# *Understanding Social Problems 11th edition Mooney Test Bank*

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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

**Chapter 01 – Thinking about Social Problems**

**Multiple Choice**

1. When supporters of a political party are entrenched in their party's policies, with no motive to compromise with opposing political views, this is referred to as
   a. the social context.
   b. state of the union.
   c. a social problem.
   d. political partisanship.

*ANSWER:* d

2. Although there are lesser known political parties such as the Libertarian Party, the Green Party, and the Constitutional Party, historically the United States has been characterized by a _____ system with either Democrats or Republicans winning the White House since the 1860s.
   a. universal
   b. two-party
   c. hybrid
   d. totalitarian

*ANSWER:* b

3. _____ tend to be conservative, right to far-right leaning, anti-immigrant, nationalistic, and anti-globalist groups that claim to represent "the people" rather than government elites and their political parties.
   a. Fascists
   b. Communists
   c. Populist movements
   d. Centrists

*ANSWER:* c

4. The objective element of a social problem refers to
   a. our attitudes about social conditions.
   b. the existence of a social condition.
   c. the only part of a problem that can be measured.
   d. our beliefs about the importance of a condition.

*ANSWER:* b

5. Given the position of social identity, when someone has unquestioning loyalty to a political ideology or belief, this is known as
   a. political tribalism.
   b. social group.
   c. anomie.
   d. culture.

*ANSWER:* a

6. Which of the following best illustrates the subjective element of a social problem?
   a. U.S. Census statistics showing the percentage of the U.S. population living in poverty

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b. Reports that show the percentage of people who have lost their jobs because of the closing of factories in the United States
c. The percentage of Americans who believe the availability of child pornography on the Internet is harmful to society
d. World Health Organization estimates of the number of people in the world who have died of the AIDS virus in the last five years

*ANSWER:* c

7. The belief that a social condition harms society is the _____ element of the social problem.
a. objective
b. subjective
c. operational
d. theoretical

*ANSWER:* b

8. Which is the best example of the objective element of a social problem?
a. In 2012, over 650,000 daytime drivers operated an electronic device while driving.
b. Surveyed Americans most frequently selected inequality as the greatest social problem in the world.
c. Some husbands believe they have a right to discipline and control their wives.
d. Europeans are less likely than Asians to consider pollution the greatest social problem in the world.

*ANSWER:* a

9. Definitions of social problems
a. remain consistent and accurate throughout history.
b. vary across societies and over time.
c. are determined by a society's governing structure.
d. are determined by academic intellectuals.

*ANSWER:* b

10. Society's structure is made up of
a. the people who share a culture.
b. institutions, social groups, norms, and symbols.
c. beliefs, values, norms, and symbols.
d. institutions, social groups, statuses, and roles.

*ANSWER:* d

11. Which of the following illustrates part of the social structure of a society?
a. The health care system
b. A belief in God
c. The value placed on education
d. The primary language used

*ANSWER:* a

12. The _____ of society refers to the way society is organized.

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a. structure
b. culture
c. ethos
d. sociological imagination

*ANSWER:* a

13. An established pattern of relationships constitutes a(n)
a. institution.
b. culture.
c. social complex.
d. social element.

*ANSWER:* a

14. Modern society includes the _____ of science and technology, mass media, medicine, sports, and the military.
a. social groups
b. institutions
c. statuses
d. roles

*ANSWER:* b

15. Which of the following is a social group?
a. All of the people in your favorite shopping mall at noon on Saturday
b. People who usually watch *NBC Nightly News*
c. Your college sociology class
d. Fans of the Yankee baseball team

*ANSWER:* c

16. Which of the following is more likely to be found in primary rather than secondary groups?
a. Task-oriented actions
b. Impersonal interactions
c. Intimate relationships
d. Formal statuses and roles

*ANSWER:* c

17. Which of the following illustrates a primary group?
a. A husband, wife, and child
b. Your sociology class
c. The college or university you are attending
d. Your hometown

*ANSWER:* a

18. Sociologists refer to the position a person holds in a group as their

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a. status.
b. folkway.
c. institution.
d. role.

*ANSWER:* a

19. Which of the following is an ascribed status?
a. Native American
b. Single parent
c. High school graduate
d. Football player

*ANSWER:* a

20. Edward is an African American male, age 26, who married his high school sweetheart after he graduated from college. He is now the father of two children and is employed as a chemical engineer. Which of the following is one of Edward's achieved statuses?
a. African American
b. Male
c. Chemical engineer
d. Adult

*ANSWER:* c

21. What type of status is assigned on the basis of some characteristic or behavior over which the individual has some control?
a. Ascribed
b. Elementary
c. Achieved
d. Rational

*ANSWER:* c

22. A nurse interacts differently with doctors, nursing assistants, and patients. This is primarily because
a. everyone is a unique individual.
b. many roles are associated with a specific status.
c. institutions are fluid social structures.
d. of cultural constraints.

*ANSWER:* b

23. Having to attend classes, read assignments, take exams, and write papers illustrates the _____ of a college student.
a. status
b. role
c. institution
d. sanctions

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*ANSWER:* b

24. Culture includes
    a. norms.
    b. groups.
    c. institutions.
    d. roles.

*ANSWER:* a

25. Which term refers to ideas about what is desirable in a social setting?
    a. Norms
    b. Values
    c. Roles
    d. Beliefs

*ANSWER:* b

26. "Secondhand smoke harms nonsmokers." This statement is an example of a
    a. belief.
    b. value.
    c. folkway.
    d. more.

*ANSWER:* a

27. Socially defined rules of behavior are
    a. beliefs.
    b. values.
    c. norms.
    d. sanctions.

*ANSWER:* c

28. Folkways, laws, and mores are three types of
    a. sanctions.
    b. norms.
    c. values.
    d. master statuses.

*ANSWER:* b

29. Carl left his child inside his car on a hot sunny day. Carl
    a. violated a more.
    b. violated a folkway.
    c. underscored a value.
    d. performed a sanction.

*ANSWER:* a

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30. Which of the following is a violation of a more in American society?
    a. Refusing to shake hands with a new acquaintance
    b. Sexually abusing a child
    c. Eating peas with your fingers
    d. Littering

*ANSWER:* b

31. Cheating on a spouse is a violation of a
    a. folkway.
    b. more.
    c. value.
    d. belief.

*ANSWER:* b

32. _____ are norms that are formalized and backed by political authority.
    a. Folkways
    b. Mores
    c. Laws
    d. Values

*ANSWER:* c

33. Social consequences for conforming to or violating norms are
    a. values.
    b. folkways.
    c. mores.
    d. sanctions.

*ANSWER:* d

34. Rose was caught speeding and given a fine. The fine is an example of a(n)
    a. value.
    b. folkway.
    c. informal sanction.
    d. formal sanction.

*ANSWER:* d

35. Janet receives disapproving looks from strangers for singing loudly while walking down the street. The disapproving looks Janet receives are examples of
    a. values.
    b. folkways.
    c. informal sanctions.
    d. formal sanctions.

*ANSWER:* c

36. Loreli dieted and worked out, which led to a significant reduction in her size and weight. Which of the

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following is an informal positive sanction?

a. She feels much better about herself than she did before the weight loss.
b. Friends tell her she looks great.
c. She lost 25 pounds.
d. She fits into a much smaller size of jeans.

*ANSWER:* b

37. The neighbors didn't invite Charlotte to the block barbecue because Charlotte's dog is often on the loose making a mess on their lawns. Not inviting her is an example of a(n)

a. formal positive sanction.
b. informal positive sanction.
c. formal negative sanction.
d. informal negative sanction.

*ANSWER:* d

38. A _____ is something that represents something else.

a. sanction
b. more
c. folkway
d. symbol

*ANSWER:* d

39. A neon sign advertising beer is an example of a

a. value.
b. belief.
c. symbol.
d. sanction.

*ANSWER:* c

40. Which of the following conclusions best illustrates the use of the sociological imagination?

a. Jody's parents are getting a divorce because they do not love each other anymore.
b. Helen is not attending college because her parents do not have enough money to pay her expenses.
c. Tony's college failure illustrates problems of inner-city children whose schools inadequately prepare them for the rigor of college courses.
d. Megan has to request welfare payments because she lost her job.

*ANSWER:* c

41. An inner-city youth was caught burglarizing houses. Which of the following explanations views the youth's crime as a public issue?

a. The youth was unable to find a job because most of the factories had moved out of the inner city.
b. The youth dropped out of school because he did not like his teachers.
c. The youth's mother did not provide adequate supervision because she was more interested in her boyfriend.
d. The youth thought burglarizing homes would be an easier way to make money than to work in a job.

*ANSWER:* a

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42. According to C. Wright Mills, _____ is the ability to see the connections between our personal lives and the social world.
   a. the functional perspective
   b. the sociological imagination
   c. an ascribed status
   d. anomie

*ANSWER:* b

43. The sociological imagination allows us to see the connections between private troubles and _____.
   a. social institutions
   b. sociology
   c. social problems
   d. public issues

*ANSWER:* d

44. Structural functionalists
   a. emphasize the feelings of powerlessness of workers in industrialized societies.
   b. focus on how groups with different interests compete for scarce resources.
   c. view society as a system of interconnected parts that work together to maintain balance.
   d. focus on how a person's self-concept is formed by their interaction with others.

*ANSWER:* c

45. Which of the following illustrates a latent function of education?
   a. The transmission of knowledge
   b. The development of reading and writing skills
   c. A source of friends and potential mates
   d. The high cost of a college education

*ANSWER:* c

46. Colleges are good places for young adults to meet potential mates. This is an example of
   a. a manifest function.
   b. a latent function.
   c. the sociological imagination.
   d. a dysfunction.

*ANSWER:* b

47. According to the _____, social problems result from a breakdown of the family, religious, economic, educational, or political institutions of a society.
   a. symbolic interactionist perspective
   b. social pathology model
   c. Marxist conflict theory
   d. non-Marxist conflict theory

*ANSWER:* b

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48. A society is in a state of "anomie" when
    a. the standards for behavior are not clear.
    b. the major social institutions reinforce the same cultural values.
    c. there are more secondary groups than primary groups.
    d. some segments of society have more wealth than others.

*ANSWER:* a

49. Which perspective sees the solution to social problems in slowing down change and strengthening norms?
    a. Labeling theory
    b. Social evolution theory
    c. Social disorganization
    d. Social pathology

*ANSWER:* c

50. Which perspective argues that the division of society into the "haves" and "have-nots" will create social problems?
    a. Functionalist
    b. Interactionist
    c. Conflict
    d. Anomie

*ANSWER:* c

51. The two general types of conflict theories are Marxist and
    a. dysfunction analysis.
    b. social pathology.
    c. non-Marxist.
    d. alienation.

*ANSWER:* c

52. Magda feels powerless in her job as a warehouse worker. She finds little meaning in her work. According to conflict theorists, Magda is experiencing
    a. anomie.
    b. dysfunction.
    c. alienation.
    d. social pathology.

*ANSWER:* c

53. Which of the following is a major source of alienation in industrial societies, according to Marxist conflict theorists?
    a. A lack of socially shared symbols of communication
    b. The primary groups to which individuals belong
    c. Limited and repetitive tasks of specialized workers
    d. A lack of effective sanctions in society

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*ANSWER:* c

54. Non-Marxist conflict theories focus on social conflict that results from
   a. weak norms.
   b. social disorganization.
   c. competing values and interests among groups.
   d. a lack of communication among groups.

*ANSWER:* c

55. _____ are most likely to see the solution to social problems as solving differences through negotiation or mediation and finding win-win answers.
   a. Non-Marxist conflict theorists
   b. Marxist conflict theorists
   c. Symbolic interactionists
   d. Structural functionalists

*ANSWER:* a

56. The dynamics of individuals interacting in small groups is the focus of
   a. micro-sociology.
   b. macro-sociology.
   c. structural functionalism.
   d. the sociological imagination.

*ANSWER:* a

57. Symbolic interactionism emphasizes that
   a. societal institutions meet the needs of people in society.
   b. institutional inequalities cause social problems.
   c. human behavior is influenced by meanings that are created through social interaction.
   d. the important symbols of society are distributed unequally.

*ANSWER:* c

58. Micro-sociologists, such as W. I. Thomas, believe that human behavior is influenced mostly by
   a. the social organization of a social situation.
   b. the definitions of a situation.
   c. the objective inequalities that exist in a situation.
   d. the feelings of alienation that occur from a lack of power.

*ANSWER:* b

59. Which perspective claims our identity or sense of self is shaped by social interaction?
   a. Social disorganization
   b. Social pathology
   c. Symbolic interactionism
   d. Non-Marxist conflict theory

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*ANSWER:* c

60. Which perspective is most likely to look at the dynamics of interpersonal relationships in small groups?
    a. Conflict theory
    b. Structural functionalism
    c. Symbolic interactionism
    d. Marxist theory

*ANSWER:* c

61. Max Weber's concept of _____ implies that, in conducting research, social scientists must try to understand others' view of reality and the subjective aspects of their experiences, such as symbols, values, and beliefs.
    a. anomie
    b. the looking glass self
    c. *verstehen*
    d. alienation

*ANSWER:* c

62. According to Herbert Blumer, the first stage of a social problem is
    a. mobilization for action.
    b. societal recognition.
    c. implementation of a plan.
    d. social legitimation.

*ANSWER:* b

63. Symbolic interactionist Herbert Blumer said that social problems develop in stages. In the _____ stage, a condition is recognized as a social problem by the larger community, such as media, schools, and churches.
    a. objectification
    b. social legitimation
    c. mobilization
    d. implementation

*ANSWER:* b

64. To reduce the social problem of underage drinking, _____ would recommend a campaign to encourage teenagers to define alcohol consumption as "uncool."
    a. labeling theory
    b. social pathology
    c. social disorganization
    d. conflict theory

*ANSWER:* a

65. _____ often questions the origin and evolution of social problems and examines how research institutes, government agencies, and the media influence the public's view of social problems.
    a. Labeling theory
    b. The social pathology model

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c. The social disorganization model
d. Social constructionism

*ANSWER:* d

66. Which of the following topics is most likely to be the topic of study of a social constructionist?
a. Why marijuana use, but not alcohol and nicotine use, is illegal
b. How rapid social change weakened traditional rules about sexual behavior
c. How the economic structure of society influences elections
d. How different social classes view the police

*ANSWER:* a

67. Which theoretical perspective emphasizes that a condition must be defined or recognized as a social problem in order to be a social problem?
a. Structural functionalism
b. Marxist conflict theory
c. Non-Marxist conflict theory
d. Symbolic interactionism

*ANSWER:* d

68. Which of the following social policies is most likely to be advocated by a conflict theorist?
a. Repair weak institutions.
b. Assure proper socialization.
c. Create an equitable system for the distribution of resources.
d. Reduce the pace of social change.

*ANSWER:* c

69. Conflict theory is more likely than structural functionalism or symbolic interactionism to view the cause of social problems as
a. rapid social change.
b. different interpretations of social roles.
c. inequality.
d. inadequate socialization.

*ANSWER:* c

70. The first stage in conducting a research study is
a. reviewing the literature.
b. formulating a research question.
c. formulating a hypothesis.
d. defining variables.

*ANSWER:* b

71. Gender, self-esteem, crime rates, and religiosity are examples of
a. variables.
b. hypotheses.

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c. operational definitions.
d. samples.

*ANSWER:* a

72. An event or characteristic that is measurable and varies or is subject to change is a(n)
a. hypothesis.
b. sample.
c. variable.
d. operational definition.

*ANSWER:* c

73. Which is the best example of an operational definition?
a. Sexual harassment
b. Conflict theory
c. The number of students reporting sexual harassment on a college campus
d. The variable that is expected to explain the change

*ANSWER:* c

74. In research, an operational definition
a. identifies the measurement procedure for a variable.
b. explains the relationship between two variables.
c. defines the researcher's hypothesis.
d. refers to any variable that cannot be measured.

*ANSWER:* a

75. A(n) _____ of religiosity could be the number of times respondents report going to church or synagogue in a month or year.
a. theory
b. operational definition
c. hypothesis
d. sample

*ANSWER:* b

76. A researcher's hypothesis
a. identifies a sample to use for the research.
b. explains how to measure variables.
c. summarizes the review of literature.
d. predicts a relationship between variables.

*ANSWER:* d

77. Anna is studying whether drug use contributes to lower academic achievement of high school youth. Anna's independent variable is
a. youth.
b. drug use.

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c. high school.
d. academic achievement.

*ANSWER:* b

78. The _____ variable is the variable that is expected to explain a change in the dependent variable.
a. independent
b. outcome
c. operational
d. theoretical

*ANSWER:* a

79. Which research method involves manipulating a variable in order to determine how it affects another variable?
a. Experiment
b. Field research
c. Survey
d. Secondary data

*ANSWER:* a

80. Alice wanted to study the effects of a new teaching technique on learning. She randomly divided her student subjects into two groups and used the new teaching technique with just one of the groups. Then, she administered an exam to the two groups and compared their grades. Her experimental group was the group who
a. got the highest grades.
b. was exposed to the new teaching technique.
c. was not exposed to the new teaching technique.
d. got the lowest grades.

*ANSWER:* b

81. The major strength of the experimental method is that
a. experimental research findings are easily generalized to larger groups in society.
b. it provides evidence for causal relationships.
c. it is more likely than other methods of data collection to show an association between the variables of interest.
d. it is an easy way to collect information on almost all sociological variables.

*ANSWER:* b

82. For which method of data collection is it most important to select a representative sample so that the information may be generalized to a larger population?
a. An experiment
b. A survey
c. Participant observation
d. A case study

*ANSWER:* b

83. The method of data collection in which a researcher asks respondents a series of questions and makes

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written notes or recordings to be analyzed later is called a(n)

a. questionnaire.
b. experiment.
c. secondary data analysis.
d. interview.

*ANSWER:* d

84. For which data collection method is response rate the major problem?

a. An experiment
b. Field research
c. A questionnaire
d. Secondary data research

*ANSWER:* c

85. Jasmine received a list of questions in the mail. She was asked to answer the questions on paper and return them to a researcher. Jasmine was asked to participate in

a. an experiment.
b. a questionnaire.
c. nonparticipant observation.
d. participant observation.

*ANSWER:* b

86. Researchers observe social behavior in the settings in which it occurs naturally when using the _____ method of data collection.

a. experiment
b. questionnaire
c. field research
d. secondary data analysis

*ANSWER:* c

87. To study the interaction between prison guards and inmates, a sociologist lived in a prison for several months. Only the warden and a few other administrators knew he had not been convicted of a crime. This is an example of

a. secondary data research.
b. nonparticipant observation.
c. participant observation.
d. an experiment.

*ANSWER:* c

88. Studying White power groups by observing their activities without participating in their activities is considered an example of

a. secondary data.
b. an experiment.
c. a survey.

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d. field research.

*ANSWER:* d

89. One of the biggest disadvantages of secondary data research is that the
a. sample seldom represents the population of interest to the researcher.
b. researcher is limited to data already collected.
c. researcher may become too involved with the group to remain unbiased.
d. participants may act differently in a laboratory setting.

*ANSWER:* b

90. Instead of conducting personal or phone interviews, some researchers develop _____ that can be either mailed, posted online, or given to a sample of respondents.
a. questionnaires
b. samples
c. beliefs
d. latent functions

*ANSWER:* a

**True / False**

91. Democrats and progressives are often referred to as being on the left, while Republicans and reactionaries are often referred to as being on the right.
a. True
b. False

*ANSWER:* True

92. Political partisanship is thought to be the result of several interacting social forces in the United States. Some of these social forces may include movement from the center of the political spectrum; greater racial, religious, and ethnic diversity; and increased division between socioeconomic classes.
a. True
b. False

*ANSWER:* True

93. Political tribalism is sometimes used to describe a strong disdain toward an opposing political belief or party.
a. True
b. False

*ANSWER:* True

94. The Trump administration was responsible for the policy of family separation in 2017 and 2018 that led to 545 children being separated from their parents or guardians after they were detained at the U.S.–Mexico border.
a. True
b. False

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**Chapter 01 – Thinking about Social Problems**

*ANSWER:* True

95. In 2020, Americans reported being unhappier than they've been since 1972, as well as more pessimistic about the future of their children with only 42 percent responding that their children will have a higher standard of living than they have, the lowest recorded since 1994.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* True

96. A social problem is defined as any condition that is harmful to society.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* False

97. The definition of a social problem involves a combination of objective and subjective criteria.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* True

98. Recognized social problems vary by historical time period.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* True

99. An ascribed status is based on factors over which an individual has no control.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* True

100. A single status, such as mother, can involve more than one role.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* True

101. Values are characteristic of individuals rather than societies.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* False

102. Symbols include language, gestures, and objects.
    a. True
    b. False
*ANSWER:* True

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**Chapter 01 – Thinking about Social Problems**

103. Karl Marx developed the structural-functionalist perspective.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* False

104. According to structural functionalists, social problems occur when some part of the structure or culture of a society fails to work properly.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* True

105. The social pathology model advocates proper socialization and moral education as a solution to social problems.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* True

106. Non-Marxist conflict theorists focus on order and stability in a society.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* False

107. According to Herbert Blumer, "social legitimation" of a social problem takes place when the problem achieves recognition by the larger community, such as the media.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* True

108. Labeling theory and social constructionism are parts of the structural-functionalist perspective.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* False

109. The first stage of conducting a research study is developing a hypothesis.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* False

110. A dependent variable is the variable that the researcher believes contributes to a change in the variable of interest.
a. True
b. False
*ANSWER:* False

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**Chapter 01 – Thinking about Social Problems**

111. A researcher who analyzes information collected by the U.S. Census Bureau is using secondary data research.

a. True

b. False

*ANSWER:* True

112. An advantage of experiments is that they typically take place in natural settings.

a. True

b. False

*ANSWER:* False

113. The sociological imagination enables us to understand how social forces influence our personal misfortunes and failures.

a. True

b. False

*ANSWER:* True

114. Field research involves observing and studying social behavior in a setting in which it occurs naturally. This could be done via participant observation and nonparticipant observation.

a. True

b. False

*ANSWER:* True

115. Formulating a hypothesis involves manipulating the independent variable to determine how it affects the dependent variable.

a. True

b. False

*ANSWER:* False

**Essay**

116. Select a social problem and identify possible objective and subjective elements of that social problem.

*ANSWER:* Will vary

117. What are values? Give an example of how values play an important role in the interpretation of a condition as a social problem.

*ANSWER:* Will vary

118. Choose a private trouble you have experienced. Use your "sociological imagination" to explain how this problem can also be viewed as a public issue.

*ANSWER:* Will vary

119. Explain the concept of *verstehen* and how it applies to social science research.

*ANSWER:* Will vary

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**Chapter 01 – Thinking about Social Problems**

120. What is the purpose of conducting a literature review as part of the research process?
*ANSWER:* Will vary

121. List five major social institutions in society and, for each, give an example of a possible breakdown in the institution and a social problem that might have resulted from that breakdown.
*ANSWER:* Will vary

122. What is the sociological imagination? Using two specific examples, explain how it can be used to understand social problems.
*ANSWER:* Will vary

123. Explain the similarities and differences between contemporary Marxist conflict theory and non-Marxist conflict theory. Choose a social problem and discuss possible explanations of the problem from each conflict perspective (Marxist and non-Marxist).
*ANSWER:* Will vary

124. Design a research study on a particular social problem that interests you. Include your research question, variables of interest, hypothesis, sample, and method of data collection, and provide a rationale for each.
*ANSWER:* Will vary

125. Chapter 1 includes a discussion of good reasons for students to study social problems. Discuss at least four of the reasons given.
*ANSWER:* Will vary

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