Power of Sociology 1st edition Oddsson Test Bank

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Power of Sociology (1st)

ISBN 9781071954737 | Chapter 1: Grasping Sociology

Total Questions: 80

Easy

Multiple Choice (8)

Q1. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is the main purpose of the Veil of Ignorance thought experiment?

a) to determine economic policies in different societies
b) to eliminate political bias in research
c) to minimize personal bias and encourage objective thinking ✓ correct
d) to decide who receives government aid

Q2. *[Multiple Choice]*

Culture refers to _____.

a) a group of people living in a defined territory
b) the patterned structure of social relationships
c) the accepted beliefs, values, and norms of a given society ✓ correct
d) a type of social inequality

Q3. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is agency in sociological terms?

a) a government institution
b) a person's job or career
c) the influence of media on individual behavior
d) the capacity to act independently within or against structural constraints ✓ correct

Q4. *[Multiple Choice]*

_____ is a systematically reproduced and legitimized hierarchy of social groups.

a) Social stratification ✓ correct
b) Symbolic interactionism
c) Social mobility
d) Consumerism

Q5. *[Multiple Choice]*

Life chances refers to _____.

a) the probability of winning the lottery
b) a person's chances of changing their family structure
c) opportunities to obtain valued resources and improve quality of life ✓ correct
d) the odds of becoming famous

Q6. *[Multiple Choice]*

How do sociologists define a majority group?

a) a group that makes up over half the population
b) a group with greater political representation
c) a group that holds more power relative to other groups ✓ correct
d) a group that dominates the media

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Q7. *[Multiple Choice]*

What does socialization refer to in sociology?

a) a political movement for equal rights
b) the lifelong process of learning cultural beliefs, norms, and values ✓ correct
c) a phase of early childhood development
d) a scientific method used in psychological studies

Q8. *[Multiple Choice]*

Microsociology focuses on _____.

a) national political institutions and economic policy
b) global inequality and migration patterns
c) environmental change and its global effects
d) everyday interactions and small group dynamics ✓ correct

True/False (9)

Q9. *[True/False]*

Knowledge we derive from our everyday experiences, conversations, mass media, and other sources is called common sense.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q10. *[True/False]*

Common sense is often backed up by scientific research.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q11. *[True/False]*

C. Wright Mills described the sociological imagination as an understanding of how biography intersects with history.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q12. *[True/False]*

Sociologists are primarily interested in the sources and consequences of social inequality.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q13. *[True/False]*

Social stratification is inequality that is built into the social structure.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q14. *[True/False]*

Inequality has only recently become a focus of sociology.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q15. *[True/False]*

Quantitative methods are typically used to answer questions of “what” social factors strongly correlate with certain beliefs and behaviors,

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q16. *[True/False]*

Every basic science uses the scientific method to ensure objectivity and consistency.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q17. *[True/False]*

A hypothesis is a proposed explanation for a phenomenon that needs to be tested with empirical data.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Medium

Multiple Choice (28)

Q18. *[Multiple Choice]*

Why do sociologists systematically gather and analyze data?

a) to confirm their personal beliefs

b) to make predictions about individual behavior

c) to prove theories about the natural world

d) to understand how society works and inform social change ✓ correct

Q19. *[Multiple Choice]*

According to W.E.B. Du Bois, how should society attempt to solve its problems?

a) through trial and error

b) by promoting economic growth

c) using scientific research and analysis ✓ correct

d) by focusing on historical traditions

Q20. *[Multiple Choice]*

What are the two core commitments of sociology?

a) publishing research and influencing politics

b) understanding the social world and changing society for the better ✓ correct

c) supporting education and creating technology

d) promoting individual success and fostering innovation

Q21. *[Multiple Choice]*

What does the "sociological eye" help us do?

a) identify social patterns and relationships critically and objectively ✓ correct
b) understand biology through a cultural lens
c) predict future economic and political trends
d) focus on individual decision–making

Q22. *[Multiple Choice]*

What does the term social structure refer to?

a) an individual's ability to act independently
b) the framework of society that shapes and limits choices ✓ correct
c) the material wealth of a society
d) cultural trends that change over time

Q23. *[Multiple Choice]*

Social positions are _____.

a) roles people play temporarily at certain times in their lives in society
b) physical locations people inhabit
c) positions in society that exist independently of the individuals who occupy them ✓ correct
d) opinions held by dominant social groups used to oppress minority groups

Q24. *[Multiple Choice]*

How do sociologists view the idea that people are solely the product of their own choices?

a) as a complete and accurate explanation of success
b) as a myth that ignores structural influences ✓ correct
c) as a useful starting point for analysis
d) as a Western concept that works in all contexts

Q25. *[Multiple Choice]*

The definition of society, which states that it is a group of people who interact persistently, share a common culture, live in a territory, and think of themselves as constituting a distinct entity, _____.

a) is too vague to be used for rigorous sociological research
b) transcends equating society with a nation state ✓ correct
c) excludes groups without boundaries, such as identity and political groups
d) marks national governments as the highest level of a society

Q26. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which best describes social mobility?

a) the ability to adapt to social norms
b) the movement of individuals or groups within a stratified society ✓ correct
c) the tendency to resist changes in social roles
d) the spread of cultural values through social media

Q27. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is a central critique of the American Dream?

a) It fails to promote consumerism.
b) It does not account for structural barriers to success. ✓ correct
c) It discourages demanding work.
d) It eliminates the concept of social class.

Q28. *[Multiple Choice]*

Why do sociologists argue that inequality persists across generations?

a) Most people are satisfied with their social standing.
b) Inequality is a result of biological differences.
c) Advantages and disadvantages are passed down over time. ✓ correct
d) Legal systems prevent any significant changes.

Q29. *[Multiple Choice]*

What global trend is a major reason sociologists study inequality today?

a) the increase in economic inequality both within and between countries ✓ correct
b) the disappearance of the middle class
c) the decline in higher education enrollment in Western countries
d) the rise of space exploration as a public interest

Q30. *[Multiple Choice]*

How does excessive inequality impact nations?

a) It leads to rapid technological growth.
b) It causes instability, undermines trust, and threatens democracy. ✓ correct
c) It strengthens family values and traditions.
d) It creates more competition, which is always positive.

Q31. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is the primary focus of a social movement?

a) to promote nationalism
b) to celebrate cultural traditions
c) to increase population size
d) to challenge or preserve existing power structures ✓ correct

Q32. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is systemic racism?

a) a form of racism that is limited to individual behavior
b) an historical concept based on slavery that is no longer relevant today
c) an embedded system of oppression supported by institutions and power ✓ correct
d) discrimination that only occurs in law enforcement

Q33. *[Multiple Choice]*

How have changes in social institutions contributed to shifting gender roles in Western countries?

a) More women are choosing not to work outside the home.
b) Technological change has eliminated the need for traditional gender roles.
c) Economic and cultural changes have created more opportunities for women. ✓ correct
d) Gender roles remain unchanged despite economic development.

Q34. *[Multiple Choice]*

Why are majority groups more likely to have their worldview accepted as "reality"?

a) They are more open–minded than other groups.
b) They are more diverse.
c) They have greater institutional power to shape shared meanings. ✓ correct
d) They have a longer history of immigration.

Q35. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is the primary purpose of sociological theory?

a) to estimate social trends using personal experience
b) to enforce social norms through scientific evidence
c) to explain relationships between phenomena based on systematic research ✓ correct
d) to describe individual personalities

Q36. *[Multiple Choice]*

Level of analysis refers to _____.

a) assumptions about individual–society relationships ✓ correct
b) the number of participants in a study
c) a sociologist's political stance
d) the difficulty of a particular social theory

Q37. *[Multiple Choice]*

What does macrosociology primarily examine?

a) individual family dynamics and communication
b) broad social patterns and their effects on individuals and groups ✓ correct
c) daily experiences in a specific neighborhood
d) theories about interpersonal conflict

Q38. *[Multiple Choice]*

According to the macrosociology, how are social patterns formed?

a) through trial and error among friends
b) from the bottom–up by individuals
c) through informal conversations in public places
d) from the top–down by existing large–scale structures ✓ correct

Q39. *[Multiple Choice]*

What is the micro–macro continuum?

a) a fixed timeline for sociological theory development
b) a method of organizing sociological journals
c) the idea that sociology includes both small– and large–scale analyses ✓ correct
d) a government framework for tracking demographic change

Q40. *[Multiple Choice]*

What did C. Wright Mills argue was essential for understanding society?

a) avoiding large–scale generalizations
b) ignoring subjective experiences in research
c) studying both individuals and the broader social context ✓ correct
d) using primarily statistical data

Q41. *[Multiple Choice]*

Which statement best demonstrates how sociology is unique from other social sciences?

a) Sociology focuses on individual–level analysis in cultural contexts.
b) Sociology studies power exclusively through market institutions.
c) Sociology emphasizes comparison, the sociological eye, and civil society. ✓ correct
d) Sociology centers on the foreign policy of modern states.

Q42. *[Multiple Choice]*

What does civil society refer to in the context of sociology?

a) government agencies and bureaucracies
b) political parties and electoral systems
c) financial systems and economic structures
d) institutions and movements outside the state and the market ✓ correct

Q43. *[Multiple Choice]*

What did Durkheim argue about sociology and comparison?

a) Comparative analysis tends to apply only to economics.
b) Sociology should remain purely descriptive.
c) Sociology becomes meaningful when it includes comparison. ✓ correct
d) Sociology must always focus on a single culture.

Q44. *[Multiple Choice]*

Compared to cultural anthropologists, sociologists are more likely to _____.

a) use comparison across cultures to understand social patterns ✓ correct
b) study foreign languages and translation
c) focus on the specific rituals of a particular group
d) avoid using interviews and fieldwork

Q45. *[Multiple Choice]*

What does Georg Simmel's concept of the "stranger" refer to?

a) a traveler with no social ties
b) someone fully accepted by a community
c) someone in a group but not entirely of it ✓ correct
d) a foreign researcher studying their own culture

True/False (11)

Q46. *[True/False]*

Common–sense knowledge is often reliable because it rests on widely held beliefs rather than the systematic analysis of data.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q47. *[True/False]*

Sociological imagination can be applied to decisions such as going to college.

a) True ✓ correct
b) False

Correct answer: True

Q48. *[True/False]*

Socialization is the ability to connect individual experiences to social and historical forces.

a) True
b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q49. *[True/False]*

The sociological imagination reveals that personal problems might be better understood as an issue of social importance.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q50. *[True/False]*

The first scholar to propose and practice something resembling sociology was Emile Durkheim.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q51. *[True/False]*

When sociologists ask why certain social groups are disadvantaged relative to, they are asking questions about the concept of double consciousness.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q52. *[True/False]*

Studying levels of analysis draws attention to the ways in which social inequality is socially constructed.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q53. *[True/False]*

Comte argued that social physics could discover universal “laws” that govern society.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Q54. *[True/False]*

Positivist sociology originated with Karl Marx.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q55. *[True/False]*

Cultural awareness believes in the superiority of the culture that you come from.

a) True

b) False ✓ correct

Correct answer: False

Q56. *[True/False]*

Sociology creates better engaged citizens.

a) True ✓ correct

b) False

Correct answer: True

Essay (14)

Q57. *[Essay]*

How does the concept of the sociological eye challenge the idea that individual success is solely based on personal effort?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: The sociological eye challenges the idea that individual success is purely the result of talent and hard work by emphasizing how culture and social structure shape our opportunities. For instance, the text explains that factors like where and to whom we are born (conditions outside our control) greatly influence our access to education, wealth, and power. While individuals have agency, their choices are always made within the constraints of their social positions. A person born into a wealthy family, for example, may have access to better schools and professional networks, which makes success more attainable.*

Q58. *[Essay]*

How did Auguste Comte's experiences following the French Revolution influence his development of positivism and the creation of sociology?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Comte grew up in the aftermath of the French Revolution, a time of major social upheaval and instability. He witnessed how traditional systems like monarchy and religion lost influence, while new democratic and scientific ideals emerged. Wanting to help stabilize society, Comte developed positivism, a scientific approach focused on observable facts. He believed that, like the natural sciences, sociology could uncover universal laws to understand and guide society. His goal was to use sociology to both explain and manage social change, making it a tool for rebuilding and improving post-revolutionary France.*

Q59. *[Essay]*

The American Dream suggests that anyone can achieve success through talent and hard work. Based on the sociological perspective discussed in the reading, how does this idea both reflect and obscure the reality of social stratification in the United States?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: The idea of the American Dream reflects a cultural belief in individual agency and meritocracy, suggesting that people succeed based on their abilities and effort. However, the sociological perspective challenges this by showing how structural social inequality, such as differences in wealth, education, race, and gender limits opportunities for many people. Social stratification means that some groups start with more advantages and others face systemic barriers, regardless of effort. By ignoring these structural factors, the American Dream can obscure the reality that not everyone has equal chances to succeed and can legitimize inequality by blaming individuals for their lack of upward mobility.*

Q60. *[Essay]*

According to sociologists, what distinguishes a majority group from a minority group?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Sociologists define a majority group as one that holds more power in society, not necessarily one that has the largest population. The distinction is based on power differences, not numbers. A majority group has more control over resources, institutions, and the ability to shape shared meanings and norms. Minority groups, in contrast, have less power and are often subject to the rules and realities defined by the majority. For example, even if a racial or ethnic group is numerically smaller, it can still be the majority if it holds more societal power.*

Q61. *[Essay]*

How does the concept of social construction help explain the persistence of inequality in areas like race and gender?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Social construction explains how society creates and maintains inequality through shared meanings that are learned and reinforced over time. For example, stereotypes about gender (e.g., the idea that men are more suited for leadership) are socially constructed beliefs that legitimize male dominance and restrict women's roles. Similarly, systemic racism persists because society has historically defined Black lives as less valuable, a belief embedded in institutions and justified by past ideologies like segregation. These constructed meanings become part of the social structure, shaping how people are treated and what opportunities they receive, often without individuals consciously realizing it.*

Q62. *[Essay]*

How do microsociology and macrosociology differ in their approach to understanding society, and why is it important to use both levels of analysis in sociological research?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Microsociology looks at small-scale social interactions, like conversations or group dynamics, to understand how people create meaning in everyday life. Macrosociology studies large-scale patterns, such as institutions, economies, or population trends, to see how society as a whole operates. Using both is important because individuals are shaped by the social world around them, and at the same time, their actions help shape that world. Looking at both levels gives a fuller picture of how society works. It is like seeing both the close-up details and the big picture.*

Q63. *[Essay]*

How does Erving Goffman's concept of impression management help us understand the role of social interaction in shaping both individual identity and social stability?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Goffman's idea of impression management shows that people change how they present themselves depending on the social situation and audience. For example, someone might act more professionally at work and be more relaxed with friends. These performances are based on shared expectations, or social roles, that help guide behavior. By following these roles, people maintain their sense of self and help society run smoothly because others know what to expect from them. This shows how individual identity is shaped through interaction and how repeated behaviors contribute to larger social patterns and stability.*

Q64. *[Essay]*

What are two key features that distinguish sociology from other social science disciplines like economics and political science?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: One key feature that distinguishes sociology is its focus on the sociological eye, which means looking beneath the surface to identify social patterns and relationships. Another distinctive feature is that sociology studies society from the perspective of civil society, rather than from the viewpoint of markets (as in economics) or the state (as in political science). Sociology is especially concerned with how institutions, organizations, and everyday life interact outside of direct government or market control.*

Q65. *[Essay]*

How does Gummi's status as both a cultural insider and outsider enhance his sociological perspective, and why might this be valuable when studying American society?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Gummi's unique position as someone who lived in the United States but was raised in Iceland gives him the perspective of a "stranger," someone who is part of the society but not fully shaped by it. This allows him to notice cultural patterns, assumptions, and inequalities that people raised in the United States might take for granted. His outsider status helps him maintain objectivity and adopt a beginner's mind, seeing familiar things in new ways. This enhances his ability to analyze U.S. society critically and helps students do the same by challenging their assumptions.*

Q66. *[Essay]*

How does Karl Marx's theory of historical materialism explain the structure and conflict of capitalist societies, and what role does ideology play in maintaining inequality?

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Karl Marx's theory of historical materialism explains that the way people produce goods and meet basic needs shapes how society is organized. In a capitalist system, society is divided into two main classes: the capitalist class, which owns the means of production, and the working class, which must sell their labor to survive. This creates conflict because the interests of the two classes are opposed. Capitalists seek profit, while workers seek fair wages and conditions. Marx argued that this conflict is hidden by ideology. The ruling class promotes ideas that make inequality seem normal and fair. As a result, workers may not realize how unfair the system is. This lack of awareness is called false consciousness. Marx believed workers needed to develop class consciousness, or a shared understanding of their situation, in order to demand change. In short, historical materialism shows how economic systems create inequality and how powerful ideas help keep it in place.*

Q67. *[Essay]*

Sociologists often emphasize the importance of viewing society through multiple lenses. Using the selfie and drone analogy, explain how different levels of analysis shape what we can understand about social life. Why is it important to use both perspectives together?

Suggested answer: *Sample response: The selfie and drone analogy helps illustrate the value of combining micro and macro levels of analysis in sociology. A selfie offers a close-up view of an individual, capturing details about their appearance and expression. This is similar to microsociology, which focuses on personal interactions and daily experiences. In contrast, a drone photo shows the broader environment, which mirrors macrosociology, the study of large-scale social structures and institutions. Using only one perspective can limit our understanding. A selfie might show someone smiling, but it can't explain the economic or social conditions they live in. Likewise, a drone photo shows the big picture but misses the nuances of how people interact within that space. Sociologists need both levels to understand how individual experiences are shaped by social structures, and how those structures are, in turn, influenced by everyday behavior. This dual approach allows for a richer, more complete understanding of society.*

Q68. *[Essay]*

Explain how the positivist approach to macrosociology uses the scientific method to study society. Why might a sociologist choose a quantitative method over a qualitative one?

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Positivist macrosociology uses the scientific method to study society by developing testable hypotheses and analyzing numerical data to uncover social patterns. This approach emphasizes objectivity and consistency, aiming to identify generalizable trends across large populations. For example, researchers might use large-scale surveys or census data to examine the relationship between education level and income, helping to reveal how structural factors like access to schooling shape economic outcomes. A sociologist might choose quantitative methods such as surveys, experiments, or statistical analysis when they are interested in understanding the scope or frequency of a particular social phenomenon. These methods are especially useful when researchers want to compare groups or track changes over time. Additionally, it is effective for identifying broader trends, correlations, and patterns that influence behavior at the societal level. When paired with qualitative research, it can offer a more complete understanding of both the "what" and the "why" of social life.*

Q69. *[Essay]*

Sociologists often stress the importance of adopting a "beginner's mind" when studying society. What does it mean to approach sociology with a beginner's mind, and why is this mindset important for developing cultural awareness and challenging assumptions?

Suggested answer: *Sample response: A beginner's mind means approaching the study of society with openness, curiosity, and a willingness to set aside preconceived beliefs. In sociology, this mindset is essential because it helps researchers and students question what is taken for granted as "normal." By suspending judgment, sociologists can see how values, behaviors, and institutions are socially constructed rather than natural or universal. The text explains that Gummi, who has lived in both Iceland and the United States, brings a beginner's mind to his observations of American society. His outsider status gives him the ability to notice inequalities and cultural patterns that insiders might overlook. This perspective helps challenge assumptions and deepen understanding of how culture and context shape human behavior. Adopting a beginner's mind allows sociologists to discover new ways of seeing everyday life and to approach social issues with empathy and insight.*

Q70. *[Essay]*

What does the story of Craig Kielburger and the founding of WE Charity teach us about youth activism and the sociological idea that individuals can create social change? How does this example connect to sociological thinking?

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Craig Kielburger's story shows that even young individuals can make a real difference when they act on social issues. At just 12 years old, Craig saw the injustice of child labor and used collective action to mobilize others and build a movement. His work reflects the sociological belief that agency exists even within structures of inequality. By organizing protests, raising awareness, and eventually founding a global charity, Craig demonstrated how social change begins with recognizing shared humanity and challenging systemic problems. This story encourages students to see themselves as capable of influencing the world through informed, purposeful action.*

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Hard

Multiple Choice (4)

Q71. *[Multiple Choice]*

Anika grew up in a middle–class home where both her parents had cars and were able to take her on vacations a few times a year. After college and graduate school, Anika finds herself unable to get a job in her field even though she has the necessary education. She ends up working at a fast–food restaurant and has to move into a smaller, cheaper apartment in order to afford rent. Anika's situation represents an example of _____.

a) the American Dream
b) downward social mobility ✓ correct
c) upward social mobility
d) gender discrimination

Q72. *[Multiple Choice]*

The micro perspective operates under which assumption?

a) society functions best without rules
b) broad institutions have no influence
c) individual interactions shape broader social patterns ✓ correct
d) only economic systems explain behavior

Q73. *[Multiple Choice]*

Jordan is conducting a study on how high school students interact with one another during lunch to form friendships and social cliques. He observes their conversations, body language, and seating patterns. Which sociological approach is Jordan most likely using?

a) Macrosociology, because he is analyzing education systems on a national level.
b) Microsociology, because he is focused on small–scale, face–to–face social interactions. ✓ correct
c) Conflict theory, because he is comparing wealth and power among school administrators.
d) Macrosociology, because he is studying how school lunch policies are formed.

Q74. *[Multiple Choice]*

Why is cross–national comparison valuable in sociology?

a) It helps sociologists avoid using scientific methods.
b) It allows researchers to ignore differences in data quality.
c) It challenges assumptions about what is "normal" by highlighting cultural variation. ✓ correct
d) It replaces the need for micro–level analysis.

Essay (6)

Q75. *[Essay]*

Think about a social position you currently hold (e.g., student, employee, sibling). How might this position influence the opportunities or constraints you face in your everyday life?

Suggested answer: *Sample response: As a student, I have access to educational resources that can open doors to future job opportunities. However, being a student also comes with constraints, like limited time and financial resources. For example, balancing school with a part-time job can make it harder to focus on academics. My social position shapes how I interact with institutions like schools and workplaces, and it influences the expectations placed on me. Recognizing this helps me see how social structures, not just personal choices, impact my experiences and outcomes.*

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Q76. *[Essay]*

Comte believed society progresses through three stages of knowledge: theological, metaphysical, and positivist. Choose a modern–day topic (e.g., illness, weather, or crime) and explain how explanations of it have changed across these three stages.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Take the topic of illness. In the theological stage, people believed disease was a punishment from the gods or caused by evil spirits. Healing involved prayer or religious rituals to restore spiritual balance. In the metaphysical stage, illness was explained through abstract ideas, like imbalances in the four bodily humors. Treatments aimed to restore harmony using methods like bloodletting or herbal remedies. In the positivist stage, illness is understood through science—bacteria, viruses, and genetics are identified as causes. We now use medical research, testing, and technology to diagnose and treat diseases, following Comte's vision of applying the scientific method to human society.*

Q77. *[Essay]*

W.E.B. Du Bois argued that race is a social construction and introduced the concept of double consciousness to describe the experience of African Americans in a racially divided society. Drawing on Du Bois' ideas, explain how the concept of double consciousness might help us understand the experiences of a different marginalized group today.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: W.E.B. Du Bois' concept of double consciousness describes how African Americans must constantly view themselves through their own perspective and through the eyes of a society that devalues them. This creates a sense of internal conflict and divided identity. Today, we can apply this idea to Muslim Americans, especially since 9/11. Many see themselves as proud citizens but are often viewed with suspicion due to stereotypes. For example, a Muslim student wearing a hijab might feel pressure to prove she belongs or hide parts of her identity to avoid judgment. Du Bois' concept helps explain how systemic discrimination affects not only opportunities but also how people see themselves. It shows that inequality shapes both social outcomes and inner experiences.*

Q78. *[Essay]*

How does the Black Lives Matter movement challenge the social construction of inequality and power in the United States? In your answer, discuss how BLM works to address systemic racism, and provide one example of a similar movement (past or present) that also challenges inequality.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement challenges the social construction of inequality by exposing how racism is built into U.S. institutions and maintained through dominant ideas that present society as fair and equal. BLM pushes back against the belief that police violence is just the result of a few bad actors. Instead, it highlights systemic racism—the idea that laws, policies, and institutions have historically disadvantaged Black communities. By organizing protests, raising awareness, and demanding reforms in policing and criminal justice, BLM shifts public understanding of race, justice, and power. A similar movement was the Civil Rights Movement, which fought racial segregation and discrimination in the mid-20th century. Like BLM, it used collective action to challenge unjust systems and reshape how Americans think about equality and justice.*

Q79. *[Essay]*

How does a micro–level focus on social interactions help us understand how larger cultural norms and social roles are both created and maintained? Use an example to illustrate your answer.

> ***Suggested answer:*** *Sample response: Microsociology shows how society is built from the ground up through repeated, everyday social interactions. These small interactions help establish shared expectations and reinforce broader cultural norms. For example, the way people behave in a college classroom (e.g., raising hands to speak, taking notes, and listening quietly) all reflect agreed-upon roles of teacher and student. Over time, these patterns of behavior become taken for granted and institutionalized, forming the foundation for more complex social systems. Erving Goffman's idea of impression management illustrates this process, as individuals constantly adjust their behavior to fit the social role expected of them in a given setting. These role performances help reproduce norms and contribute to social stability, because they allow people to predict and coordinate their behavior with others. By analyzing everyday interactions, microsociology reveals how culture and order are not simply imposed from above but are actively constructed and maintained in daily life.*

Q80. *[Essay]*

In what ways can studying sociology prepare students for success in today's job market and for active citizenship? Provide examples of the skills and knowledge sociology majors gain.

Suggested answer: *Sample response: Studying sociology prepares students to be thoughtful and engaged citizens while also equipping them with valuable workplace skills. Sociology majors learn how to gather and interpret data, understand social trends, and communicate findings clearly. These skills are useful in careers in business, government, nonprofits, and law. For example, someone working in marketing can use sociological knowledge to understand consumer behavior, while someone in public policy can use it to address social inequality. More broadly, sociology encourages critical thinking, cultural awareness, and a deeper understanding of social problems, all essential for making informed decisions and contributing to positive changes in society.*

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