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Chapter 2: Understanding Theory

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. A _____ in sociology is a way to explain different aspects of social interactions.
A. hypothesis
B. theory
C. variable
D. perspective
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-1: Why and how do sociologists use theoretical perspectives?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What is Theory?
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. What are the three main theoretical perspectives of sociology?
A. structural functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interaction
B. research method, correlation, and hypothesis
C. social embeddedness, sociological eye, and sociological imagination
D. divergence, functionalism, and causation
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-1: Why and how do sociologists use theoretical perspectives?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What is Theory?
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Every theoretical perspective has been influenced by the _____ of those who created the perspective.
A. historical bias
B. popular opinions
C. social policies
D. life experiences
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-1: Why and how do sociologists use theoretical perspectives?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: What is Theory?
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Which of the following best describes structural functionalism?
A. A theory that demonstrates that society is comprised of disjointed beliefs and rituals.
B. A theory that suggests individuals work to promote their interests instead of society's.
C. A theory that was developed by Max Weber to explain inequalities.

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D. A theory that sees society as a complex system whose parts are interdependent.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Emile Durkheim defined mechanical solidarity as individuals doing similar types of jobs. Organic solidarity differs in that these societies _____.
A. have individuals that remain largely independent from one another
B. have individuals that are interdependent on one another
C. are comprised of members that have similar beliefs
D. are comprised of members that complete the same tasks
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Durkheim and Types of Societies
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Zach is a student, a son, and a member of his school's basketball team. These are examples of different _____.
A. roles
B. characteristics
C. status positions
D. personality traits
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Hard

7. When using the Structural Functionalist theoretical perspective, sociologists focus on _____ and _____.
A. social behavior; social status
B. gender; race
C. social harmony; social order
D. functions; dysfunctions
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Durkheim and Types of Societies
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Which of the following is a characteristic of social institutions?
A. status positions
B. relationships

C. norms
D. latent functions
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. When sociologists' research _____ level(s) of analysis they are interested in individuals or small groups.
A. quantitative
B. macro
C. qualitative
D. micro
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Which of the following is an example of manifest function of the family?
A. owning property
B. socializing children
C. upholding marriage as a social institution
D. promoting religious values
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Manifest Functions
Difficulty Level: Hard

11. Which of the following is considered a goal of structural functionalism?
A. social cohesion
B. social inequality
C. societal conflict
D. societal disconnection
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Juan obeys all traffic laws, therefore he is participating in _____.
A. true consciousness
B. organic solidarity
C. false consciousness

D. social solidarity
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Hard

13. Which of the following best describes latent functions?
A. Useful things that a social institution does but that are not the institution's reason for existing.
B. Functions that serve to fulfill necessary tasks.
C. A theory of how individuals function in opposition to social institutions.
D. A theory of how individuals function within social institutions.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Latent Functions
Difficulty Level: Easy

14. A social institution consists of _____, which are defined by tasks and behaviors that fit with the occupied status.
A. functions
B. roles
C. structures
D. ideas
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Which level of analysis focuses on large-scale structural and societal forces?
A. quantitative
B. micro
C. qualitative
D. macro
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Which of the following is a primary social institution?
A. family
B. geographic location
C. occupation

D. committee membership
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Parents teaching their children to say 'please' and 'thank you' is an example of which of the following?
A. primary role
B. secondary role
C. manifest function
D. latent function
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Medium

18. Urban development in the 1960s was an attempt to revitalize American cities, but it separated traditional neighborhoods with highways. This unintended consequence is an example of _____.
A. dysfunction
B. latent function
C. mechanical solidarity
D. organic solidarity
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Latent Functions
Difficulty Level: Hard

19. By focusing on social order and harmony, structural functionalism can often overlook _____.
A. the manifest function
B. the instability of latent function
C. the benefit of social change
D. the social norms
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: What Doesn't Structural Functionalism See?
Difficulty Level: Medium

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20. An organization creates rules and policies designed to encourage followers to learn about the organization and recognize their purpose within it. Which of the following is being encouraged?
A. social solidarity
B. social change
C. social actors
D. social harmony
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Hard

21. How would structural functionalists use organic solidarity to explain the role of education?
A. Education serves to convey the norms, values, beliefs, and ultimately, the stability of society.
B. Education serves to maintain the existing social classes.
C. Education serves to keep people united through similar types of roles, purpose, and income.
D. Education serves to reinforce the doctrine of the ruling class.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Durkheim and Types of Societies
Difficulty Level: Medium

22. Considering education as a social institution, which of the following would be a micro level of analysis?
A. a study about grading procedures nationwide
B. a study about government attendance policies
C. a study about after school activities in a rural school
D. a study about state mandatory testing
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Hard

23. Which of the following would be a latent function of schools?
A. teaching children to read
B. training children to obey authority
C. giving children social skills
D. providing children daytime supervision
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?

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Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Latent Functions
Difficulty Level: Hard

24. Which of the following would be a dysfunction of religion?
A. acting as an agent of social control
B. bringing about social cohesion
C. promoting exclusion
D. providing socialization
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Latent Functions
Difficulty Level: Hard

25. How would Karl Marx explain alienation?
A. as a means of preventing workers from reaching their full potential
B. as a means of separating workers into different classes
C. as a means of removing unproductive workers
D. as a means of encouraging independence and creativity
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Species Being and Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

26. Which of the following statements best describes conflict theory?
A. A fragmented society in which people compete for social and economic resources.
B. A society that consists of interdependent parts that work together to promote common good.
C. A theory that focuses on the interactions between individuals.
D. A theory that focuses on the social stratifications that are embedded in society.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Understanding the Conflict Theoretical Perspective
Difficulty Level: Easy

27. What major sociological perspective is Karl Marx associated with?
A. symbolic interactionism
B. conflict
C. social constructionism
D. structural functionalism
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

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Answer Location: Understanding the Conflict Theoretical Perspective
Difficulty Level: Easy

28. False consciousness is best exemplified by which of the following?
A. The bourgeois class believing that they are the superior class.
B. The bourgeois class not recognizing the social and economic status of the proletariat class.
C. The proletariat class believing that they are the superior class.
D. The proletariat class not recognizing the permanence of their social and economic status.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: False Consciousness
Difficulty Level: Medium

29. According to Karl Marx, when a working-class person understands the upper classes's use of exploitation, they can achieve _____.
A. false consciousness
B. true consciousness
C. species being
D. alienation
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Karl Marx and Socialism
Difficulty Level: Medium

30. Karl Marx argued that there were 10 stages of _____.
A. societal development
B. true consciousness
C. economic production
D. value coercion
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Karl Marx and Advanced Capitalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

31. Marx envisioned a(n) _____ society, but this vision has never become a reality.
A. communist
B. capitalist
C. anarchist
D. fascist
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Karl Marx and Communism
Difficulty Level: Easy

32. Structural functionalist theorists view society as harmonious, whereas conflict theorists view society as _____.
A. ordered
B. equal
C. oppressive
D. traditional
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Seeing the Social World Using the Conflict Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

33. According to conflict theorists, value coercion is _____.
A. the movement toward a high-culture society
B. a practice used by the elite to maintain their higher status
C. the movement toward a more regulated society
D. a practice used by the underprivileged to increase their status
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Seeing the Social World Using the Conflict Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

34. _____ occurs when the media selectively reports poorer people as being deviant in some way.
A. True consciousness
B. Value coercion
C. Alienation
D. Communism
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Seeing the Social World Using the Conflict Perspective
Difficulty Level: Hard

35. Symbolic interactionism falls under which theoretical perspective?
A. macro
B. micro
C. mechanical
D. organic
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

36. Which of the following statements best describes symbolic interactionism?
A. It studies the social construction of reality.
B. It studies the conflict that occurs with inequality.
C. It studies the way components of society work to everyone's mutual benefit.
D. It studies the way status levels separate groups from another.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

37. Considering symbolic interactionism, how is culture created?
A. Society creates laws for people to follow, which leads to culture.
B. Those in power create culture based on what they want.
C. Culture is created from the class structure and functions of society.
D. Groups of individuals create culture through shared symbols.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

38. A child learns how to communicate using both verbal and nonverbal methods. The channels that provide these methods of communication create meaning for society. Which sociological perspective would propose this?
A. structural functionalism
B. conflict
C. symbolic interactionism
D. social constructionism
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

39. A child begins to wear clothes that he believes his friends will find appealing. Which sociological theory would see this action as a means of socialization?
A. the dramaturgical theory
B. the looking glass self theory
C. the conflict theory
D. the social construction theory
Ans: B

Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

40. A child sees a homeless person on a park bench and grimaces, as he has seen his mother do many times. The mother sees this reaction and smiles at the child. According to Cooley, this type of parental feedback is important because the child is _____.
A. learning to obey the parent
B. engaging in the correct behavior
C. responding to what she feels the feedback means
D. realizing that the parent is rewarding negative behavior
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

41. Considering the looking glass self theory, how would an individual starting a new job react to praise during the first week of work?
A. The individual will disregard the praise and work harder.
B. The individual will accept the praise and work less.
C. The individual will consider the praise unearned.
D. The individual will integrate that feedback into a sense of who they are as a worker.
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

42. A college professor is collecting assignments from the students. One student did not complete the assignment and fails to turn it in. According to Goffman, this is an example of which of the following?
A. a violation of a social script
B. an inaccurate use of props
C. ignoring social actors
D. avoiding front stage
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

43. According to Goffman, which of the following is in effect when an individual uses a credit card to buy an expensive smartphone?
A. The credit card is a prop used to demonstrate the wealth of the actor.

B. The purchase violates the social script.
C. The expense of the purchase highlights the message of the social actor.
D. The smartphone is part of the interaction between the social actors.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

44. A woman buys a designer dress to wear to her high school reunion and talks to others about her successful career and new house. Which of the following is considered a prop that the woman is using in the front stage of the reunion?
A. talking about her successful career
B. talking about her new house
C. attending the high school reunion
D. the designer dress
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

45. A couple attends a formal event with another couple who they would like to become friends with. The couple makes a point to wear nice clothes and choose topics of conversation carefully. Which of the following is this couple engaging?
A. back stage management
B. impression management
C. team management
D. front stage management
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

46. Which of the following is an example of something that could be studied through the symbolic interactionist perspective?
A. racial bias in federally assisted housing
B. gender inequality in professional workplaces
C. a girl playing on her high school's football team
D. hazing rituals of sororities and fraternities in American colleges
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: What Doesn't Symbolic Interactionism See?
Difficulty Level: Hard

47. How would the symbolic interactionist study a corporation's decision to hire a White applicant over a better qualified racial minority?
A. by studying the overall hiring process of the corporation
B. by studying the general experiences of both applicants
C. by studying the racial makeup of the corporation's employees
D. by studying the hiring practices of several other major corporations
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: What Doesn't Symbolic Interactionism See?
Difficulty Level: Hard

48. An immigrant family works hard and builds a lucrative business over the years. Yet, their success is restricted due to several anti-immigrant policies. Which of the following perspectives would find it most important to study immigration, policy development, and how these two concepts impact each other?
A. conflict perspective
B. symbolic interactionism
C. structural functionalism
D. social constructionism
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-5: How do structural functionalism, conflict perspectives, and symbolic interactionism work together to help us get a more complete view of reality?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Hard

49. Which theory would argue that stratification is ultimately created and sustained through social systems, which must be made more just.
A. conflict perspective
B. symbolic interactionism
C. structural functionalism
D. social constructionism
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2-5: How do structural functionalism, conflict perspectives, and symbolic interactionism work together to help us get a more complete view of reality?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. A theory is created by a group of researchers and not just one person.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-1: Why and how do sociologists use theoretical perspectives?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: What is Theory?
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Emilie Durkheim focused on social solidarity, which is based on order in society.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Durkheim and Types of Societies
Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Structural functionalists agree that rapid social change does not upset social equilibrium.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: What Doesn't Structural Functionalism See?
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. When individuals work for the good of their society, they are participating in social solidarity.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Durkheim and Types of Societies
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Contemporary conflict theorists note that oppression is typically economic.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: From Marx to The Conflict Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Karl Marx's idea of alienation refers to people who lack culture.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Species Being and Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Conflict theorists do not see societal problems as a result of individual bad behavior.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: False Consciousness

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Difficulty Level: Medium

8. According to symbolic interactionists, society is a social construct.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is Symbolic Interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. The combined fields of symbolic interactionism and conflict theory is referred to as social constructionism.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is Symbolic Interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Culture includes language, numbers, and gestures.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is Symbolic Interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

Short Answer

1. Explain the function of theoretical perspectives in the field of sociology and list the three main sociological theoretical perspectives.
Ans: Varies. Theoretical perspectives are groups of theories that share certain common ways of "seeing" how society works. The three main theoretical perspectives in sociology are structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism.
Learning Objective: 2-1: Why and how do sociologists use theoretical perspectives?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: What Is Theory?
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Explain the structural functionalist perspective and how it relates to society.
Ans: Varies. Structural functionalism views modern societies as consisting of interdependent parts working together for the good of the whole. Individuals work for the larger society's interests, rather than their own, due to social solidarity, or the moral order of society. Families, religion, education, and other institutions teach individuals to help society function smoothly.
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

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3. Describe social institutions. Explain what roles and statuses you occupy in your social institutions.
Ans: Varies. Social institutions are sets of statuses and roles focused around one central aspect of society. A status is the position a person occupies in a particular institution. A role is composed of the many behaviors that go into occupying a status.
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Institutions
Difficulty Level: Hard

4. According to Durkheim and the structural functionalist perspective, why is punishment necessary for a society?
Ans: Varies. Punishment is a step in the rehabilitation/resocialization process of the individual back into the community. Also, if there were no punishment for "bad" behavior, people would continue to engage in it.
Learning Objective: 2-2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Curbing Violations of Social Norms
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Discuss Marx's ideas of advanced capitalism and the three categories of people within it.
Ans: Marx held that advanced capitalism is an economic system based on profit and the pursuit of maximum profit. Capitalism divides people into two major categories and a third, smaller group. There are the bourgeoisie, the rich owners of the means of production (the technology and materials needed to produce products, such as factories), and the proletariat, the poor workers (in the factories, etc.). The perpetually unemployed comprise the third group, the lumpenproletariat.
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Karl Marx and Advanced Capitalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Define Marx's theory of false consciousness.
Ans: Varies. Marx theorized that the workers were in a state of false consciousness. They collectively and individually did not understand just how badly they were being treated; they were, he argued, misled. They believed that, if they just worked hard every day, they too might become a member of the bourgeoisie.
Learning Objective: 2-3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: False Consciousness
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Discuss how symbolic interactionists explain the development of culture.

Ans: Varies. Individuals come together around one or more shared purposes and begin to interact. This interaction, over time, becomes routinized in various ways. In effect, the group constructs its culture.
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. How does the looking glass self theory explain the development of self?
Ans: Varies. A child's first step in developing a sense of self is to imagine how she appears to relevant others--her parents, siblings, grandparents, and so on. In the second step, the child reacts to the feedback the parents and others give about their perceptions toward the child. Finally, in the third step the child integrates the first two into a coherent and unique sense of self. Interaction with particular primary groups (small collections of people of which a person is a member, usually for life, and in which deep emotional ties develop, such as one's family of origin) shape the child's sense of self. Others in effect become the "mirror" by which each person sees oneself.
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Explain and illustrate the components of the dramaturgical theory through your own example of a social interaction.
Ans: Varies. The answer should include the social actors (the individuals involved in the interaction), the social scripts (the interactional rules) that people use to guide the interaction, and the props (material objects) that the social actors use to enhance their performances. Often the performance involves teams of individuals, not just two people, and interactions occur in particular locations. While Goffman discussed many locations (or regions), two of the key ones are the front stage (where the interaction actually takes place) and the back stage (where one prepares for the interaction). Getting ready in your apartment or residence hall would be back stage; front stage would be where the date actually unfolds (e.g., the car, a restaurant, a movie theatre, etc.).
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Explain the interaction of symbolic interactionism and conflict theory in social constructionism.
Ans: Varies. Some sociologists, frustrated with symbolic interactionism's inability to study social problems, have combined it with conflict theory and created social constructionism. This theory begins with the social construction of reality, just as symbolic interactionism does: every society creates norms, values, objects, and

symbols that it finds meaningful and useful. Along the way, though, different categories or groups of people in the society get different rewards, as conflict theory states. Some have more, some have less. Social constructionists argue that this stratification--while felt in the world by individuals--is ultimately created and sustained through social systems, which must be made more just.
Learning Objective: 2-4: What is symbolic interactionism?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. How do the three main sociological perspectives operate together to provide a more complete view of reality?
Ans: Varies. A small group creates its own norms. Over time, some of those norms are shared between more members of the society as people interact, which is what symbolic interaction studies. These norms end up constructing sets of statuses and roles around key aspects of how society operates and creates social institutions. Once social institutions become routinized, they shape society and how individuals react to those social institutions, which structural functionalism analyzes. And inevitably, power differentials are created between the haves and the have-nots in social institutions and in the broader society, which the conflict perspective then analyzes.
Learning Objective: 2-5: How do structural functionalism, conflict perspectives, and symbolic interactionism work together to help us get a more complete view of reality?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Full Theoretical Circle
Difficulty Level: Medium

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