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Chapter 01: Sociology: Studying Social Problems

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. **Which of the following terms refers to a point of view that shows us how society affects the experiences and choices of individuals?**
   A) social patterns
   B) sociological imagination
   C) comparative perspective
   D) social problems approach

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-01
Topic: Seeing Patterns—The Sociological Imagination
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.1 Explain the benefits of learning about sociology and using the sociological imagination.
Answer: B) sociological imagination

2. **We tend to assume people are responsible for their own troubles because our way of life in the United States traditionally has emphasized _____.**
   A) collective goals
   B) individualism
   C) tradition
   D) relying on luck

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-02
Topic: Seeing Patterns—The Sociological Imagination
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.1 Explain the benefits of learning about sociology and using the sociological imagination.
Answer: B) individualism

3. **Thinking sociologically about a problem such as unemployment, we understand that this issue is _____.**
   A) the result of bad choices by individuals
   B) inevitable
   C) a personal problem
   D) a social issue involving the operation of society

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-03
Topic: Seeing Patterns—The Sociological Imagination
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.1 Explain the benefits of learning about sociology and using the sociological imagination.
Answer: D) a social issue involving the operation of society

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4. **A social problem is defined as a condition that _____.**
   A) harms everyone in a society
   B) harms only the poorest people in a society
   C) harms only the most powerful people in a society
   D) harms some or all members of a society and is usually controversial

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-04
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: D) harms some or all members of a society and is usually controversial

5. **In 2022, a survey asked people in the United States what they considered to be serious social problems. All but one of the following appeared on the list of serious problems. Which one was not on the list?**
   A) the economy
   B) immigration
   C) high cost of living/inflation
   D) climate change

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-05
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: D) climate change

6. **C. Wright Mills explained that by using the sociological perspective, people transform "personal troubles" into _____.**
   A) social issues
   B) psychological concerns
   C) economic issues
   D) political concerns

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-06
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: A) social issues

7. **The social-constructionist approach asserts that _____.**
   A) society keeps facing the same problems year after year

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B) social problems are those that are the most harmful to a population
C) problems arise as people define conditions as undesirable and in need of change
D) the government decides what the serious problems are

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-07
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: C) problems arise as people define conditions as undesirable and in need of change

8. **An example of a pattern that is very harmful to people in the United States but not generally defined as a social problem is _____.**
A) terrorism, which includes events that have resulted in thousands of deaths
B) school shootings, which have resulted in several dozen deaths
C) the use of automobiles, which results in some 40,000 deaths each year
D) homicide, which involves some 14,000 deaths each year

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-08
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: C) the use of automobiles, which results in some 40,000 deaths each year

9. **Although there is less gender inequality today than there was a century ago, people today are more likely to view gender inequality as a social problem than people were likely to do so back then. This pattern reflects the fact that _____.**
A) what we subjectively perceive always reflects what is objectively true
B) we now expect men and women to be socially unequal
C) we now expect men and women to be socially equal
D) people simply don't agree on what important social problems are

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-09
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: C) we now expect men and women to be socially equal

10. **The process of convincing the public and important public officials that a particular issue should be defined as a social problem is a process that sociologists call _____.**
A) subjective assessment

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B) claims making
C) objective assessment
D) factual analysis

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-10
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: B) claims making

11. **Claims and counterclaims about what should and should not be defined as a social problem is a good way of describing _____.**
A) politics
B) societal consensus
C) coalescence
D) philosophy

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-11
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: A) politics

12. **An organized effort to encourage or discourage social change is called a _____.**
A) social movement
B) sociological theory
C) social-constructionist approach
D) subculture

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-12
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: A) social movement

13. **In which stage of a social movement do the people involved come together to share their concerns and make claims about the need for change?**
A) coalescence
B) formalization
C) decline

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D) emergence

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-13
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: D) emergence

14. **Because social problems result from the ways in which society operates, _____.**
A) these problems cannot ever be solved
B) people must solve their issues on their own
C) solving widespread social problems requires change to society itself
D) all social problems can easily be solved

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-14
Topic: Seeing Patterns—The Sociological Imagination
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.1 Explain the benefits of learning about sociology and using the sociological imagination.
Answer: C) solving widespread social problems requires change to society itself

15. **Because many social issues are related, _____.**
A) no social problem can be solved
B) every social problem can be solved
C) solving one social problem may create a new problem
D) solving any one social problem will solve all social problems

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-15
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: C) solving one social problem may create a new problem

16. **A troublesome issue that directly affects most people in the United States each year but which is not included in the public's response to naming serious social problems is _____.**
A) unemployment
B) poverty
C) being overweight
D) road rage

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-16

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Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: C) being overweight

17. **Adopting a global perspective shows us which of the following patterns?**
    A) Women in poor nations typically have fewer children than women in the United States.
    B) People living in poor nations have as much schooling as people in the United States.
    C) The problems we face in the United States are exactly the same in other countries.
    D) Poverty is even more serious in much of the world than it is in the United States.

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-17
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: D) Poverty is even more serious in much of the world than it is in the United States.

18. **Sociologists use which of the following concepts to refer to a statement of how and why specific facts are related?**
    A) model
    B) correlation
    C) theory
    D) societal subsystem

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-18
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: C) theory

19. **Which of the following concepts refers to a basic image of society that guides theory and research?**
    A) hypothesis
    B) theoretical approach
    C) correlation
    D) societal subsystem

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-19
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: B) theoretical approach

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20. **Which theoretical approach sees society as a system of many interrelated parts that operate together?**
A) structural-functional approach
B) feminist approach
C) social-conflict approach
D) symbolic-interaction approach

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-20
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: A) structural-functional approach

21. **Major spheres of social life, or societal subsystems, are organized to meet a basic human need. Sociologists call these subsystems _____.**
A) theoretical paradigms
B) functional prerequisites
C) social institutions
D) subcultures

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-21
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: C) social institutions

22. **Which early English sociologist made the statement that poverty and related problems were largely caused by some people lacking ability and personal discipline?**
A) Herbert Spencer
B) Emile Durkheim
C) Max Weber
D) Karl Marx

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-22
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: A) Herbert Spencer

23. **Which theory would you be using if you studied how social problems arise when rapid change overwhelms society's institutions?**
A) social-conflict theory
B) social disorganization theory

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C) symbolic-interaction theory
D) social Darwinist theory

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-23
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: B) social disorganization theory

24. **Which of the following concepts refers to the consequences of a social pattern that are intended and widely recognized?**
A) manifest functions
B) latent functions
C) dysfunctions
D) eufunctions

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-24
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: A) manifest functions

25. **Which of the following concepts refers to the negative consequences of social patterns?**
A) manifest functions
B) latent functions
C) dysfunctions
D) eufunctions

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-25
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: C) dysfunctions

26. **If you were studying how society is divided by gender inequality, which theoretical approach would you be using?**
A) the structural-functional approach
B) the feminist approach
C) the symbolic-interaction approach
D) the social Darwinist approach

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-26

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Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: B) the feminist approach

27. **Class-conflict theory is an explanation of social problems guided by the thinking of _____.**
    A) Herbert Spencer
    B) the Chicago School
    C) Emile Durkheim
    D) Karl Marx

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-27
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: D) Karl Marx

28. **According to Marxist theory, social problems such as poverty result from _____.**
    A) an evil human nature
    B) advanced technology
    C) the operation of a capitalist economy
    D) the high rate of immigration

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-28
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: C) the operation of a capitalist economy

29. **Marx predicted that, over time, capitalism would _____.**
    A) steadily raise living standards for everyone
    B) bring about its own collapse
    C) become less and less productive
    D) meet all human needs

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-29
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: B) bring about its own collapse

30. **Karl Marx referred to the industrial workers of his day as _____.**
    A) the bourgeoisie

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B) proletarians
C) the cause of most problems
D) middle class

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-30
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: B) proletarians

31. **If you understand social problems as caused largely by racial and ethnic inequality, you are probably using which of the following theories ?**
A) social disorganization theory
B) class-conflict theory
C) critical race theory
D) feminist theory

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-31
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: C) critical race theory

32. **People who actively seek social equality for women and men would closely identify with which of the following?**
A) feminism
B) multiculturalism
C) social pathology theory
D) social disorganization theory

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-32
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: A) feminism

33. **If a group of friends stops thinking of one of their members as a "social drinker" and begins thinking of the person as a "problem drinker," this process would probably be of greatest interest to someone using which theoretical approach?**
A) symbolic-interaction approach
B) structural-functional approach
C) social-conflict approach
D) social disorganization approach

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Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-33
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: A) symbolic-interaction approach

34. **Which research method involves gaining greater breadth of opinion by emailing many people to ask them a large number of questions?**
A) questionnaire
B) interview
C) secondary analysis
D) experiment

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-34
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: A) questionnaire

35. **If a researcher wishes to present a series of written items to subjects for their response, which of the following methods would the researcher select?**
A) experiment
B) interview
C) questionnaire
D) secondary analysis

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-35
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: C) questionnaire

36. **Compared to questionnaires, interviews offer a researcher the chance to gain greater _____.**
A) depth of understanding
B) breadth of opinion
C) representativeness
D) impersonality

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-36
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Remember the Facts

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Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: A) depth of understanding

37. **Using which of the following methods does a researcher observe people while joining in their everyday activities?**
A) survey
B) experiment
C) participant observation
D) secondary analysis

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-37
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: C) participant observation

38. **What research method did Elijah Anderson use to study families and life on the streets in some of Philadelphia's low-income African-American neighborhoods?**
A) the experiment
B) the survey
C) field research
D) secondary analysis

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-38
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: C) field research

39. **Using which method do researchers investigate cause-and-effect relationships under highly controlled conditions?**
A) the experiment
B) the survey
C) participant observation
D) secondary analysis

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-39
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: A) the experiment

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40. **A research project that uses data already compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau is an example of which of the following research methods?**
A) survey analysis
B) field research
C) secondary analysis
D) experimental research

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-40
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: C) secondary analysis

41. **For German sociologist Max Weber, the main goal of sociology was to _____.**
A) discover truth
B) engage in political debate
C) promote social change
D) avoid the illusion of objectivity

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-41
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: A) discover truth

42. **In evaluating any social policy, it is important to remember that _____.**
A) there is no way to measure a policy's level of "success"
B) there is more than one way to measure a policy's level of "success"
C) policy preferences have little or nothing to do with people's politics
D) the public generally does not care if programs work or not

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-42
Topic: Responding to Social Problems—Social Policy
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.5 Identify factors that shape how societies devise policy to respond to social problems.
Answer: B) there is more than one way to measure a policy's level of "success"

43. **The continuum representing a range of political attitudes of a population is called _____.**
A) a global perspective
B) a research agenda
C) the political spectrum
D) the social-constructionist approach

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Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-43
Topic: Responding to Social Problems—Social Policy
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.5 Identify factors that shape how societies devise policy to respond to social problems.
Answer: C) the political spectrum

44. **According to national surveys carried out in 2021, about what percentage of U.S. adults considered themselves to be slightly liberal, liberal, or extremely liberal?**
A) 13 percent
B) 33 percent
C) 53 percent
D) 73 percent

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-44
Topic: Responding to Social Problems—Social Policy
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.5 Identify factors that shape how societies devise policy to respond to social problems.
Answer: B) 33 percent

45. ***Liberal* is derived from the Latin word for _____.**
A) "library"
B) "literate"
C) "radical"
D) "free"

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-45
Topic: Constructing Problems and Defining Solutions
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.6 Analyze how political attitudes shape how people define social problems and solutions.
Answer: D) "free"

46. **If you were a conservative, you would look for guidance about how to live by keeping in mind the lessons of _____.**
A) science
B) the past
C) the latest thinking on the issue
D) sociology

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-46
Topic: Constructing Problems and Defining Solutions
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.6 Analyze how political attitudes shape how people define social problems and solutions.

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Answer: B) the past

47. **The term "radical" is derived from the Latin, meaning _____.**
    A) "change"
    B) "breaking down"
    C) "of the root"
    D) "follower"

Difficulty: Easy
QuestionID: 01-1-47
Topic: Constructing Problems and Defining Solutions
Skill: Understand the Concepts
Objective: 1.6 Analyze how political attitudes shape how people define social problems and solutions.
Answer: C) "of the root"

48. **Which of the following positions would have the support of social liberals?**
    A) "pro-life" side of the abortion controversy
    B) closing our country's borders to immigrants
    C) use of the death penalty
    D) expanding rights for transgender people

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-48
Topic: Constructing Problems and Defining Solutions
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.6 Analyze how political attitudes shape how people define social problems and solutions.
Answer: D) expanding rights for transgender people

49. **Which of the following would have the support of social conservatives?**
    A) "pro-choice" side of the abortion controversy
    B) use of the death penalty to punish the most serious crimes
    C) teaching support for LGBTQ in schools
    D) encouraging immigration across our nation's borders

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-49
Topic: Constructing Problems and Defining Solutions
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.6 Analyze how political attitudes shape how people define social problems and solutions.
Answer: B) use of the death penalty to punish the most serious crimes

50. **In general, economic liberals favor _____.**
    A) government having a small role in the economy
    B) a lower minimum wage
    C) keeping taxes low
    D) government policies that will reduce economic inequality

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Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-1-50
Topic: Constructing Problems and Defining Solutions
Skill: Remember the Facts
Objective: 1.6 Analyze how political attitudes shape how people define social problems and solutions.
Answer: D) government policies that will reduce economic inequality

Essay Questions

1. **What is the sociological imagination? Explain the statement by C. Wright Mills that the sociological imagination transforms personal troubles into social issues.**

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-2-51
Topic: Seeing Patterns—The Sociological Imagination
Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.1 Explain the benefits of learning about sociology and using the sociological imagination.
Answer: - The sociological imagination is a point of view that highlights how society affects the experiences we have and the choices we make.
- Sociology's key insight is that many of the personal troubles people face are really social issues with their roots in the operation of the larger society.
- U.S. sociologist C. Wright Mills explained that using the sociological imagination helps see how society shapes our personal lives; by helping us to see the world in a new way, the sociological imagination gives us power to bring about change.

2. **What is a social problem? What does it mean to say that social problems are constructed? How does politics guide the process of constructing problems and defining solutions?**

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-2-52
Topic: Social Problems—The Basics
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.2 Define the concept "social problem" and explain how societies come to define some issues—and not others—as social problems.
Answer: - Social problems come into being as people define an issue as harmful and in need of change.
- Most of today's problems differ from those that concerned the public several generations ago.
- Politics is usually a matter of claims and counterclaims about what should and should not be defined as social problems and how to address the problems.

3. **What are sociology's three major theoretical approaches? Describe each one. Apply each approach to a problem of your choice and show the type of insights each approach provides.**

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-2-53
Topic: Analyzing Social Problems—Sociological Theory

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Skill: Apply What You Know
Objective: 1.3 Apply sociological theory to the study of social problems.
Answer: - The structural-functional approach is a theoretical framework that sees society as a system of many interrelated parts known as social institutions.
- The social-conflict and feminist approaches use a theoretical framework that sees society as divided by inequality and conflict based on class and gender.
- The symbolic-interaction approach is a theoretical framework that sees society as the product of individuals interacting with one another and focuses on how individuals experience their world.

4. **Review the major research methods employed by sociologists in studying social problems. Explain why a researcher would choose one method over another.**

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-2-54
Topic: Finding the Facts—Sociological Research
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.4 Discuss the methods sociologists use to study social problems.
Answer: - Sociologists use four major research methods in their investigation of social problems: surveys, field research, experimental research, and secondary analysis.
- Questionnaires and interviews are forms of surveying that allow for breadth or depth of understanding, while field research allows observation of people in their everyday activities.
- Experimental research uses controlled conditions to investigate cause-and-effect relationships.
- Secondary analysis draws on data originally collected by others and may not be accurate.

5. **What is the political spectrum? Describe how public attitudes fall on the political spectrum. What defines conservative, liberal, and left-radical positions? How do social issues differ from economic issues? Finally, what types of people tend to be on the left and right of each type of issue?**

Difficulty: Moderate
QuestionID: 01-2-55
Topic: Constructing Problems and Defining Solutions
Skill: Analyze the Issue
Objective: 1.6 Analyze how political attitudes shape how people define social problems and solutions.
Answer: - Attitudes on the political spectrum range from the far left at one extreme through "middle of the road" views at the center to the far right at the other extreme.
- Social issues are political debates involving moral judgments about how people should live, while economic issues are political debates about how a society should produce and distribute material resources.
- In general, economic liberals favor government regulation of the economy in order to reduce inequality, while economic conservatives call for a smaller role for government in the economy.
- In general, social liberals think that people should be free to shape their lifestyles for themselves, while social conservatives are respectful of traditional values and want to conserve them, criticizing what they see as too much tolerance in today's society.

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