.

Ravelli/Webber: Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective, Third Edition
Chapter 02: Classical Social Theories

14) *Verstehen* refers to understanding the meaning of an action from an objective, impartial, “outsiders” point of view.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Easy

Type: TF

Page Reference: 56

Skill: Factual

Objective: Review and critique symbolic interactionism and the contributions of its founding theorists.

15) Talcott Parson's AGIL typology was an important contribution to conflict theory as it outlined the mechanisms for maintaining social equilibrium.

a. True

Incorrect: *Incorrect*

b. False

Correct: *Correct*

Answer: b

Diff: Moderate

Type: TF

Page Reference: 45

Skill: Conceptual

Objective: Review and critique functionalism and the contributions of its principal theorists.