

CHAPTER 2

Sociology's Family Tree: Theories and Theorists

CONCEPT MAP

- I. What Is Theory?
- II. Sociology's Family Tree
 - A. Sociology's Roots
 - i. Auguste Comte
 - ii. Harriet Martineau
 - iii. Herbert Spencer
 - B. Classical Sociological Theory
 - i. Emile Durkheim
 - ii. Karl Marx
 - iii. Max Weber
 - iv. Sigmund Freud
 - C. Eurocentrism
 - D. W. E. B. Du Bois
 - E. Jane Addams
- III. Modern Sociological Theory
 - A. Structural Functionalism
 - B. Conflict Theory
 - C. Symbolic Interactionism
 - D. Analyzing Mass Media
- IV. New Theoretical Approaches
 - A. Feminist Theory
 - B. Queer Theory
 - C. Postmodern Theory

TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS

1. The poem "The Blind Men and the Elephant" suggests that there is only one correct approach to understanding social life.

ANS: F NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 34
OBJ: What Is Theory? (I)

2. A hundred years from now, our descendents will probably consider our contemporary treatments for mental illnesses to be just as useless and inhuman as we now consider treatments from the past.

ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 35
OBJ: What Is Theory? (I)

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ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 36
OBJ: Sociology's Roots (II.A)

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

ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 39
OBJ: Classical Sociological Theory (II.B)

7. Emile Durkheim believed that even the most individualistic actions had social origins.

ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 40
OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

8. Emile Durkheim's pioneering work, *Suicide*, used data gleaned from government records to help look for correlations between demographic variables and suicide. This made his work compatible with Auguste Comte's ideas about how society should be studied.

ANS: T NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Pages 36, 40
OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

9. According to Emile Durkheim, traditional religious beliefs are the only source of social stability.

ANS: F NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 40
OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

10. Like most social psychologists, Sigmund Freud was interested in the development of the self, but, because he was a psychologist, he did not see this development as the result of social processes.

ANS: F NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 43
OBJ: Sigmund Freud (II.B.iv)

11. Functionalism argues that only dysfunction can create social change.

ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

12. Conflict theory uses a dynamic model of historical change that presents change as constant, ongoing, and inevitable.

ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 47
OBJ: Conflict Theory (III.B)

13. According to conflict theory, most major social institutions are separate from the economy and therefore do not reinforce the class structure.

ANS: F NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 47
OBJ: Conflict Theory (III.B)

14. According to Erving Goffman, a person's sense of self is constant and stable over time.

ANS: F NOT: Factual

DIF: Easy REF: Page 54
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

15. W. E. B. Du Bois became so disillusioned with the United States that he voluntarily exiled himself to Ghana near the end of his life.

ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 48
OBJ: W. E. B. Du Bois (II.D)

16. The National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) believes that, aside from dealing with issues related to gender, it must also address sexism, homophobia, class prejudice, and other oppressions. This means that it will never really be a feminist group, since feminist theory focuses on gender alone.

ANS: F NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 58
OBJ: Feminist Theory (IV.A)

17. Queer theory argues that no category of sexual identity is fundamentally deviant or normal.

ANS: T NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 58
OBJ: Queer Theory (IV.B)

18. Hip-hop music is an example of postmodernism in popular culture.

ANS: T NOT: Applied
DIF: Easy REF: Page 59
OBJ: Postmodern Theory (IV.C)

19. Postmodern social theorists attempt to construct “grand narratives,” overarching theories that give a sense of order and coherence to the world.

ANS: F NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 59
OBJ: Postmodern Theory (IV.C)

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following could NOT be used as a synonym for the term “theory”?
- school of thought
 - paradigm
 - perspective
 - method
 - approach

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 35
OBJ: What Is Theory? (I)

2. Which of the following is NOT an early theory of the cause of mental illness?
- demon possession
 - problems of brain chemistry
 - individual weakness
 - moral failures
 - astrological position of the moon

ANS: B NOT: Factual

DIF: Easy REF: Page 35
OBJ: What Is Theory? (I)

3. Look at the graphic representation of sociology's Family Tree (figure 2.1). Given that they're both very influential in the classical stage of sociological theory, why are Karl Marx and Emile Durkheim depicted so far apart?
- Marx's work is no longer considered very important.
 - Durkheim was greatly influenced by Marx, but not vice versa.
 - Emile Durkheim wasn't really a sociologist, he thought of himself more as a psychologist.
 - The theoretical schools they founded are very different.
 - Durkheim was French, while Marx was born in Germany.

ANS: D NOT: Conceptual
DIF: Medium REF: Pages 39–40
OBJ: Sociology's Family Tree (II)

4. Unlike earlier religious traditions, which attempted to determine the ultimate cause or source of reality, Auguste Comte developed positivism in order to:
- explain how class conflict drove social change
 - argue that symbolic interactions between individuals were the basis for social life
 - justify a particular kind of social system based on hierarchy and privilege
 - develop *verstehen*, or understanding, of individual behavior
 - identify laws that describe the behavior of a particular reality

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 36
OBJ: Auguste Comte (II.A.i)

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

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 36
OBJ: Auguste Comte (II.A.i)

6. Harriet Martineau supported many ideas that were radical for her time, including:
- the liberation of French colonies in Africa
 - international communism and socialism
 - social Darwinism
 - labor unions and the abolition of slavery
 - the French Revolution and the abolition of the monarchy

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 36
OBJ: Harriet Martineau (II.A.ii)

7. According to Chapter 2, what was probably Harriet Martineau's most important contribution to the development of sociology as a discipline?
- her theory of alienation
 - her translation of the work of Auguste Comte into English
 - her work on an early theory of symbolic interactionism
 - her struggle for women's rights
 - her distinction between manifest and latent functions

ANS: B NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 38
OBJ: Harriet Martineau (II.A.ii)

8. Who coined the phrase “the survival of the fittest”?
- Charles Darwin
 - Karl Marx
 - Emile Durkheim
 - Harriet Martineau
 - Herbert Spencer

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 39
OBJ: Herbert Spencer (II.A.iii)

9. The functionalist perspective, especially in the work of Herbert Spencer, views society as:
- a machine
 - an organism
 - a planet
 - a computer
 - a window

ANS: B NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 39
OBJ: Herbert Spencer (II.A.iii)

10. Classical sociological theory, although it was often interested in issues of class and religion, had very little to say about race. This might lead some to see sociology as:
- positivist
 - sublimated
 - repressed
 - focused on praxis
 - eurocentric

ANS: E NOT: Applied
DIF: Easy REF: Pages 38–39
OBJ: Classical Sociological Theory (II.B)

11. What economic system emerged during the Industrial Revolution?
- socialism
 - communism
 - humanitarianism
 - globalization
 - capitalism

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 41
OBJ: Classical Sociological Theory (II.B)

12. Emile Durkheim suggested that, in traditional societies, people were bound together through mechanical solidarity. What was the basis of these sorts of bonds?
- interdependence and the division of labor
 - shared traditions and similar experiences
 - a strong ruler who exercised absolute control over the population
 - superstition
 - fear of the unknown

ANS: B NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 40

OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

13. 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 fore-casts, and more. This interdependence gives rise to:
- mechanical solidarity
 - class consciousness
 - conflict
 - organic solidarity
 - pragmatism

ANS: D NOT: Applied

DIF: Medium REF: Page 40

OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

14. In Emile Durkheim's work *Suicide*, he reported that suicide rates went up when the economy slumped, but also spiked when the economy boomed. Which of Durkheim's concepts from Chapter 2 explain why both positive and negative economic conditions could increase suicide rates?
- alienation
 - anomie
 - mechanical solidarity
 - organic solidarity
 - empiricism

ANS: B NOT: Conceptual

DIF: Hard REF: Page 40

OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

15. According to Emile Durkheim, industrialized societies display organic solidarity. What is the basis for organic solidarity?
- religion and tradition
 - shared experiences and similar beliefs
 - bureaucracy and strong central government
 - globalization and communications technology
 - interdependence and individual rights

ANS: E NOT: Factual

DIF: Easy REF: Page 40

OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

16. Which of the following people sounds like they're experiencing anomie?
- A recently retired senior citizen is planning to travel across the country in a Winnebago to visit relatives, but is worried about crime in some of the places she wants to visit.
 - A freshman in college, away from home for the first time, can't decide what to do about his girlfriend from high school, who is attending a different college.
 - A married mother of two works long hours at the office and still seems to do the majority of the housework.
 - A teenager in a gothic phase is dressed all in black, reads poems about death and suicide, and feels as though no one really cares about him.
 - A young woman expecting her first baby is worried about postpartum depression and is trying to get her husband more involved in planning for the baby.

ANS: D NOT: Conceptual

DIF: Medium REF: Page 40

OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

17. Emile Durkheim argued that even an action as seemingly individual as suicide has important social components. What social factors did he examine?
- geography and travel
 - genetics
 - religious affiliation and marital status
 - war and international conflict
 - race and ethnicity

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 40
OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

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

ANS: A NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 40
OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

19. In 2008 Polish film maker Andrzej Wajda released his film *Katyn*, about the massacre of 20,000 Polish officers by the Soviet Union during World War II. When asked why he had made this movie, Wajda said he wanted to make a film for “those moviegoers for whom it matters that we are a society and not just an accidental crowd.” Wajda believed that it was still possible for people to be bound together on the basis of shared traditions and experiences. In his statement, Wajda was expressing a hope that Poland could still be united by:
- organic solidarity
 - conflict
 - manifest functions
 - mechanical solidarity
 - positivism

ANS: D NOT: Conceptual
DIF: Hard REF: Page 40
OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

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

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 40
OBJ: Emile Durkheim (II.B.i)

21. Which social theorist is associated with communism as a political system?
- Emile Durkheim
 - Max Weber
 - Auguste Comte
 - Karl Marx
 - Talcott Parsons

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 40
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

22. According to the theoretical position developed by Karl Marx, what is the engine of social change?
- conflict between social groups
 - cooperation between social groups
 - exploration beyond the boundaries of a given society
 - development of technology
 - shared moral values

ANS: A NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 40
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

23. According to Karl Marx, what is the most important factor in a person's social life?
- race and ethnicity
 - religious beliefs
 - relationship to the means of production
 - strength of social bonds
 - level of education

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 41
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

24. How does Karl Marx differentiate between members of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie?
- Members of the proletariat own the means of production, while the bourgeoisie possess only their own labor.
 - Members of the proletariat benefit directly from their own labor, while the bourgeoisie do not.
 - Members of the proletariat have a greater sense of solidarity than the bourgeoisie.
 - Members of the proletariat have to repress their deepest desires for a safer, more constructive existence in a community.
 - Members of the bourgeoisie own the means of production, while the proletariat possess only their own labor.

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 41
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

25. What does Marx see as the primary tool for the oppression of the lower classes in modern society?
- the increasing power of the police state
 - religious authorities
 - aristocracy
 - environmental destruction
 - industrial capitalism

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 41
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

26. When Max Weber declared that most often "men's commercial and social interests do determine their opinions and attitudes," what element of conformity was he indicating that he agreed with?
- a dynamic model of historical change

- b. a belief that society is a stable, ordered system of parts
- c. dialectics
- d. a materialist view of society
- e. a critical stance toward existing social arrangements

ANS: D NOT: Conceptual
DIF: Hard REF: Pages 46–47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

27. Karl Marx believed that the economy was closely related to other social processes, including politics, values, beliefs, and norms. As a result, he also believed that:
- a. the lower classes have the power to challenge the upper classes
 - b. the lower classes almost always understand the sources of their oppression
 - c. the ruling ideas are the ideas of the ruling class
 - d. the ruling class has relatively little control over popular culture
 - e. the ruling ideas are meant to support the lower classes

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

28. 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
 - b. dialectics
 - c. pragmatism
 - d. ethnomethodology
 - e. false consciousness

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

29. What was Marx criticizing when he said that religion is “the opiate of the masses”?
- a. the lower classes
 - b. superstition and any belief in the supernatural
 - c. drug use and alcoholism
 - d. the use of religion by the ruling class
 - e. the way religion blinds people to scientific truth

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

30. 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 class 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 lower classes busy with religious activities so that they wouldn’t have time to organize
 - e. by making people meek

ANS: A NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

31. What did Karl Marx think that the lower classes needed to do in order to end their oppression?

- a. develop a dialectical model
- b. stop being disenchanted
- c. develop a stronger sense of *verstehen*
- d. develop class consciousness
- e. develop false consciousness

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

32. According to Karl Marx, how is class consciousness, or revolutionary consciousness, developed?
- a. when a vanguard party leads a violent revolution
 - b. through the further development of false consciousness
 - c. through a religious awakening
 - d. when industrial production is perfected, so that most of the workers are unemployed
 - e. when the lower classes come to recognize how society works and challenge those in power

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

33. Given that they subscribed to Karl Marx's thinking about ideology and false consciousness, what do critical theorists have to say about mass media?
- a. Mass media have been especially valuable in the development of feminism and theories about race.
 - b. Mass media reflect the interests and needs of entire societies.
 - c. Mass media are ideological tools of the ruling class.
 - d. Mass media are a force for revolutionary change.
 - e. Mass media can help limit the rise of consumerism.

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 47
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

34. One of Karl Marx's most important achievements was developing a theory 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. develop statistical models of economic processes
 - d. evaluate ideas based upon their usefulness in everyday life
 - e. analyze and give meaning to every action

ANS: B NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 50
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

35. In the United States today, the richest 20 percent of Americans have 85 percent of the country's wealth. Marx would call this:
- a. alienation
 - b. bourgeoisie
 - c. social inequality
 - d. capitalism
 - e. organic solidarity

ANS: C NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 41
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

- b. solidarity
- c. wealth
- d. desperation
- e. voting rights

ANS: A NOT: Applied
DIF: Hard REF: Page 41
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

41. If you were to hear someone singing a song with these lines:

It is we who plowed the prairies; built the cities where they trade;
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid;
Now we stand outcast and starving midst the wonders we have made.

You might conclude, along with Karl Marx, that the people being described suffered from:

- a. *verstehen*
- b. anomie
- c. structural dysfunctions
- d. alienation
- e. a lack of solidarity

ANS: D NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 41
OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

42. Early sociologists rarely embraced the ideas of Karl Marx. Who was the key exception to this trend?

- a. Max Weber
- b. Emile Durkheim
- c. Talcott Parsons
- d. George Herbert Meade
- e. Herbert Blumer

ANS: A NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 41
OBJ: Max Weber (II.B.iii)

43. 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. Egg McMuffins, however, do not improve the taste or the experience of eggs benedict. Max Weber might have described the Egg McMuffin as the _____ of breakfast.

- a. iron cage
- b. alienation
- c. manifest dysfunction
- d. rationalization
- e. *verstehen*

ANS: D NOT: Applied
DIF: Hard REF: Page 42
OBJ: Max Weber (II.B.iii)

44. In 1987, the software company Infocom released a game called *Bureaucracy*, scripted by the science-fiction writer Douglas Adams. In the game, a character struggles to keep her blood pressure low enough to avoid a heart attack while changing her address and dealing with a large, impersonal, and inefficient bureaucracy. Although the game is meant to be humorous, what element of *Bureaucracy* would be familiar to Max Weber?

- a. nothing

- b. the frustration that comes with dealing with a bureaucracy
- c. the sense of humor and whimsy with which the game treats bureaucracies
- d. the lack of efficiency associated with bureaucracies
- e. the impersonal nature of bureaucracy

ANS: E NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 42
OBJ: Max Weber (II.B.iii)

45. If the only thing that you remember about Max Weber is that he described modern people as being trapped in an “iron cage,” which of the following quotes from the social theorist Marshall Berman would you think describes his work?
- a. “not only its breathless pace, its vibrant energy, its imaginative richness, but also its fast and drastic shifts in tone and inflection”
 - b. “alive to its possibilities, affirmative even in their radical negations, playful and ironic”
 - c. “It is a voice that knows pain and dread, but believes in its power to come through.”
 - d. “Modern man as a subject—capable of response, judgement, and action in and on the world—has disappeared.”
 - e. “a vision of modernism as an unending permanent revolution against the totality of modern existence”

ANS: D NOT: Conceptual
DIF: Hard REF: Page 42
OBJ: Max Weber (II.B.iii)

46. 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
 - e. the increasing number of jobs that paid an hourly wage

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 42
OBJ: Max Weber (II.B.iii)

47. What institutions does Max Weber believe characterize modern industrialized societies?
- a. churches
 - b. central governments
 - c. stock markets
 - d. bureaucracies
 - e. prisons

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 42
OBJ: Max Weber (II.B.iii)

48. What does Max Weber mean when he says that modern people are trapped in an “iron cage”?
- a. Most aspects of life are increasingly controlled through rigid rules and rationalization.
 - b. Increasingly, we live and work in smaller and smaller physical locations, as if crammed in a cage.
 - c. More and more people live under totalitarian dictators and so lose basic rights and freedoms.
 - d. Increasingly, modern society has more laws and uses them to incarcerate more people in prison.

DIF: Medium REF: Page 43
OBJ: Sigmund Freud (II.B.iv)

53. Which two primary forces, according to Sigmund Freud, are essential to all human nature?
- verstehen* and disenchantment
 - Eros and Thanatos
 - ego and id
 - bourgeoisie and proletariat
 - self and society

ANS: B NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 43
OBJ: Sigmund Freud (II.B.iv)

54. According to Sigmund Freud, it is better to sublimate inappropriate drives rather than to repress them because:
- repression can lead to physiological problems such as high blood pressure
 - sublimation can help decrease disenchantment
 - repression can interfere with a normal dream cycle
 - repression makes people discontent, while sublimation does not
 - sublimation can direct drives into socially acceptable and constructive activity

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 43
OBJ: Sigmund Freud (II.B.iv)

55. How did Sigmund Freud explain people's discontent?
- Humans are inherently unable to understand their own deepest desires.
 - Humans have no idea what is going on in their unconscious minds.
 - People are not allowed to satisfy their deepest desires and are forced to trade them for a safer, if more constructive, existence.
 - People are forced to live in the company of strangers whose deepest desires involve violence and destruction.
 - Human nature is fundamentally violent and destructive.

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 43
OBJ: Sigmund Freud (II.B.iv)

56. Although it is more often associated with sociology, what historical change did Sigmund Freud believe had a significant effect on individuals?
- women's suffrage
 - the great depression
 - World War II
 - the rise of bureaucracy
 - the Industrial Revolution

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 43
OBJ: Sigmund Freud (II.B.iv)

57. The United States is still sexist in many ways, making men and women hesitant to engage in activities commonly associated with the "wrong" gender. According to Nancy Chodorow, what will have to happen to reduce the constraints of traditional sex roles?
- More girls will have to pursue careers in math and science.
 - Fathers will have to be as involved as mothers in all aspects of parenting.
 - More laws regulating sexual discrimination in the workplace will have to be passed.
 - More educational opportunities will have to be provided for young women.

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

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

63. Functionalist theory is very concerned with the ways that 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. part of the means of production
 - e. an informal agreement between people over a wide geographical area

ANS: A NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

64. Although functionalism is less popular today, what accounts for the strong appeal that it had for early sociologists?
- a. Functionalism helps to explain rapid change.
 - b. Functionalism helps to explain class conflict and inequality.
 - c. Functionalism is the least conservative of all sociological theories.
 - d. Functionalism helps describe the way we present ourselves to others on a face-to-face basis.
 - e. Functionalism helps to bring order to a rapidly changing and messy social world.

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

65. According to Robert Merton, what is the difference between manifest and latent functions?
- a. Manifest functions usually have something to do with social conflict and change.
 - b. Manifest functions are intended and obvious.
 - c. Manifest functions are accidental and often hard to recognize.
 - d. Manifest functions are designed to alleviate inequality.
 - e. Manifest functions are designed to critique the social system that produced them.

ANS: B NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

66. Which if 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. instructing new immigrants in American values and history
 - e. all of the above

ANS: B NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

67. Which of the following is the most serious critique of structural functionalism?
- a. It tends to overlook those areas of society that are stable and orderly.

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

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 46
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

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

ANS: A NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

69. Stricter control of the border between the United States and Mexico was implemented to curb illegal immigration, but it also made illegal immigrants more likely to stay in the United States for longer periods of time, as frequent border crossings became both dangerous and costly. The increase in the number of illegal immigrants who stayed permanently or semipermanently is:
- a. a manifest function of the border patrol
 - b. a latent function of increased security
 - c. a serious source of anomie
 - d. a source of mechanical solidarity
 - e. a cause for repression and sublimation

ANS: B NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 44
OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

70. Conflict theorists believe that arguments over values and beliefs have their roots in:
- a. division between urban and rural populations
 - b. conflict between conservatives and liberals
 - c. struggles over scarce resources and power
 - d. longstanding philosophical debates
 - e. differences in opinion that originate in religion

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 46
OBJ: Conflict Theory (III.B)

71. Which of the following is a major critique of conflict theory?
- a. It has a hard time explaining inequality.
 - b. It overemphasizes the importance of face-to-face interaction.
 - c. In focusing on conflict and change, it sometimes ignores the stable and enduring parts of society.
 - d. It overemphasizes continuity.
 - e. It fails to develop any theory of praxis that could help researchers put their theories into action.

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 50

OBJ: Conflict Theory (III.B)

72. Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer argue that:

Under monopoly all mass culture is identical, and the lines of its artificial framework begin to show through. The people at the top are no longer so interested in concealing monopoly: as its violence becomes more open, so its power grows. Movies and radio need no longer pretend to be art. The truth that they are just business is made into an ideology in order to justify the rubbish they deliberately produce. They call themselves industries; and when their directors' incomes are published, any doubt about the social utility of the finished products is removed.

With which theoretical paradigm does this passage suggest that Adorno and Horkheimer identify?

- a. queer theory
- b. feminist theory
- c. conflict theory
- d. structural functionalism
- e. symbolic interactionism

ANS: C

NOT: Applied

DIF: Medium

REF: Pages 46–47

OBJ: Conflict Theory (III.B)

73. 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
- b. a functional model
- c. the dialectical model
- d. a class-consciousness model
- e. a materialist model

ANS: C

NOT: Applied

DIF: Medium

REF: Page 47

OBJ: Conflict Theory (III.B)

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

- a. dialectics
- b. dysfunctions
- c. materialism
- d. praxis
- e. conflict

ANS: D

NOT: Applied

DIF: Medium

REF: Page 50

OBJ: Conflict Theory (III.B)

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

- a. conflict theory
- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. psychoanalysis
- d. structural functionalism
- e. postmodernism

ANS: B

NOT: Factual

DIF: Easy

REF: Page 50

81. The theory of symbolic interactionism was developed by:
- the Chicago School of sociology
 - the National Opinion Research Center
 - midcentury structural functionalists
 - the scientific method
 - Northwestern University

ANS: A NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 50
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

82. Symbolic interactionism argues that people act toward things on the basis of their meaning. What is the source of things' meaning?
- Meaning is inherent in objects and actions.
 - Meaning is learned through the study of philosophy and history.
 - Meaning is negotiated through interaction with others.
 - Meaning is learned through the study of science and nature.
 - Meaning is passed on through tradition.

ANS: C NOT: Factual
DIF: Hard REF: Page 54
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

83. Which theoretical perspective shows how large-scale social structures are produced by individuals at the micro level?
- positivism
 - pragmatism
 - social Darwinism
 - symbolic interactionism
 - structural functionalism

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 51
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

84. Which of the following types of social theory did NOT develop from symbolic interactionism?
- dramaturgy
 - ethnomethodology
 - conversation analysis
 - analysis of everyday interaction
 - the dialectical model

ANS: E NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 54
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

85. Which of the following has NOT been offered as a critique of symbolic interactionism?
- It is unscientific, more like journalism than sociology.
 - It is astructural, and therefore unable to address the classic questions of sociology.
 - It is of extremely limited scope.
 - It has trouble understanding the meaning that individuals give to their actions.
 - It is apolitical, and therefore supports the status quo.

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Medium REF: Page 56
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

86. Charles Horton Cooley famously said “each to each a looking-glass reflects the other that doth pass.” What about this quote exemplifies symbolic interactionist theory?
- It focuses on false consciousness.
 - It focuses on the undesirable consequences of some elements of the social system.
 - It focuses on individual, face-to-face interaction.
 - It focuses on conflict and inequality.
 - It focuses on the stable and interrelated parts of society.

ANS: C NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 54
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

87. “Truth in our ideas means their power to work.” This is the most basic statement of what theoretical perspective?
- pragmatism
 - conflict theory
 - structural functionalism
 - dialectics
 - feminist theory

ANS: A NOT: Applied
DIF: Hard REF: Page 51
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

88. While a dishonest judge must pretend to be an honest judge, even an honest judge must play the role of “honest judge” for an audience in order to interact and work with others effectively. What theoretical perspective considers this performance?
- structural functionalism
 - dramaturgy
 - conversation analysis
 - ethnomethodology
 - conflict theory

ANS: B NOT: Applied
DIF: Hard REF: Page 54
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

89. If you find a sociologist who studies simple greetings in hallways, the way that people play tic-tac-toe, or some other element of everyday interaction, what sort of sociologist have you found?
- a conflict theorist
 - a feminist theorist
 - a dramaturgist
 - a postmodernist
 - an ethnomethodologist

ANS: E NOT: Applied
DIF: Hard REF: Page 54
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

90. If you meet a sociologist whose work requires that she use a tape recorder to painstakingly transcribe all of her data, what is her theoretical perspective?
- conflict theory
 - structural functionalism
 - conversation analysis
 - dramaturgy

e. postmodernism

ANS: C NOT: Applied
DIF: Hard REF: Pages 54–55
OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

91. What is the link between feminist theory and conflict theory?
- Both see the economy as central to the functioning of society.
 - Both seek not only to understand inequality, but also to remedy it.
 - Both see gender as the most important aspect of social identity.
 - Both developed at about the same time.
 - Both are fundamentally conservative.

ANS: B NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 58
OBJ: Feminist Theory (IV.A)

92. According to queer theorists, how should we think about sexual identity?
- Sexual identity is natural and related to a person's genetic makeup.
 - Sexual identity is formed in the womb by exposure to hormones.
 - Sexual identity is a choice made by individuals.
 - Sexual identity is fluid and can change over an individual's lifetime.
 - Sexual identity is established at an early age and often tied to a person's relationship with his mother.

ANS: D NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Page 58
OBJ: Queer Theory (IV.B)

93. Why is the term "queer" used to describe queer theory?
- It emphasizes that some people are born with a fixed orientation and cannot change.
 - It emphasizes the importance of difference and rejects the idea of a single gay or lesbian identity.
 - It is catchy and gets people's attention.
 - It is controversial and helps to stimulate sales of books and articles written by queer theorists.
 - It has a long history of use within the gay and lesbian community.

ANS: B NOT: Applied
DIF: Hard REF: Page 58
OBJ: Queer Theory (IV.B)

94. Which school of social theory argues that everything is relative, fragmented, temporary, contingent, and ephemeral?
- conversation analysis
 - postmodernism
 - ethnomethodology
 - Marxism
 - structural functionalism

ANS: B NOT: Factual
DIF: Easy REF: Pages 58–59
OBJ: Postmodern Theory (IV.C)

95. Jean-Francois Lyotard has argued that we have seen the "dissolution of master narratives or metanarratives." What is his theoretical perspective?
- feminist theory
 - conflict theory
 - structural functionalism

- d. dramaturgy
- e. postmodernism

ANS: E NOT: Applied
DIF: Medium REF: Page 59
OBJ: Postmodern Theory (IV.C)

96. Although Karl Marx died long before anyone had used the word “postmodern,” many postmodern theorists still draw on elements of his work to inform their own theories. Given what you know about postmodernism, which of the following quotes from Marx’s writings reveals his “postmodern side”?
- a. “Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.”
 - b. “Constant revolutionizing of production, uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation distinguish the bourgeois epoch from all earlier ones. . . . All that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned.”
 - c. “Men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please; they do not make it under self-selected circumstances, but under circumstances existing already, given and transmitted from the past. The tradition of all dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brains of the living.”
 - d. “Hegel remarks somewhere that all great world-historic facts and personages appear, so to speak, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce.”
 - e. “It is absolutely impossible to transcend the laws of nature. What can change in historically different circumstances is only the form in which these laws expose themselves.”

ANS: B NOT: Conceptual
DIF: Hard REF: Page 59
OBJ: Postmodern Theory (IV.C)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Compare and contrast conflict theory with structural functionalism. Pay special attention to the way that 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. Structural functionalism does a poor job of analyzing the origins of change.

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 change. Conflict theorists see change as the inevitable consequence of the struggle over resources.

OBJ: Modern Sociological Theory (III)

2. 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 produce larger social institutions. Pick an example and describe how specific social acts can, when repeated by many people, produce large-scale social structures.

ANS:

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The textbook uses the example of cooking meals and shopping, showing how they help produce large-scale social structures like families and the economy. The key point is that society and the self are twinborn; social structures only exist because they are created through individual action.

OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

3. Symbolic interactionism focuses on communication and meaning. According to symbolic interactionism, how is a meaningful reality created?

ANS:

All meaning is created through interaction. We act toward things on the basis of their meaning, which is not inherent, but is negotiated through interaction and can change or be modified over time.

OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

4. Chapter 2 began with a poem entitled “The Blind Men and the Elephant” by John Godfrey Saxe. In this poem, the blind man might represent sociologists. Explain how the poem can justify the diversity of sociological theories.

ANS:

There are a number of points answers could make. First, because society is large and complex, we require different theories to explain its parts. Second, sociological theories have arisen out of specific historical circumstances and individual experiences. Third, like the blind men in the poem, sociologists spend much time arguing with each other, because all have different ways of looking at social life; none of which can be called either right or wrong.

OBJ: What Is Theory? (I)

5. Classical sociological theory arose in the nineteenth century, in the aftermath of the American and French Revolutions and during the Industrial Revolution. Explain how the theories of Karl Marx, Emile 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 discusses the alienation that comes with urban capitalism, as well as false consciousness and ideology. Weber discusses the disenchantment of the world, as well as the iron cage of bureaucratic rules. Durkheim discusses the anomie or normlessness that comes with the transition from mechanical to organic solidarity.

OBJ: Classical Sociological Theory (II.B)

6. Structural functionalism attempts to explain the social world through the functions of social structures. Describe the types of functions that social structures can fulfill.

ANS:

The textbook examines two ways of categorizing functions. First, Talcott Parsons describes the types of functions that structures fulfill. They help in adapting to the environment, realizing goals, increasing social cohesion, and maintaining cultural patterns. Second, Robert Merton points out that functions can be either manifest (intended) or latent (unintended).

OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

7. 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, they control the rest of society as well. Thus 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 that ruling ideas are the ideas of the ruling class. Answers might also explain the distinction between false consciousness, a condition of blindness about the real circumstances in which one lives, and class consciousness, which understands the economic exploitation inherent in capitalism.

OBJ: Karl Marx (II.B.ii)

8. Describe the sociological theories that developed from symbolic interactionism. What do they have in common?

ANS:

There are three offshoots of symbolic interactionism described in the textbook: Erving Goffman's dramaturgy, Harold Garfinkel's ethnomethodology, and conversation analysis. Each theory emphasizes "social acts rather than social facts," demonstrating that larger social institutions are constantly made and remade in individual actions and interactions.

OBJ: Symbolic Interactionism (III.C)

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

ANS:

Any answer should first point out that, for post-modern 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 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.

OBJ: Postmodern Theory (IV.C)

10. Sigmund Freud may have been the founder of psychoanalysis, but he was interested in more than psychology. He also wrote about the relationship between mental processes, and history and culture. Explain Freud's theory of the unconscious and the relationship between the unconscious and civilization.

ANS:

Freud argued that the subconscious and the unconscious were responsible for the drives, especially Eros and Thanatos, that determined much human behavior. Because many of our instincts, in their most primitive form, are selfish or inappropriate, they are necessarily turned inward and either repressed or sublimated into other purposes. Repression is the source of neuroses. But sublimation can divert, channel, or redirect desires and impulses into more socially acceptable behavior.

Thanatos, the death instinct, leads to violence and destruction in its negative expression, but in its positive expression is transformed into competition and protection. Eros, or the life instinct, leads to lust and gluttony in its negative expression, but in its positive expression is transformed into social bonds and creativity. Freud believed that the greatest accomplishments of modern civilization—from scientific discoveries to forms of government to exquisite works of art—were all results of sublimation. Of course, he contends, sublimation is also why we are all somewhat discontent and why living in society is such an uneasy bargain. We can never fully satisfy our deepest desires, so we trade them for a safer, more constructive existence in community.

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OBJ: Sigmund Freud (II.B.iv)

11. 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:

Chapter 2 defines a manifest function as the obvious, intended function of a structure and the latent function as the less obvious, and sometimes unintentional one. 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 production of a subculture that bonds over its interest in shoes.

OBJ: Structural Functionalism (III.A)

12. Although there is a great deal of overlap between the two, queer theory and feminist theory are separate paradigms. Given only what you learned in Chapter 2, explain what a queer theorist might say about the main goal of feminism, securing the same rights for both men and women.

ANS:

Although queer theorists would applaud the egalitarianism of feminist theory, many would challenge the way that feminism reifies identities and homogenizes women, assuming that all women have the same need and desires. The most radical queer theorists might question the inherent reality of "man" and "woman" as identities and argue that both are social constructs.

OBJ: Queer Theory (IV.B)

13. Identify and describe the most pessimistic elements of the theories of the classical sociological thinkers: Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. Which presents the most pessimistic vision of modernity?

ANS:

Although a variety of elements could be mentioned for each thinker, the section of the textbook on Marx suggests alienation (the sense of dissatisfaction that a worker feels producing goods that are controlled by someone else), the section on Durkheim suggests anomie (the loss of norms and purpose that result from weaker social ties and an increased pace of change) and the section on Weber suggests the iron cage of bureaucracy (technical and economic conditions controlling our lives through rigid rules and rationalization).

OBJ: Classical Sociological Theory (II.B)