Instructor’s Exam Questions for *Readings for Sociology,* Ninth Edition

**Part I: The Study of Sociology**

**1. Sociology as an Individual Pastime** (from *Invitation to Sociology*)  
PETER L. BERGER

1) According to Peter Berger (*Invitation to Sociology*), the discipline of sociology is   
defined by

a. its use of statistics to test hypotheses.

b. the good works and improved living conditions that come from higher education.

c. its effort to understand society in a scientific way.

d. its respect for others’ privacy, and its avoidance of personal matters.

2) Berger believes that sociology

a. is a scientific practice that is only successful if the sociologists are passionate about doing it.

b. is a waste of money if it does not make people’s lives better.

c. must use statistics to be credible.

d. is invaluable as a tool to make the world a better place.

3) When we talk about sociological methods we are referring to

a. a particular way sociologists act in public settings, as opposed to in their   
personal lives.

b. the processes by which sociologists gather and analyze data.

c. a teaching technique that raises questions rather than provides answers.

d. the scholarly writing done by sociologists.

4) Berger writes about several images people have of sociologists. Which is NOT one   
of them?

a. sociologist as scientist with a sense of inferiority about the quality of his or her science

b. sociologist as statistician

c. sociologist as celebrity, often appearing on television to give an opinion of news events and social problems

d. sociologist as solver of society’s problems

5) Berger describes the sociologist as a person who is

a. committed to changing the world.

b. easy to get along with and much admired.

c. curious about everything people do.

d. unlikely to vote, but knows a lot about voters and voting behavior.

6) Sociologists make an effort to do many things. Which of the following is NOT one   
of them?

a. understand and appreciate what is socially deviant as well as what is socially acceptable

b. question the things everyone takes for granted

c. compare social practices in their own society with those in other societies

d. discover potential threats to their country’s security and communicate these to the government

e. discover or uncover information that provides new insight into what people think they know

Answer Key for Instructor’s Exam Questions for *Readings for Sociology,* Ninth Edition

**Part I: The Study of Sociology**

1. **Sociology as an Individual Pastime** (from *Invitation to Sociology*)   
PETER L. BERGER

1. c

2. a

3. b

4. c

5. c

6. d