Our Social World 9th edition Ballantine Test Bank

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Our Social World (9th)

ISBN 9781071935965 | Chapter 1: Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World

Total Questions: 79

Easy

Multiple Choice (7)

Q1. *[Multiple Choice]*

The scientific study of social life, social change, and social causes and consequences of human behavior is known as _____.

a) psychology
b) anthropology
c) biology
d) sociology ✓ correct

Q2. *[Multiple Choice]*

The process by which the entire world is becoming a single interdependent entity is known as _____.

a) nationalization
b) globalization ✓ correct
c) networking
d) McDonaldization

Q3. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which sociologist first defined what he called “the sociological imagination”?

a) Peter Berger
b) Karl Marx
c) C. Wright Mills ✓ correct
d) Émile Durkheim

Q4. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which model helps us picture the levels of analysis in our social surroundings as an interconnected series of small groups, organizations, institutions, and societies?

a) group model
b) globalization model
c) national society model
d) social world model ✓ correct

Q5. *[Multiple Choice]*

Interconnected parts of the social world, ranging from small groups to entire societies, are called _____.

a) social units ✓ correct
b) social structures
c) social processes
d) national societies

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Q6. *[Multiple Choice]*

The aspects of society that provide the rules, roles, and relationships needed to shape human behavior are called _____.

a) social units
b) social processes
c) social institutions ✓ correct
d) national societies

Q7. *[Multiple Choice]*

A _____ refers to one of the largest social units and includes a population of people, usually living within a specified geographic area, connected by common ideas and subject to a particular political authority.

a) national society ✓ correct
b) dyad
c) social process
d) social institution

True/False (4)

Q8. *[True/False]*

Unlike the discipline of psychology, which focuses on the attributes, motivations, and behaviors of individuals, sociology focuses on group patterns.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q9. *[True/False]*

Sociologists may work in human resource departments and as consultants in businesses.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q10. *[True/False]*

The social world is organized into two parts: structures and processes.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q11. *[True/False]*

Analysis of intermediate–sized social units is called meso–level analysis.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Medium

Multiple Choice (25)

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Q12. *[Multiple Choice]*

According to the text, the smallest unit sociologists study is a _____.

a) a triad
b) a dyad ✓ correct
c) an individual
d) a community

Q13. *[Multiple Choice]*

_____ focuses on group patterns, whereas psychology focuses on the behavior of individuals.

a) Economics
b) History
c) Political science
d) Sociology ✓ correct

Q14. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which of these statements expresses an underlying assumption of sociology?

a) People typically prefer to be isolated and avoid other people.
b) We do not need change in society to proceed with human life.
c) Interactions between individuals and groups are a two–way process. ✓ correct
d) People have inherent qualities of kindness and generosity.

Q15. *[Multiple Choice]*

Racial categories _____.

a) are biologically determined
b) are the same across all societies
c) are socially constructed ✓ correct
d) do not change over time

Q16. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which statement is TRUE regarding the processes of conflict and social change?

a) Conflict and social change are inherent features of groups and societies. ✓ correct
b) Conflict and social change are unique to industrial societies.
c) Conflict and social change are typically measured in decades.
d) Conflict and social change are negative features of dysfunctional agrarian societies.

Q17. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is the best evidence that race is a social construction rather than a biological fact?

a) biologists have failed to provide convincing research to support their racial claims
b) racial categories vary over time and in different places ✓ correct
c) there are no visible differences between members of different “races”
d) race is a biological fact, not a social construction

Q18. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which statement is TRUE regarding commonsense beliefs?

a) Commonsense beliefs refer to ideas that are taken for granted but are often untrue. ✓ correct
b) Commonsense beliefs are useful in survival situations.
c) Sociology is mostly confirmation of our commonsense beliefs.
d) There are no differences between commonsense beliefs and sociological findings.

Q19. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which definition best describes the sociological imagination?

a) Understanding the relationship between individual experiences and public issues ✓ correct
b) Being able to imagine the study of social life and social change
c) Knowledge about the inner workings of people's minds
d) To be fully aware of the interconnected parts that make up our consciousness

Q20. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which element do sociologists use to explain individual behavior?

a) common sense
b) instincts
c) social forces ✓ correct
d) inherited abilities

Q21. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which of these fields has the most in common with sociology according to the author?

a) anthropology ✓ correct
b) economics
c) psychology
d) political science

Q22. *[Multiple Choice]*

"What are individuals' physiological reactions to a violent movie horror movie?" would most likely be asked by _____.

a) an anthropologist
b) an economist
c) a psychologist ✓ correct
d) a political scientist

Q23. *[Multiple Choice]*

The question "How will high gas prices impact automobile sales in the near future?" would most likely be a question that is asked by which social scientist?

a) an anthropologist
b) an economist ✓ correct
c) a psychologist
d) a sociologist

Q24. *[Multiple Choice]*

The question "How do educational opportunities for women impact national infant mortality rates in Eastern European countries?" would most likely be asked by _____.

a) a sociologist ✓ correct
b) a psychologist
c) a biologist
d) an economist

Q25. *[Multiple Choice]*

The types of questions sociologists ask _____.

a) tend to focus on issues that can be studied objectively and scientifically ✓ correct
b) make ethical judgments about individual values and beliefs
c) use opinions regarding right and wrong and good and bad when studying populations
d) are focused on public consensus, rather than personal values

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Q26. *[Multiple Choice]*

According to the text, why is an understanding of sociology important?

a) to compare cultures and individual differences in a scientific manner
b) to become more effective life partners, workers, friends, family members, and citizens ✓ correct
c) to gain knowledge of our own personal motivations and attitudes
d) to become experts in social interaction and influence people to do what we want

Q27. *[Multiple Choice]*

A sociologist who is studying inequality is interested in _____.

a) social change
b) stratification ✓ correct
c) interaction
d) socialization

Q28. *[Multiple Choice]*

A change in the economy may result in a change in the family because _____.

a) people panic when there are changes in the economy, and they often take their stresses out on their families
b) the economy and the family remain separated unless something bad occurs in any one institution
c) change in one unit affects other units of the social world ✓ correct
d) the economy is the root cause of human behavior

Q29. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which statement about social units is true?

a) Each social unit is isolated from other social units.
b) Each social unit has an environment. ✓ correct
c) Each social unit consists of at least 50 people.
d) Social units never experiences conflict with other social units.

Q30. *[Multiple Choice]*

Valerie is a member of the university's lacrosse team. The team is supported by the college, fans, corporate sponsors, and is connected to other teams, their sports conference governing board, and all of the individual team members' families and friends. In this example, Valerie's team is a social unit, and the team's supporters and connections are _____.

a) an institution
b) the environment ✓ correct
c) a social process
d) a national society

Q31. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which level of analysis would be used when examining global patterns of domestic violence?

a) micro–level
b) meso–level
c) macro–level ✓ correct
d) superordinate–level

Q32. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which of the following is an advantage of using a micro–level analysis?

a) It helps explain the moral implications of social organizations.
b) It is important for the study of processes and institutions in a society.
c) It helps explain how larger social forces shape everyday aspects of social life.
d) It is important for understanding the basis for all social groups and organizations. ✓ correct

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Q33. *[Multiple Choice]*

A study that examines how elementary school children interact on the playground would constitute _____ research.

a) micro–level ✓ correct
b) meso–level
c) macro–level
d) mega–level

Q34. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which of the following is an advantage of using a meso–level analysis?

a) It is important for understanding the basis for all social organizations.
b) It is important for the study of processes and institutions in a society. ✓ correct
c) It helps explain how larger social forces shape everyday aspects of social life.
d) It helps explain the moral implications of social organizations.

Q35. *[Multiple Choice]*

A sociologist studies how several nations collectively deal with a massive natural disaster. Their study is an example of a _____ analysis.

a) micro–level
b) meso–level
c) macro–level ✓ correct
d) national social–level

Q36. *[Multiple Choice]*

According to the text, a more complete and accurate perspective on the social world can be gained by using _____.

a) commonsense beliefs obtained through logic and past experiences
b) socialization through parents, schools, and clergy of local churches
c) the power of introspection
d) concepts, theories, methods, and levels of analysis used by sociologists ✓ correct

True/False (18)

Q37. *[True/False]*

Two friends who go to the movies together are considered a dyad.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q38. *[True/False]*

The ideas underlying sociology are based on scientific findings.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q39. *[True/False]*

We become who we are, regardless of other people and groups who influence us.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q40. *[True/False]*

Rapid social change can lead to conflict.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q41. *[True/False]*

Sociology provides a method to assess the accuracy of our commonsense assumptions about the social world.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q42. *[True/False]*

According to sociologist C. Wright Mills, many private troubles are rooted in social or public issues.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q43. *[True/False]*

Sociologists studying education would look for genetic factors that may lead one to drop out of school.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q44. *[True/False]*

Most sociologists with only a bachelor's degree typically work as researchers in colleges or universities.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q45. *[True/False]*

The types of jobs that sociologists do depend on their level of education.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q46. *[True/False]*

Social institutions are found in every society.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q47. *[True/False]*

Units within the social structure are sometimes in conflict with each other.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q48. *[True/False]*

All social institutions are interrelated.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q49. *[True/False]*

An environment is defined as including everything that influences a social unit.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q50. *[True/False]*

If sociologists study interactions between students who work together on a class assignment, they are performing a macro–level of analysis.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q51. *[True/False]*

A focus on small–group interactions generally requires a meso–level of analysis.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q52. *[True/False]*

The examination of changes in women's status can only take place at the macro–level of analysis.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q53. *[True/False]*

A study that examines entire nations typically conducts a macro–level analysis.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q54. *[True/False]*

When someone becomes unemployed, it is often seen as a private trouble, but high unemployment rates are a public issue.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Essay (7)

Q55. *[Essay]*

Explain the difference between sociology and psychology.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. Psychology is primarily concerned with what happens inside of us, while sociology is more about what happens between us. Psychology is the study of individual behavior and mental processes (e.g., sensation, perception, memory, and thought processes). It differs from sociology in that it focuses on individuals rather than on groups, institutions, and societies. Sociology focuses on group patterns. Rather than focus on why individuals behave in certain ways, sociologists focus on how people behave in groups, and the social patterns of group behavior. Sociologists also examine the causes of social problems, such as delinquency, child abuse, crime, poverty, and war, and ways they can be addressed.*

Q56. *[Essay]*

Name at least three ideas underlying sociology and explain why each one is important in our understanding of human behavior.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. There are five ideas underlying sociology listed in the textbook: (1) People are social by nature. This is important because we need to understand that individual behavior does not happen in a vacuum, it takes place within their social experiences and surroundings. (2) People live much of their lives belonging to social groups. This is important because we need to understand the interconnected nature of human existence, which cannot be separated from social existence. (3) Interaction between the individual and the group is a two-way process in which each influences the other. It is important to understand just how much impact groups have on us as individuals but also important to understand how much impact we have on groups we belong to. (4) Recurrent social patterns, ordered behavior, shared expectations, and common understandings among people characterize groups. It is important to recognize that groups do not just happen to exist, nor are they randomly tossed by invisible currents. Groups exist because humans create them, and it is our shared experiences and ideas that shape and guide those groups over time. (5) The processes of conflict and change are natural and inevitable features of groups and societies. It is important to realize that conflict is not inherently bad nor a sign of pathology within a group or a society. All groups and societies must change over time to survive and that change often involves conflict.*

Q57. *[Essay]*

Briefly discuss what sociologists mean by “using the sociological imagination.” Provide a real–life example of its application.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. Using the sociological imagination refers to understanding the relationship between individual experiences and public issues. There are many possible examples. One would be losing one’s job: most people assume job loss is caused by poor work performance, but when entire industries are moving their manufacturing overseas to save money on labor costs millions of Americans lose their jobs no matter how good they are as employees. Their unemployment is caused by social forces, not individual behavior.*

Q58. *[Essay]*

What are two skills that sociology can contribute in regard to solving social problems like homelessness or drug addiction?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. There are several skills that can help us contribute to reducing or solving social problems. Sociology helps give us a more complete understanding of social situations by looking beyond individual explanations to include group analyses of behavior. It helps us understand and evaluate problems more clearly, viewing the world systematically and objectively rather than only in emotional or personal terms. Sociology gives us skills to assess the impact of social policies and learn how to change your local environment and the larger society. Any two of these skills are useful when examining and attempting to deal with social problems.*

Q59. *[Essay]*

What are at least three ways the sociological perspective can help you succeed in college and in the workforce?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. The sociological perspective helps us be more effective as we carry out our roles in life. For example, an employee who has studied sociology may better understand how to work as part of a group and how the structure of the workplace affects individual behavior, how to approach problem solving, and how to collect and analyze data. Likewise, a schoolteacher trained in sociology may have a better understanding of classroom management, student motivation, the causes of poor student learning that have roots outside the school, and why students drop out. Everyone benefits from understanding how our social world works.*

Q60. *[Essay]*

How does the social world model help us gain a more complete and accurate perspective on the social world?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. The social world model helps us picture the levels of analysis in our social surroundings as an interconnected series of small groups, organizations, institutions, and societies. Sometimes, these groups are connected by mutual support and cooperation, but other times, there are conflicts and power struggles over access to resources. Understanding that our world operates at the micro-, meso-, and macro-level furthers our sense of how things happen and gives us a way of analyzing it at all of those levels.*

Q61. *[Essay]*

Imagine you are a sociologist asked to do a micro–level study pertaining to the high school dropout rate. What factors would you focus on in your study? Why?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. A micro-level study of the high school dropout rate would likely focus on the traits, characteristics, thoughts, feelings and perceptions of those who drop out. Factors might include things like home environment, family support of education, personal value of education, friend networks, relationships with teachers, performance in school, and any other factor that might make individuals more or less likely to drop out of high school.*

Hard

Multiple Choice (8)

Q62. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which of these statements is true?

a) Most of the differences in the behaviors of women and men are based on “human nature.”
b) Racial groupings are based on biological differences among people.
c) Most marriages in the United States do not last.
d) The meaning and boundaries of racial categories change over time. ✓ correct

Q63. *[Multiple Choice]*

Gabriella’s roommate is considering dropping out of college due to the high tuition. Gabriella understands the high tuition rate could be the result of a dramatic decline in government support for higher education. Sociologists would say that Gabriella is using her _____ to view her roommate’s problem.

a) sociological imagination ✓ correct
b) psychological training
c) economic perspective
d) investigative abilities

Q64. *[Multiple Choice]*

Two people have been dating for three years. They decided to attend the same college together and move into the same dorm room. In this example, they are a social unit, and “moving into the same dorm room” is a _____.

a) social institution
b) social group
c) social structure
d) social process ✓ correct

Q65. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which aspect of education is best explained by using a micro–level analysis?

a) professor–student interactions ✓ correct
b) the costs and benefits of higher education for society
c) federal policies governing education
d) world literacy programs

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Q66. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which aspect of education is best explained using a meso–level analysis?

a) professor–student interactions
b) state boards of education ✓ correct
c) federal policies governing education
d) world literacy programs

Q67. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which aspect of education is best explained by using a macro–level analysis?

a) professor–student interaction
b) state boards of education
c) federal policies governing education ✓ correct
d) children's behavior in classrooms

Q68. *[Multiple Choice]*

A study that examines how state policies affect education in rural schools in Missouri best reflects the _____–level of analysis.

a) micro
b) meso ✓ correct
c) macro
d) social

Q69. *[Multiple Choice]*

A sociology student examines the effects of a new urgent care clinic on nurses at other clinics and hospitals in town. They begin researching the health care industry, the town's economy, the national economy, and health care workers in general to better understand the impact of the new urgent care clinic. They are using the _____ model.

a) cultural anthropological
b) environmental
c) social world ✓ correct
d) commonsense

True/False (3)

Q70. *[True/False]*

Tyler heard a story about a woman who lost her job. He decided she lost her job because she was not a good employee. In this case, Tyler was using his sociological imagination.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q71. *[True/False]*

Institutions such as religion and the family are examples of social processes.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q72. *[True/False]*

A street gang and a work group as examples of small groups.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

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Essay (7)

Q73. *[Essay]*

Briefly describe how commonsense and sociological beliefs differ from one another and give an example of a commonsense belief that is contradicted by sociological findings.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Varies. Commonsense beliefs are simply things that a lot of people believe to be true and consider "common knowledge" or "commonsense." These beliefs are often not true at all. Sociological findings are based on empirical research evidence and are true if the research is done well and can be replicated. The textbook points out that commonsense beliefs about race and gender are incorrect in that they overemphasize biological factors and ignore social factors. Race is a social construction, not a biological fact.*

Q74. *[Essay]*

Define social institutions and provide at least two examples of each.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Varies. Social institutions are organized, patterned, and enduring sets of social structures that provide guidelines for behavior and help each society meet its basic survival needs. Examples of social institutions include family, education, religion, politics, health care, and economics. All societies have those social institutions. In more complex societies, there are also essential structures that provide science, media, advanced health care, and a military.*

Q75. *[Essay]*

Define social processes and provide at least two examples.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Varies. Social processes are the actual behaviors that occur within social structures. They take place through actions of people in institutions and other social units. Examples vary. The process of socialization teaches individuals how to behave in their society. It takes place through actions in families, educational systems, religious organizations, and other social units. Socialization is essential for the continuation of any society because, through this process, members of society learn the thoughts and actions needed to survive in their society. The process of social change also occurs through a series of interconnected actions by individuals within social structures and institutions.*

Q76. *[Essay]*

Explain the three levels of analysis in the social world discussed in the text and give an example of each.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Varies. The three levels of analysis are micro-level, meso-level, and macro-level. Micro-level analysis involves studying what goes on between individuals and small groups of people. Studying the process new roommates go through would be a micro-level sociological analysis. Meso-level analysis refers to studying involves intermediate-sized units smaller than the nation but larger than the local community. Examples include studying national organizations like the NRA or political parties, ethnic groups within the United States, or religious groups like Evangelical Christians or Muslims in the U.S. Macro-level analysis involves looking at entire nations, global forces (such as international organizations), and international social trends. Examples would be studying national politics, the economy of a nation, or an international war.*

Q77. *[Essay]*

Explain how a presidential election can affect human relationships on the micro, meso, and macro levels.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Varies. A contentious election can lead to conflict, anger, and misunderstanding between friends or family members at the micro level. If different organizations choose sides and publicly endorse a candidate that can lead to alliances with other organizations who support the same candidate and conflict or severed ties with organizations that oppose that candidate. The winning candidate gains the right to place their own people into positions of authority throughout the federal government, which alters the course of events within the entire society going forward–the decisions made and policies put forth by those authorities shape the entire society.*

Q78. *[Essay]*

Imagine that you want to study child poverty from a micro, meso, and macro level. For each of the three levels of analysis, describe what question or questions you might ask to learn more about child poverty and why that level of analysis is appropriate for your question.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. A micro-level study of child poverty might look at the effects of poverty on specific groups of children, or what individual factors place a parent into the position of raising their children in poverty. A meso-level analysis might focus on the impact of institutional policies within school districts, state governments, or federal agencies either in terms of how those policies impact child poverty or their effectiveness at alleviating it. A macro-level study of child poverty might compare and contrast several countries to help determine what factors increase or decrease child poverty and/or what national policies alleviate or aggravate child poverty.*

Q79. *[Essay]*

Explain how social units and social institutions are related to the social structure. Using examples from your own life, illustrate the interconnectedness of these concepts.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Varies. Social units are interconnected parts of the social world, ranging from small groups to societies. Social institutions are organized, patterned, and enduring sets of social structures that provide guidelines for behavior and help each society meet its basic survival needs. The social structure is the stable patterns of interactions, statuses (positions), roles (responsibilities), and organizations that provide stability for the society and bring order to individuals' lives. Social institutions include things like the family, the education system, the military, and so on. Social units include all of those plus smaller units (sports teams, groups of friends, individual families, etc.) and larger ones, up to and including the United States. All of those units, including the institutions, make up the social structure of our society.*

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