**CHAPTER 01: SOCIOLOGY AND THE REAL WORLD**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. Sociologists observe society:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | by studying the various parts of a society, and the ways they interact and influence each other. |
| b. | by studying society as if it were a concrete object, in the same way a geologist studies rocks. |
| c. | by using the preconceptions, assumptions, and beliefs that come from living in a society. |
| d. | through the use of special scientific tools that provide unmediated access to the very heart of society. |

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 9–10 OBJ: What Is Sociology?

MSC: Applying

2. Even though a small number of people have been trained academically as sociologists, we can all be described as “everyday sociologists” because:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | sociology is a part of human nature. |
| b. | our parents taught us to be sociologists even before they sent us to school. |
| c. | we are all members of society and therefore we have a great deal of background knowledge about how society works. |
| d. | sociologists are really just observers of conventional wisdom. |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Page 9

OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge MSC: Remembering

3. Unlike sociologists, most people base their knowledge of the world on:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | expert knowledge based on surveys and interviews. |
| b. | scientific journals and other publications that summarize the conclusions of professional researchers. |
| c. | conventional wisdom, background knowledge, and personal experience. |
| d. | the opinions of their parents and other family members. |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Page 9

OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge MSC: Remembering

4. Sociology can be defined as the systematic and scientific study of human society and social behavior. Given this definition, which of the following levels of social structure best describes what sociologists might examine?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Almost any level—from interactions between two people to large-scale institutions |
| b. | Mass culture and large institutions |
| c. | Relations between individuals |
| d. | Large-scale social structures that involve significant numbers of people |

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Page 14

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Understanding

5. Howard Becker said that sociology can best be understood as the study of people “doing things together.” This definition reminds us that:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | neither society nor the individual exists in isolation; each is dependent on the other. |
| b. | sociology is only interested in the way people act, not in the way they think. |
| c. | only large-scale interactions that involve many people can be understood by sociologists. |
| d. | individuals exist independently of society and can be understood without considering social influence. |

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Page 9 OBJ: What Is Sociology?

MSC: Applying

6. Sociology can be approached from both a microsociological and a macrosociological perspective. Which is more useful?

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

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 14–16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Applying

7. Which of the following statements best characterizes microsociology?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | It is an approach that examines interactions between individuals and the ways those interactions reflect larger patterns within a society. |
| b. | It is an approach that examines institutional interactions that occur over time. |
| c. | It is an approach that quantifies data about social structures so that they can be analyzed statistically. |
| d. | It is an approach that focuses exclusively on gender and power as they are enacted socially. |

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Page 14

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Remembering

8. Researcher Pam Fishman studied the conversations of heterosexual couples to determine how power is created and maintained through face-to-face interactions on an everyday basis. How would you describe her approach?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Macrosociological | c. | Microsociological |
| b. | Historical | d. | Comparative |

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 15–16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Applying

9. Sociologists assert that there is a close relationship between the individual and society. How does Pam Fishman’s research on gender and power in heterosexual couples characterize this relationship?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Fishman’s data shows how macro-level phenomena like gender and power manifest themselves in everyday interactions. |
| b. | It doesn’t—Fishman’s data only shows how individuals act. |
| c. | Fishman’s data shows that micro-level phenomena have almost no relationship to macro-level phenomena; they seem to be largely independent of each other. |
| d. | Fishman’s research shows that there is no relationship between the individual and society. |

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Page 16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Applying

10. Which of the following statements best describes the approach taken by macrosociologists?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Macrosociology concentrates on the way large social institutions are created through individual interactions. |
| b. | Macrosociology examines large-scale social structure to see how it affects individual lives. |
| c. | Macrosociology focuses on creating beginner’s mind—in contrast to microsociology, which uses expert’s mind. |
| d. | Unlike microsociology, macrosociology focuses on creating scientific knowledge of the world, rather than practical knowledge. |

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Page 16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Understanding

11. Researcher Christine Williams looked at patterns of occupational sex segregation, examining the ways large-scale social structures create the constraints within which individuals live their lives. Her work would be characterized as what kind of sociology?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Microsociology | c. | Comparative-historical sociology |
| b. | Transnational sociology | d. | Macrosociology |

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Page 16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Applying

12. Macrosociology and microsociology approach the study of society from different perspectives. How does sociology, as a discipline, deal with these two very different approaches?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Most sociologists are macrosociologists; microsociologists are only a small minority. |
| b. | Most sociologists think of these two perspectives as being on a continuum with each other, adopting whichever perspective seems most useful for a particular problem. |
| c. | Although the field is fairly evenly split between these two perspectives, almost all sociologists feel strongly that their perspective is the correct one. |
| d. | Microsociology used to dominate the field, but more recently macrosociology has become the dominant perspective. |

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 14–16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Analyzing

13. Regardless of their various approaches to social phenomena, what are all sociologists trying to do?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Illuminate the connection between the individual and society |
| b. | Explain why poverty and inequality still exist |
| c. | Compare the present with the past |
| d. | Understand how our society is different from other cultures and other times |

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 10–13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Understanding

14. According to C. Wright Mills, what one quality of mind do all great sociologists possess?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Stoicism | c. | Biographical imagination |
| b. | Sociological imagination | d. | Attention to detail |

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Applying

15. What is the sociological imagination?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | A property of society that ensures that people remain ignorant of the connections between their lives and social change |
| b. | A particular way of understanding the criminal mind, such as that of a serial killer |
| c. | The ability to understand the connections between biography and history, or the interplay of the self and the world |
| d. | The sociological approach that assumes that individual decisions and interactions are independent of larger social institutions |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Remembering

16. Why did C. Wright Mills think that it is important for everyone, even people who will never take a sociology class, to develop a sociological imagination?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | It will help generate more jobs for sociologists. |
| b. | Many people remain unaware of the intricate connections between the patterns of their own lives and the larger course of history. |
| c. | The sociological perspective is innately understood by nearly everyone, but we rarely acknowledge it. |
| d. | It will encourage growth in the field of microsociology. |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Analyzing

17. Why would culture shock be a useful state of mind for a sociologist?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | It makes us unable to function even in simple, everyday ways. |
| b. | It requires us to travel, which helps us grow as human beings. |
| c. | Shock is always good for thinking, because it sharpens the mind. |
| d. | It makes us realize that we lack an understanding of our surroundings, so we are truly able to perceive what is right in front of us. |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Pages 11–13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Understanding

18. In order to verify what the everyday actor might just accept or assume to be true, the social analyst must take the perspective of:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | the social worker | c. | the stranger |
| b. | the native | d. | the insider |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Page 9

OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge MSC: Remembering

19. Taking the sociological approach to everyday life has strengths and weaknesses. One of the weaknesses of this approach is that it:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | accepts many things as true that it cannot verify or confirm. |
| b. | labors to grasp things that everyday actors understand implicitly. |
| c. | is a practical approach, rather than a scientific approach. |
| d. | requires you to act like a local even when you really feel like an outsider. |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Page 9

OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge MSC: Understanding

20. When it comes to understanding everyday life, one of the weaknesses of being an everyday actor is that you:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | are forced to see everything from the perspective of a stranger. |
| b. | must labor to grasp even simple, common occurrences. |
| c. | can only see things from a historical perspective. |
| d. | make assumptions and gloss over many things that the social analyst strives to understand systematically. |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Page 9

OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge MSC: Understanding

21. Many everyday cultural practices—such as greeting a friend, giving someone flowers, or using the thumbs-up sign—seem like natural ways of acting. Why does having an awareness of how these practices vary across cultures demonstrate a healthy sociological imagination?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | It reminds us that everyday interactions are connected to larger social structures. |
| b. | It helps us economically when we do business in different countries. |
| c. | It lets us understand how immigrants perceive America when they move here. |
| d. | It shows us that cultures are not as different as we sometimes think they are. |

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Understanding

22. Together and in groups, people organize their lives and their social interactions to produce a real and meaningful world. Sociologists can study this because:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | they are interested in all aspects of human psychology. |
| b. | we organize our lives in patterned ways. |
| c. | sociology understands the importance of human psychology. |
| d. | we often assign characteristics to an entire group of people based on experience with a single member of that group. |

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Page 9 OBJ: What Is Sociology?

MSC: Remembering

23. Why are there disagreements among sociologists about how to define sociology?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Society is always changing. |
| b. | Sociologists are trained to be anti-empiricists. |
| c. | There is actually very little disagreement among sociologists about how to define the discipline. |
| d. | Sociology encompasses a large intellectual territory of potential subject matters. |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 9–10 OBJ: What Is Sociology?

MSC: Applying

24. Metaphorically, what part of sociology is a zoom lens on a camera most like?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Qualitative research | c. | Quantitative research |
| b. | Microsociology | d. | Macrosociology |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Page 14

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Applying

25. Researcher Pam Fishman noticed that within heterosexual couples, women are more likely than men to use questions in conversation. Why is this finding sociologically important?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Questions are more likely to be used by the partner with less power, so Fishman’s research demonstrates connections between general social structures and individual behaviors. |
| b. | Conversational styles are inherent, so Fishman’s research shows a biological basis for larger social structures. |
| c. | It demonstrates the importance of conversation in maintaining a healthy relationship. |
| d. | It shows that individuals have no real free will or agency and are controlled by the dictates of social structure. |

ANS: A DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 15–16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Analyzing

26. The reality television show *Wife Swap* exchanges the matriarchs from two very different families and films the result as the participants are exposed to radically different ways of life. Although the television network is simply trying to be entertaining, the show also demonstrates the sociological principle of:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Sociological imagination | c. | Quantitative methods |
| b. | Globalization | d. | Culture shock |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 11–13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Applying

27. Some sociologists use a macrosociological approach, whereas others take a microsociological approach. How does this difference affect the ultimate goal of their research?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Microsociologists care only about local concerns. |
| b. | Macrosociologists are much more likely to be worried about globalization. |
| c. | No matter what approach they take, all sociologists attempt to illuminate the connection between the individual and society. |
| d. | Regardless of which method they use, all sociologists tend to believe that individuals are ultimately in control of their own destiny. |

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 14–16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Understanding

28. Many Marxist sociologists assume that large-scale economic structures are the most important factors in people’s lives. This assumption is an example of:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Microsociology | c. | Qualitative sociology |
| b. | Macrosociology | d. | Conservative sociology |

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Page 16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Understanding

29. If you possess a sociological imagination and someone asks you to study unemployment rates in a city of fifty million people where fifteen million are unemployed, where should you start?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | You should consider the economic and political structures of the society. |
| b. | You should consider the work ethic of the average citizen. |
| c. | You should worry about the intelligence level of the workers who have lost their jobs. |
| d. | You should ask the people who are unemployed how much they want to work. |

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Understanding

30. A sociology student is taking a course on the sociology of the economy. In this class, she learns that even though she always thought of her family as middle class, her parents’ income actually qualifies them as upper class compared with that of the rest of the country. What just happened?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | The student discovered the importance of microsociology. |
| b. | The student gained a beginner’s mind. |
| c. | The student moved from being an everyday actor to being a social analyst. |
| d. | The student spent some time “doing nothing,” as Bernard McGrane suggested. |

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Page 9

OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge MSC: Applying

31. The divorce rate has steadily increased over time, and now more than a quarter of all marriages end within the first four years. What sort of factors would C. Wright Mills suggest investigating to explain this increase?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Religious factors | c. | Structural factors |
| b. | Personal factors | d. | Psychological factors |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Applying

32. You are looking over the courses that are offered at your school and you see a class called “The Sociology of Media and Popular Culture.” You don’t think you need this course, because you listen to lots of music, watch a wide variety of television, and often go to the movies. What would a sociologist tell you?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | You are a specialist in mass media. |
| b. | You should try to watch media from other cultures if you really want to understand popular culture. |
| c. | You should take classes in film studies instead. |
| d. | You only have “reciped,” or practical, knowledge. |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Page 9

OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge MSC: Applying

33. There is a close relationship between sociology and the other social sciences. Given how much overlap there is between these fields, why does sociology still exist as a discipline?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | All the other fields are more specialized, but sociology is a field that considers a huge intellectual territory. |
| b. | Sociology does not use historical context. |
| c. | Sociology departments are an academic tradition and would be difficult to disband. |
| d. | Political science and economics departments are much more politically conservative, so sociology is needed to provide a liberal counterbalance. |

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Page 10 OBJ: What Is Sociology?

MSC: Applying

34. If you didn’t know anything about Pam Fishman except that she studied conversation patterns, what could you logically determine about her?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | She is a conflict theorist. | c. | She is a structural functionalist. |
| b. | She is a macrosociologist. | d. | She is a microsociologist. |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 15–16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Applying

35. Look at the graphic representation of sociology’s family tree. Given that they were both very influential in the classical stage of sociological theory, why are Karl Marx and Émile Durkheim depicted so far apart?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Marx’s work is no longer considered very important. |
| b. | Émile Durkheim wasn’t really a sociologist; he thought of himself as more of a psychologist. |
| c. | The theoretical schools they founded are very different. |
| d. | Durkheim was French, whereas Marx was born in Germany. |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 19–26 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

36. Unlike earlier religious traditions that attempted to determine the ultimate cause or source of reality, Auguste Comte developed positivism in order to:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | explain how class conflict drove social change. |
| b. | argue that symbolic interactions between individuals were the basis for social life. |
| c. | justify a particular kind of social system based on hierarchy and privilege. |
| d. | identify laws that describe the behavior of a particular reality. |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Page 18 OBJ: Sociology’s Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

37. What historical events convinced Auguste Comte that society needed to be guided by thinkers who understood social laws?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | The American Civil War and the battle over slavery |
| b. | Globalization, and the rise of international trade and commerce |
| c. | The French Revolution and the instability that followed it |
| d. | The age of exploration and the expansion of European powers into Africa |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Page 18 OBJ: Sociology’s Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

38. Harriet Martineau supported many ideas that were radical for her time, including:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the liberation of French colonies in Africa. |
| b. | international communism and socialism. |
| c. | labor unions and the abolition of slavery. |
| d. | the French Revolution and the abolition of the monarchy. |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Pages 18–20 OBJ: Sociology’s Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

39. What was probably Harriet Martineau’s most important contribution to the development of sociology as a discipline?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Her theory of alienation |
| b. | Her translation of the work of Auguste Comte into English |
| c. | Her work on an early theory of symbolic interactionism |
| d. | Her struggle for women’s rights |

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Pages 18–20 OBJ: Sociology’s Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

40. Who coined the phrase “the survival of the fittest”?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Charles Darwin | c. | Émile Durkheim |
| b. | Karl Marx | d. | Herbert Spencer |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Page 20 OBJ: Sociology’s Family Tree

MSC: Remembering

41. What economic system emerged during the Industrial Revolution?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Communism | c. | Globalization |
| b. | Humanitarianism | d. | Capitalism |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Page 20 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

42. Émile Durkheim suggested that in traditional societies, people were bound together through mechanical solidarity. What was the basis of these sorts of bonds?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Interdependence and the division of labor |
| b. | Shared traditions and similar experiences |
| c. | A strong ruler who exercised absolute control over the population |
| d. | Superstition |

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Pages 20–21 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

43. On any given day, within ten minutes of waking up, you probably depend on more than 100 strangers to provide electricity, water, natural gas, weather forecasts, and other services. According to Durkheim, this interdependence gives rise to:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | mechanical solidarity. | c. | organic solidarity. |
| b. | class consciousness. | d. | pragmatism. |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 20–21 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

44. In Émile Durkheim’s study *Suicide,* he reported that suicide rates went up when the economy slumped but they also increased when the economy boomed. Which of Durkheim’s concepts explains why both positive and negative economic conditions could increase suicide rates?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Alienation | c. | Mechanical solidarity |
| b. | Anomie | d. | Organic solidarity |

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 20–21 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

45. According to Émile Durkheim, industrialized societies function via an organic solidarity. What is the basis for organic solidarity?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Religion and tradition |
| b. | Shared experiences and similar beliefs |
| c. | Globalization and communications technology |
| d. | Interdependence and individual rights |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Pages 20–21 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

46. Durkheim theorized that the rapidly changing conditions of modern life lead to anomie. What is anomie?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Normlessness, or a loss of connections to the social world |
| b. | Anger and disillusionment with progress |
| c. | The transfer of destructive urges to socially useful activities |
| d. | A kind of social solidarity based on interdependence |

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Page 21 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

47. In *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life,* Émile Durkheim argued that religion was a powerful source of social solidarity. Why?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Religion established authorities who had control over entire societies. |
| b. | Different religions were constantly appearing and disappearing. |
| c. | There were many arguments about which religion represented the truth. |
| d. | Religion reinforced collective bonds and cultivated shared moral values. |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Page 21 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

48. According to the theoretical position developed by Karl Marx, what is the engine of social change?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Conflict between social groups |
| b. | Exploration beyond the boundaries of a given society |
| c. | Development of technology |
| d. | Shared moral values |

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Pages 23–24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

49. According to Karl Marx, the most important factor in social life is a person’s:

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

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Pages 23–24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

50. What does Marx see as the primary tool for the oppression of the lower classes in modern society?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | The increasing power of the police state |
| b. | Religious authorities |
| c. | The aristocracy |
| d. | Industrial capitalism |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Pages 23–24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

51. What term did Karl Marx use to describe the fact that most of the population accepts the pervading ideology, even when it fails to tell the truth about their lives?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Class consciousness | c. | Ethnomethodology |
| b. | Existentialism | d. | False consciousness |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Page 24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Superstition and belief in the supernatural |
| b. | Drug use and alcoholism |
| c. | The use of religion by the ruling class to oppress the working class |
| d. | The way individuals use religion to support their actions |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Page 24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

53. According to Karl Marx, how could a belief in heaven as a reward for earthly suffering serve the interests of the ruling class?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | By keeping the lower classes from demanding better treatment in this life |
| b. | By distracting the lower classes with gaudy spectacles |
| c. | By using the church as a means to extract economic resources from the poor |
| d. | By keeping the working classes busy with religious activities so that they wouldn’t have time to organize |

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Page 24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

54. What did Karl Marx think the lower classes needed to develop in order to end their oppression?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | A critical theory of gender | c. | Class consciousness |
| b. | A stronger sense of *verstehen* | d. | False consciousness |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Page 24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

55. According to Karl Marx, how is class consciousness, or revolutionary consciousness, developed?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | When a vanguard party leads a violent revolution |
| b. | Through a religious awakening |
| c. | When industrial production is perfected so that most of the workers are unemployed |
| d. | When the lower classes come to recognize how society works and challenge those in power |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Page 24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

56. One of Karl Marx’s most important achievements was developing the principle of praxis. What does this mean that he thought intellectuals should do?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Constantly practice and develop the craft of social analysis |
| b. | Not just theorize about the world but change it |
| c. | Evaluate ideas based on their usefulness in everyday life |
| d. | Analyze and give meaning to every action |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Page 26 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

57. In the United States today, the richest 1 percent of Americans have 40 percent of the country’s wealth. Karl Marx would call this:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Alienation | c. | Social inequality |
| b. | Bourgeoisie | d. | Organic solidarity |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 23–24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

58. In Great Britain in the eighteenth century, a series of Enclosure Acts were established by Parliament, that broke up small farms, forced many small farmers to move to large cities in search of wage labor, and increased agricultural profits for landowners. What large-scale social system was this a part of ?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Socialism | c. | Feudalism |
| b. | Agrarian utopianism | d. | Capitalism |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Pages 23–24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

59. “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs” is a slogan that best represents the ideals of which social system?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Dictatorship | c. | Capitalism |
| b. | Communism | d. | Totalitarianism |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 23–24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

60. If someone has no way to make money but to sell his own labor, then he must be a member of what social group?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Bureaucrats | c. | The bourgeoisie |
| b. | The proletariat | d. | Capitalists |

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Page 23 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Iron cage | c. | Manifest dysfunction |
| b. | Alienation | d. | Rationalization |

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 26–27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

62. Max Weber believed that as the Industrial Revolution progressed, society became increasingly rationalized. How did he define rationalization?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | An increasing number of rules that limit personal freedom |
| b. | An increasing emphasis on *verstehen,* or the attempt to understand others’ experiences |
| c. | The application of psychology to the economy in order to understand how to increase productivity |
| d. | The application of economic logic to all aspects of social life |

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Pages 26–27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

63. Max Weber believed that modern industrialized societies were characterized by which of the following institutions?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Churches | c. | Bureaucracies |
| b. | Central governments | d. | Prisons |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Pages 26–27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

64. What did Max Weber mean when he said that modern people are trapped in an “iron cage”?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Most aspects of life are increasingly controlled by rigid rules and rationalization. |
| b. | More and more people live under totalitarian dictators and therefore lose their basic rights and freedoms. |
| c. | Increasingly, modern society has more laws and it uses them to put more people in prison. |
| d. | The conditions of modern life create a psychic prison that leaves most people discontent with civilization. |

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Pages 26–27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

65. Max Weber helped lay the groundwork for sociologists who would develop symbolic interactionism as a theory, because he believed that a social scientist should approach the study of human action:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | through a theoretical lens that emphasizes disenchantment and bureaucracy. |
| b. | from a value-free point of view. |
| c. | with *verstehen* (understanding), which emphasizes the need for empathy with individuals’ experiences. |
| d. | through psychoanalysis and the work of Sigmund Freud. |

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Page 27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

66. What did W.E.B. DuBois have in common with Harriet Martineau?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Both made careers of studying race and racism. |
| b. | Both were from the American South. |
| c. | Both saw symbolic interactionism as the most promising element of social theory. |
| d. | Both were intrigued by America’s democratic promise but disappointed in its hypocritical injustices. |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 18–20 |Pages 29–30

OBJ: Sociology’s Family Tree | Microsociological Theory MSC: Applying

67. Jane Addams was an early advocate of applied sociology. This means that she did not just do research, but that she also:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | reported illegal activities to the proper authorities. |
| b. | examined the historical origins of the phenomena she researched. |
| c. | tried to address social problems through hands-on activity in the communities she researched. |
| d. | compared the communities she studied to communities from other cultures. |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Page 30 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

68. What is the term used to describe sociological research that is intended to solve social problems, such as the research done by Jane Addams?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Practical sociology | c. | Moral sociology |
| b. | Postmodern sociology | d. | Applied sociology |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Page 30 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

69. Although she made contributions to sociology, Jane Addams is perhaps best remembered for her embrace of praxis, meaning that she:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | was a pragmatist. |
| b. | acted on her intellectual convictions in practical ways. |
| c. | applied dialectics to her understanding of history. |
| d. | embraced conflict theory. |

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Page 30 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Applying

70. What school of social theory believes that society is a stable system of structures, each of which contributes to the equilibrium of the whole?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Symbolic interactionism | c. | Structural functionalism |
| b. | Dramaturgy | d. | Conflict theory |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 20–23 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

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

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

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Page 22 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

72. According to Robert Merton, which of these statements about manifest functions is true?

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

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Page 22 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

73. Which of the following is a latent function of the educational system in the United States?

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

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Page 22 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

74. Which of the following is the most serious critique of structural functionalism?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | It tends to argue that intellectuals should act on what they believe. |
| b. | It overemphasizes the importance of the economy. |
| c. | It fails to provide a universal social theory. |
| d. | It tends to argue that any social feature that exists must serve a function. |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 22–23 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

75. Which of the following theories views society as a whole unit, made up of interrelated parts that work together?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Structural functionalism | c. | Symbolic interactionism |
| b. | Conflict theory | d. | Postmodernism |

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Page 22 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

76. Some Marxists believe that conflict between medieval burghers and small merchants on the one hand, and the nobility on the other, led to the creation of modern capitalism, which was distinct from either of the opposing forces. What would Marx call this model of historical change?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | A critical model | c. | A class consciousness model |
| b. | A dialectical model | d. | A nihilist model |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Page 24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

77. In his *Theses on Feuerbach,* Karl Marx argued that “the philosophers have only interpreted the world, the point is to change it.” What Marxist principle is defined by this quote?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Dialectics | c. | Praxis |
| b. | Dysfunctions | d. | Conflict |

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Page 26 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

78. Which of the following theories focuses on how our behaviors are dependent on the ways we interpret, make sense of, and define ourselves, others, and social situations?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Conflict theory | c. | Psychoanalysis |
| b. | Symbolic interactionism | d. | Structural functionalism |

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Pages 27–31 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

79. Which social theory focuses on micro-level interactions?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Symbolic interactionism | c. | Conflict theory |
| b. | Structural functionalism | d. | Pragmatism |

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Pages 27–31 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

80. According to symbolic interactionism, what is the relationship between the self and society?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | The development of a sense of self is guided by society. |
| b. | The self is shaped by society, but society is also shaped by the self. |
| c. | Both the self and society are created by the course of history. |
| d. | Both the self and society are shaped by larger external forces. |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 27–31 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Understanding

81. The theory of symbolic interactionism was developed by:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the Chicago School of sociology. |
| b. | the National Opinion Research Center. |
| c. | midcentury structural functionalists. |
| d. | Northwestern University. |

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Page 27 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

82. Symbolic interactionism argues that people act toward things on the basis of their meaning. According to this perspective, how does meaning arise?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Meaning is inherent in objects and actions. |
| b. | Meaning is learned through the study of philosophy and history. |
| c. | Meaning is negotiated through interaction with others. |
| d. | Meaning is learned through the study of science and nature. |

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 27–31 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Applying

83. A dishonest judge must pretend to be an honest judge, but even an honest judge must play the role of “honest judge” for an audience in order to interact and work with others effectively. This performance is an example of what theoretical perspective?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Structural functionalism | c. | Ethnomethodology |
| b. | Dramaturgy | d. | Conflict theory |

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Page 30 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Applying

84. What is the link between feminist theory and conflict theory?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | They both see the economy as central to the functioning of society. |
| b. | They both seek to not only understand inequality but also to remedy it. |
| c. | They both see gender as the most important aspect of social identity. |
| d. | They both were developed at about the same time. |

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 24–25 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

85. Why is the term “queer” used to describe queer theory?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | It emphasizes that some people are born with a fixed orientation and cannot change. |
| b. | It emphasizes the importance of difference and rejects the idea of a single gay or lesbian identity. |
| c. | It is an easily definable category. |
| d. | It has a long history of use within the gay and lesbian community. |

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 25–26 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

86. If a sociologist argues that we have seen the “dissolution of master narratives or metanarratives,” what is his theoretical perspective?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | Feminist theory | c. | Structural functionalism |
| b. | Conflict theory | d. | Postmodernism |

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Page 33 OBJ: New Theoretical Approaches

MSC: Applying

**TRUE/FALSE**

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

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Remembering

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

ANS: T DIF: Easy REF: Pages 10–13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Remembering

3. Beginner’s mind, a concept borrowed from the Zen Buddhist tradition, is the opposite of the sociological perspective.

ANS: F DIF: Moderate REF: Page 10 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Remembering

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

ANS: F DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 14–16

OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology MSC: Remembering

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

ANS: T DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 20–27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

**SHORT ANSWER**

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 18–21

OBJ: Sociology’s Family Tree | Macrosociological Theory MSC: Applying

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 25–26 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 33–34 OBJ: New Theoretical Approaches

MSC: Applying

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 23–26 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 20–23 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 10–13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Remembering

7. According to C. Wright Mills, when we think of our personal problems as private matters of character, what are we failing to see?

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Page 13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Applying

8. What are the advantages of midrange theory?

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Page 34 OBJ: New Theoretical Approaches

MSC: Remembering

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Page 30 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Applying

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

ANS:

Conflict theory emphasizes social inequality as the basic characteristic of society, structural functionalism looks at society as a unified whole that needs separate structures to function, and Weberian theory studied the process of rationalization and bureaucracies.

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 20–27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

**ESSAY**

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 10–13 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Understanding

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Page 9 OBJ: Practical vs. Scientific Knowledge

MSC: Remembering

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 14–16 OBJ: Levels of Analysis: Micro- and Macrosociology

MSC: Understanding

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

ANS:

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

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 20–26 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Analyzing

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 27–31 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Analyzing

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 27–31 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Applying

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 20–27 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Analyzing

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 20–23 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 23–24 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Analyzing

10. Describe the sociological theories that developed from symbolic interactionism. What do they have in common and how do they further the perspective?

ANS:

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

DIF: Moderate REF: Pages 30–31 OBJ: Microsociological Theory

MSC: Remembering

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

ANS:

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

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

DIF: Easy REF: Pages 33–34 OBJ: New Theoretical Approaches

MSC: Understanding

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Difficult REF: Page 22 OBJ: Macrosociological Theory

MSC: Applying

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

ANS:

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

DIF: Difficult REF: Pages 20–27 OBJ: The Sociological Perspective

MSC: Analyzing