Mapping the Social Landscape - Readings in Sociology 9th edition Ferguson Test Bank

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Reading 2: Teenage Wasteland: Suburbia's Dead-End Kids Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. What was the second leading cause of death for America's young people in 1987?
a. automobile accidents
b. drug overdoses
c. drowning
d. suicide
Ans: d
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. In the 1980s, "doing it" meant _____.
a. getting married
b. having sex
c. drinking alcohol
d. committing suicide
Ans: d
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. What was historically unique about the Bergenfield case?
a. It was the first case of murder-suicide in New Jersey.
b. It involved a teenage suicide pact in which four people died together.
c. It was the first case of teenage suicide in the United States.
d. It involved the death of four family members.
Ans: b
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

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Difficulty Level: Medium

4. The four teenagers found in the Camaro had all been labeled _____.

a. preps

b. jocks

c. hippies

d. burnouts

Ans: d

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. What do Joe, Joan, and Susie have in common?

a. They all had siblings who committed suicide.

b. They all attempted suicide.

c. They are all children of divorce.

d. They all grew up with the author.

Ans: b

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. At Bergenfield High, metal heads were synonymous with _____.

a. burnouts

b. copycats

c. criminals

d. preps

Ans: a

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. In Bergenfield, what was the criterion for cool?

a. participation in sports

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b. number of friends

c. family income

d. academic performance

Ans: a

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Which characteristic of Bergenfield was a contributing factor in the teens' deaths?

a. There were not enough academically oriented after-school activities.

b. There was no place for nonconforming kids to go.

c. There was a lack of ethnic and racial diversity.

d. There was a high unemployment rate.

Ans: b

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Who are the "forgotten half"?

a. youth who attend vocational school

b. youth who dream of being rich and famous

c. youth who are unlikely to go to college

d. youth who have committed suicide

Ans: c

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Plano, Texas; Leominster, Massachusetts; and Omaha, Nebraska, are all _____.

a. communities under siege

b. fading factory towns

c. safety zones for teenage delinquents

d. locations of teenage suicide clusters

Ans: d

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Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Difficulty Level: Medium

Short Answer

1. Describe the ethical issues the author had to confront before conducting her research.
Ans: When first asked to work on the story, she viewed the suicides from the perspective of a sociologist and social worker. She felt that if she could not help them, she did not want to bother them.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Discuss how the sociological imagination helps our understanding of teenage suicide.
Ans: Answers will vary but should include how the personal tragedy of teen suicide becomes a public concern when groups of teenagers form a suicide pact.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Why were national rates of teenage suicide higher in suburbs and rural areas in the 1980s?
Ans: Isolation and boredom
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. What conclusion does the author make about the future of teen suicide in towns like Bergenfield? Do you agree with her conclusion? Why or why not?
Ans: She believes that towns that are indifferent to these teens must offer meaningful choices and opportunities for better lives.
Cognitive Domain: Analysis

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Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Which two models dominated the study of teenage suicide for many years?

Ans: The psychological and the medical models

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

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