

CHAPTER 1

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A social problem exists when most people in a society _____.
 - a. learn about the problem from the mass media
 - b. agree that something should be done to remedy a condition
 - c. realize that a problem is now directly affecting their neighborhood and family
 - d. have become victimized by criminals or other deviants
 - e. become politically active and vote on the basis of a single issue: that particular social problem

2. Your text illustrates the definition of a social problem with two examples: opium use in China and women's lack of the right to vote in the United States until 1920. These examples demonstrate that _____.
 - a. an existing social condition becomes a social problem when it is redefined as a problem that must be solved
 - b. minorities, such as drug users and women, often cause social problems
 - c. drug use and lacking the right to vote are social problems, no matter where they occur
 - d. social problems occur everywhere
 - e. communists can solve social problems

3. The idea that a society should intervene to remedy conditions affecting its citizens was a new development in the _____.
 - a. period of social unrest of the 1960s
 - b. period of urban-industrialization of the nineteenth century
 - c. wartime years of the early 1940s
 - d. economic depression years of the 1930s
 - e. "enlightenment" of the late eighteenth century

4. _____ not only guaranteed the rights of individual citizens, but also established the legal basis for remedying conditions that are harmful to society's members.
 - a. Our economic affluence
 - b. The United States Constitution
 - c. The platforms of the two major political parties
 - d. Prevailing public sentiment
 - e. The philosophy of a free-enterprise society

5. What is wrong with an explanation that blames a personal characteristic (such as laziness) for a problem (such as poverty) experienced by an individual?
- Personal characteristics are private and should not be exposed.
 - Explanations should never assess blame.
 - Personal characteristics never cause such problems.
 - Such explanations tell us what to do to solve the problem, and solutions should be a separate matter.
 - Such explanations do not tell us why the same pattern is repeated for entire groups of people.
6. Which of the following is **NOT** a sociological question?
- Why are increasing numbers of women becoming single mothers?
 - What mental and moral characteristics caused a particular woman to become poor?
 - Why is it that women who are born into poor and minority families are more likely to become single mothers?
 - Does homelessness make it more difficult for women and children to take productive roles in society?
 - Why are an increasing number of single mothers becoming homeless?
7. Which of the following is **NOT** a characteristic of a good sociological question?
- The question asks why a condition exists.
 - The question asks about the social rather than the individual aspects of a problem.
 - The question asks how a condition is distributed in a society.
 - The question asks what action is necessary to eliminate a condition that is unrelated to policy questions.
 - The question asks whether a condition affects some people more than others.
8. Your text illustrates the three basic perspectives on social problems by showing how they explain the problem of _____.
- unemployment
 - mental illness
 - criminal deviance
 - suicide
 - poverty
9. Sociologists use the term _____ to refer to the positions one holds in groups or organizations.
- statuses
 - occupations
 - norms
 - roles
 - institutions

10. Sociologists use the term _____ to refer to behaviors expected of performance in a position that one holds in a group or organization.
- activities
 - roles
 - statuses
 - demands
 - requirements
11. As a sociological concept, the term ***institution*** refers to _____.
- a place in which criminals are confined
 - some social unit that is old, respected, and revered
 - a place where the mentally ill are treated
 - a group or organization that has become deeply embedded in social life
 - a social structure devoted to meeting the basic needs of people in a society
12. According to the ***functionalist*** perspective, the well-functioning group _____.
- agrees on how roles are to be performed
 - derives rules on how people are to behave
 - acts in ways that reflect basic values
 - All of the above are correct.
 - None of the above is correct.
13. According to the ***functionalist*** perspective on social problems, the main reason for the existence of social problems is that _____.
- societies are fundamentally corrupt
 - people are human and fallible
 - organizations become too rigid and inflexible over time
 - deviance is a natural outcome of increasingly complex social conditions
 - societies sometimes fail to adapt successfully to change and new conditions
14. According to the ***functionalist*** perspective, the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, the Bill of Rights, and the teachings of all the world's religions are examples of sets of rules that _____.
- accept that deviance is natural
 - recognize that societies are fundamentally corrupt
 - specify how people should behave in different social roles
 - specify conduct for dysfunctional individuals within a society
 - disrupt a society's order

15. Which classic figure from early sociology does your text use to exemplify the **functionalist** perspective on social problems?
- Herbert Spencer
 - Karl Marx
 - Max Weber
 - Emile Durkheim
 - William I. Thomas
16. In the **functionalist** approach, the term social _____ is most closely related to social problems.
- stability
 - order
 - function
 - disequilibrium
 - requirement
17. How do **functionalists** answer the question of why particular crimes are committed and punished in some societies, but not in others?
- Each society has its own unique definition of what is criminal, and punishes accordingly.
 - Individuals whose crimes challenge or threaten society's most cherished values will be punished more severely.
 - Each society will punish the members of minority groups more severely than the members of dominant groups.
 - Since there is an element of chance in being caught, different crimes will be severely punished in different societies.
 - Since governments differ, the crimes that are punished will differ as well.
18. According to the _____ perspective, societies fear most the crimes that threaten their members' most cherished values, and individuals who dare to challenge those values will receive the most severe punishments.
- functionalist
 - conflict
 - interactionist
 - developmental
 - social pathology
19. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, functionalist theories regarded criminal deviance as a form of social _____.
- pathology
 - dissensus
 - conflict
 - instability
 - consensus

20. Social disorganization can be manifested in three major ways, which are_____.
- positive, negative, and neutral conditions
 - normlessness, culture conflict, and breakdown
 - rootlessness, anomalies, coping, and disorder
 - hyper-order, disorder, and order
 - pathology, health, and atrophy
21. The *institutional* or *institution-building* approach, which shows how people reorganize their lives to cope with new conditions, is a modern version of the _____ approach to social problems.
- functionalist
 - conflict
 - interactionist
 - social pathology
 - social disorganization
22. A more modern version of the *functionalist* perspective attempts to show how people reorganize their lives to cope with new conditions, resulting in new kinds of organizations and/or whole new institutions. Research focusing on these attempts is known as the _____ approach.
- institutional or institution-building
 - social pathology
 - value conflict
 - disequilibrium
 - social-disorganization
23. The _____ perspective on social problems is based on the belief that social problems arise out of major contradictions, leading to contention between those who have access to the "good life," and those who do not.
- functionalist
 - conflict
 - interactionist
 - social disorganization
 - social pathology
24. Which classic figure from early sociology made major contributions to the *conflict* perspective on social problems?
- Herbert Spencer
 - Karl Marx
 - Max Weber
 - Emile Durkheim
 - William I. Thomas

25. According to Karl Marx, the conflict in capitalist societies takes place between _____.
a. owners of enterprises and their managers
b. corporations and labor unions
c. those in the middle-class and those who control the economy
d. governments and those who control businesses
e. those who own the means of production and those who sell their labor for wages
26. The Marxian conflict view of deviance emphasizes _____.
a. the underlying value consensus of a society and why rules are broken
b. the characteristics of people who commit crimes
c. the career patterns adopted by criminals
d. differences in the power of different groups or classes in society
e. questions about the morality of deviant groups
27. In their work, scholars who adopt a Marxian conflict perspective on deviance usually emphasize how _____.
a. existing institutions can be improved through minor reforms
b. rehabilitation programs can change people by shifting the blame for problems in social populations
c. police forces can be made more effective
d. inequalities of wealth and power seem to account for the distribution of social problems in populations
e. society can organize forces to prevent social reform or revolutionary movements
28. The debate over legalization versus criminalization of abortion reflects disagreements that can be explained by _____ theory.
a. labeling
b. social pathology
c. value conflict
d. social disorganization
e. differential resources
29. "Social problems occur when groups with different values meet and compete." This statement describes _____ theory.
a. value-conflict
b. social disorganization
c. social pathology
d. labeling
e. differential resources

30. According to **value-conflict** theory, a common approach to solving social problems involves _____.
a. strengthening the police so that they may detect more crime and punish wrongdoers
b. finding ways to facilitate negotiation and compromise between and among groups
c. altering the ways that prisons rehabilitate prisoners
d. finding ways to radically restructure social institutions
e. altering the basic values of society
31. In a recent national survey of Americans' attitudes on controversial issues, researchers found that on *none* of the issues presented did more than _____ percent of the respondents line up on either the conservative or liberal side of the question.
a. 16
b. 26
c. 36
d. 46
e. 56
32. According to the _____ perspective on social problems, an individual's or group's definition of the situation is central to understanding the actions of that individual or group.
a. functionalist
b. conflict
c. interactionist
d. normative
e. social agreement
33. Which classic figure from early sociology made a major contribution to the **interactionist** perspective on social problems in the early twentieth century?
a. Karl Marx
b. William I. Thomas
c. Emile Durkheim
d. Herbert Spencer
e. Edward Ross
34. Which two sociologists made major contributions to the **interactionist** perspective on social problems by drawing attention to the importance of what sociologists call **peer groups**?
a. William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki
b. Edward Ross and Franklin Giddings
c. Charles H. Cooley and George H. Mead
d. Frances F. Piven and Richard Cloward
e. Talcott Parsons and Barrington Moore

35. _____ theory stresses that a social process separates deviant and nondeviant persons not by what they do, but by how society reacts to what they do.
- Labeling
 - Value-conflict
 - Social pathology
 - Value-reaction
 - Social disorganization
36. According to **labeling theory**, the act of labeling a person or group deviant may cause society to suffer in which of the following ways?
- Deviance is eliminated from society.
 - Labeling causes those who are labeled to avoid deviance, thereby deterring them.
 - The labeled may accept the definition of themselves as deviant and increase their deviance as a result.
 - The labeling has no effect because of the pro-criminal self-concepts of those labeled.
 - The labeling causes those who are labeled to become an important, powerful, political force.
37. Drug addicts may possess illegal drugs — an act that is criminal. To maintain their "habit," addicts may commit crimes in order to maintain their supply of drugs. This type of crime is categorized as _____ deviance.
- unnecessary
 - criminalized
 - stress-related
 - habitual
 - secondary
38. According to **labeling theory**, a major solution to deviance is _____.
- spending much more money on the criminal justice system so that more people can be labeled
 - changing the definition of what is deviant, such as decriminalizing certain offenses
 - major reform programs that radically restructure the norms and values underlying societal consensus
 - All of the above are solutions.
 - None of the above is a solution.

39. Sociologists distinguish between the nature of media coverage of a social problem and the way that problem is perceived by the public and political leaders. They have also devoted considerable study to the question of how social problems develop from underlying conditions into publicly defined problems that engender social policies and sustained social movements. This subject is often referred to as the "_____" of social problems.
- raison d'être
 - natural history
 - prime predictor
 - essence
 - prime mover
40. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the major stages that most social problems seem to go through, as identified by Spector and Kitsuse?
- legal invasion
 - problem definition
 - legitimacy
 - re-emergence of demands
 - rejection and institution building
41. The text points out that in the second half of the twentieth century, there has been a _____ revolution.
- proletarian
 - corporate
 - lay-person's
 - communications
 - psychological
42. _____ is the subfield of sociology that studies how social conditions are distributed in human populations and how these populations are changing.
- Criminology
 - Gerontology
 - Ecology
 - Demography
 - Demonology
43. The sociological student of social problems often wants information about the incidence of a phenomenon in the total population, expressed numerically in rates. As a research method, _____ is best suited to gain this information.
- field observation
 - survey research
 - demographic study
 - social experiments
 - interview case study

44. Data on unemployment, crime, public opinion, etc., are often generated from interviews of a sample of the population. As a research method, _____ is/are best suited to gain this information.
- a. social experiments
 - b. individual case study
 - c. field observation
 - d. demographic study
 - e. survey research
45. Matched samples, interviewed over time about behavior or opinion, yield what is known as _____ survey data.
- a. cross-cultural
 - b. longitudinal
 - c. historical
 - d. transverse
 - e. horizontal
46. A sociologist interacts actively with a group being studied. This research method is referred to as _____.
- a. group dynamics
 - b. survey research
 - c. participant observation
 - d. demographic study
 - e. social experimentation
47. The _____ perspective on social problems is **MOST** commonly applied in field research.
- a. functionalist
 - b. conflict
 - c. interactionist
 - d. social pathology
 - e. value-conflict
48. In his investigation, "Becoming a Marijuana User," Howard Becker employed _____ as a research method.
- a. social practice experimental research
 - b. participant survey research
 - c. demographic study
 - d. library research
 - e. participant observation field research

49. In his classic study of marijuana use, "Becoming a Marijuana User," Howard Becker demonstrated that _____.
a. marijuana is a substance that "hooks" users physiologically when they try it
b. most drug use initially occurs when an isolated individual tries the substance while alone
c. social interaction must occur for the new user to define and then to experience the appropriate feelings
d. unlike public perceptions of jazz musicians, marijuana use was not discovered in this group
e. marijuana use inevitably leads to heroin use despite the environments in which use occurs
50. In a social experiment, one group is exposed to "treatment." This is called the _____ group.
a. treated
b. control
c. experimental
d. controlled
e. experienced
51. In a social experiment, one group is "left alone," that is, not exposed to "treatment." This is called the _____ group.
a. control
b. natural
c. isolated
d. experimental
e. neutral
52. The "Wildcat Experiment," involving supported work for jail inmates, and Philip Zimbardo's simulated prison study, exemplifies _____.
a. survey research
b. demographic experiments
c. interview studies
d. field studies
e. social experiments
53. In the study of social problems, _____ is/are the most likely technique to raise major questions about the ethical limits of social research.
a. demographic study
b. social experiments
c. library research
d. field observation studies
e. survey research

54. Today, social experiments on human subjects must guarantee the rights of _____.
a. life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
b. autonomy, integrity, and heterogeneity
c. privacy, confidentiality, and informed consent
d. personality, self-determination, and nondeception
e. personal property and social survival
55. Social _____ are formal procedures designed to remedy social problems.
a. solutions
b. structures
c. changes
d. stratifications
e. policies
56. Social policy discussions that argue over how adequate proposed answers are in achieving agreed-upon ends can be called _____ debates.
a. technical
b. policy
c. public
d. private
e. ideological
57. Policy debates that are _____ frequently pit conservatives against liberals or socialists.
a. public
b. ideological
c. structural
d. personal
e. technical
58. Social policy decisions that created governmentally funded benefits such as Social Security and unemployment insurance create what Americans have come to view as " _____ " of citizenship.
a. entitlements
b. benefits
c. grants
d. income
e. assistances
59. As a type of social policy, _____ is/are usually advocated today by those who are "conservative" on the political spectrum.
a. expanded public assistance programs
b. increased governmental regulation, intervention, and involvement
c. reduced regulation so that private free-market forces will solve problems
d. social programs like in the 1960s
e. a reduced role for private charities in solving problems

60. As a type of social policy, _____ is/are usually advocated today by those who are "liberal" on the political spectrum.
- reduced governmental regulation
 - public subsidies for large corporations
 - releasing free-market forces
 - enhancing opportunities for private profit
 - programs that involve public or governmental actions
61. Voices on the conservative side of the ideological spectrum of American politics tend to take a moral stance on many social problems and often insist on _____ for solving them.
- philosophical debates
 - intellectual probings
 - individual responsibility
 - public or government intervention
 - private or market solutions
62. Which of the following statements about the globalization of the economy is **FALSE**?
- Globalization of economic activities provides lower-cost goods for consumers in advanced industrial nations.
 - Culture wars have arisen as a result of the social problems caused by globalization, and have made it difficult to arrive at ways to solve social problems.
 - Economic globalization takes jobs away from workers in the world's wealthier nations.
 - Globalization of economic activities provides higher-cost goods for consumers in advanced nations because of increased production and transportation costs.
 - Technology-dependent globalization has facilitated new forms of crime (such as identity theft) and social problems, such as the spread of new diseases.

ESSAYS

63. Define a "social problem." What must happen for a social problem to develop in a society?
64. Describe the social problems that have arisen as a result of the globalization of the world economy. Do you think that the U.S. is capable of solving its own social problems, along with those of the rest of the world?
65. List and define the three basic sociological perspectives on social problems. How do they differ in approaching social problems?
66. Select a social problem, such as crime or deviance, and compare and contrast how each of the basic sociological perspectives approach the problem.

67. Examine a social problem like crime or deviance using the functionalist perspective.
68. Examine a social problem like crime or deviance using the conflict perspective.
69. Examine a social problem like crime or deviance using the interactionist perspective.
70. The economic recession of 2008 has led to a variety of social problems. Describe at least two such problems. Be sure to use at least one perspective (functionalist, interactionist, or conflict) to examine these problems.
71. You are interested in how social movements are organized to bring about change that enlarges the opportunities available to the poor. Which basic approach to social problems would you use? Why?
72. You are interested in how stable social arrangements become disorganized and how this affects the amount of rule violation. Which basic approach to social problems would you use? Why?
73. You are interested in understanding the processes through which persons become confirmed in a deviant identity. Which basic approach to social problems would you use? Why?
74. Discuss the natural history of social problems. Be sure to mention the major stages that most social problems seem to go through, as identified by Spector and Kitsuse.
75. How has the communications revolution during the latter half of the twentieth century affected people's perceptions of social problems? Give a few examples.
76. Much debate over social policy involves what the role of government should be. What has been the role of government in social policy over the past 100 years in the United States? What consequences have resulted from the role that government has played thus far?
77. Depending upon your personal stance, write an essay in which you defend either a conservative or liberal position on social problems. Briefly explain *why* you have this point of view.

KEY TO MULTIPLE CHOICE ITEMS

<u>Q</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>P</u>
1.	b	4-5
2.	a	5
3.	e	5
4.	b	5
5.	e	6
6.	b	6
7.	d	6
8.	c	6-10
9.	a	6
10.	b	7
11.	e	7
12.	d	7, 8
13.	e	8, 9
14.	c	8
15.	d	8
16.	d	9
17.	b	9, 10
18.	a	9, 10
19.	a	9
20.	b	10

<u>Q</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>P</u>
21.	a	10
22.	a	10
23.	b	10, 11
24.	b	10, 11
25.	e	11
26.	d	11
27.	d	11
28.	c	11, 12
29.	a	11, 12
30.	b	12
31.	e	13
32.	c	14
33.	b	14
34.	c	14
35.	a	14
36.	c	14
37.	e	14
38.	b	14, 15
39.	b	16
40.	a	16, 17

<u>Q</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>P</u>
41.	d	17
42.	d	19
43.	c	19, 20
44.	e	20
45.	b	20
46.	c	20, 21
47.	c	21
48.	e	21
49.	c	21
50.	c	21, 22
51.	a	21, 22
52.	e	22
53.	b	22, 23
54.	c	22
55.	e	22
56.	a	22, 23
57.	b	23
58.	a	24
59.	c	23, 24
60.	e	24
61.	e.	23
62.	d.	2, 25