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Chapter 2: Understanding Theory

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. A _____ in sociology is a way to explain different social patterns.
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. Groups of theories that share certain aspects are _____.
a. biased research
b. popular opinions
c. parallel theories
d. theoretical perspectives
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2.1: Why and how do sociologists use theoretical perspectives?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What is Theory?
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Structural functionalism is a theory that _____.
a. demonstrates that society is comprised of disjointed beliefs and rituals
b. suggests individuals work to promote their interests instead of society's
c. was developed by Max Weber to explain inequalities

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d. 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. Juan obeys all traffic laws for the good of society; 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

6. An organization creates rules and policies designed to encourage followers to learn about the organization and recognize their purpose within it. What 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

7. What is a goal of structural functionalism?
a. social cooperation
b. social inequality
c. societal conflict
d. societal disconnection
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2.2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Structural functionalism focuses on _____, such as the family, religion, or education.
A. social structures
B. belief systems
C. institutions

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D. culture
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2.2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Emile Durkheim defined mechanical solidarity as individuals doing similar types of jobs. Organic solidarity differs in that these societies include members who _____.
a. remain largely independent from one another
b. are interdependent on one another
c. have similar beliefs
d. 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

10. When using the structural functionalist theoretical perspective, sociologists focus on _____.
a. social behavior and social status
b. gender and race
c. social harmony and social order
d. functions and dysfunctions
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2.2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Durkheim and Types of Societies
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. 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

12. What would be a micro-level of analysis of education as a social institution?

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a. a study about grading procedures nationwide
b. a federal government study about how aid affects attendance policies
c. a study about after how detention deters antisocial behavior in one 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

13. 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

14. Which of these 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

15. When sociologists research a _____ level 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

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16. A social status consists of _____, which are defined by tasks and behaviors that are elements of 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

17. 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

18. Which of these 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

19. Parents teaching their children to say “please” and “thank you” is an example of a _____.
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: Manifest Functions
Difficulty Level: Medium

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20. What is an example of a 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

21. What are latent functions?
a. useful things a social institution does but that are not the institution's sole purpose
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

22. 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. a dysfunction
b. a 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

23. What is 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?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Latent Functions
Difficulty Level: Hard

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24. What is 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. When Elias was 17, he robbed a bank and went to prison for 10 years. A structural functionalist would say that Elias _____.
A. was a victim of his social status
B. was a product of his peer interactions
C. put society's needs ahead of his own
D. violated social norms
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2.2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Curbing Violations of Social Norms
Difficulty Level: Hard

26. According to structural functionalist theory, if you violate society's norms by breaking the law, your punishment will serve to _____.
A. keep your bad behavior from spreading in the community
B. make you resentful and more likely to break the law again in the future
C. substitute for restitution to the party harmed
D. result in overcrowded prisons
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2.2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Curbing Violations of Social Norms
Difficulty Level: Hard

27. According to social functionalists, social change _____.
A. is simply a by-product of technology
B. should be done slowly to maintain equilibrium
C. is always a good thing
D. impacts all institutions simultaneously
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2.2: What is structural functionalism?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Change
Difficulty Level: Easy

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28. 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

29. What is the conflict perspective?
a. A view of society in which people compete for social and economic resources
b. A view of society that consists of interdependent parts that work together to promote common good
c. A focus on the interactions between individuals
d. A focus on the social institutions 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

30. Two sociologists are working in the marketing department of a large company. John happened to mention that he had just gotten a raise, for which he was eternally grateful to the company because he hadn't had a raise in five years. Melinda said that was disgraceful; the company was totally taking advantage of him and profiting off his work, and they should have given him a raise and a promotion years ago. Melinda most likely subscribes to the _____ perspective.
A. structural functionalist
B. conflict
C. capitalist
D. symbolic interactionist
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2.3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Understanding the Conflict Theoretical Perspective
Difficulty Level: Hard

31. 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
Answer Location: Karl Marx and Advanced Capitalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

32. In Marx's view of capitalism, he labeled the factory workers as the _____.
A. proletariat
B. bourgeoisie
C. lumpenproletariat
D. means of production
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2.3: What is a conflict perspective?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Karl Marx and Advanced Capitalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

33. Which statement exemplifies false consciousness?
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

34. 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: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

35. According to Karl Marx, when a working-class person understands the upper class's use of exploitation, they can achieve _____.
a. false consciousness
b. true consciousness
c. species being

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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

36. Karl Marx argued that there were ten 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 Socialism
Difficulty Level: Easy

37. Marx envisioned a(n) _____society where all citizens would be equal, 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

38. 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

39. Symbolic interactionism falls under which theoretical perspective?
a. Macro
b. Micro
c. Mechanical

d. Organic
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

40. What is the symbolic interactionist perspective?
a. It studies the social construction of reality through the use of shared symbols.
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 one another.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

41. According to symbolic interactionists, 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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

42. 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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

43. 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. Dramaturgical theory
b. Looking glass self theory

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c. Conflict theory
d. Social construction theory
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

44. 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 he feels the feedback means
d. realizing that the parent is rewarding negative behavior
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

45. Considering the looking glass self theory, how would an individual starting a new job be most likely to 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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

46. 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 _____.
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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgy Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

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47. According to Goffman, when an individual uses a credit card to buy an expensive smartphone, the _____.
a. credit card is a prop used to demonstrate the wealth of the actor.
b. purchase violates the social script.
c. expense of the purchase highlights the message of the social actor.
d. smartphone is part of the interaction between the social actors.
Ans: A
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

48. 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 these 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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

49. A couple attends a formal event with another couple with whom they would like to become friends. The couple makes a point to wear nice clothes and choose topics of conversation carefully. This couple is engaging in _____ management.
a. back stage
b. impression
c. team
d. front stage
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

50. Which is a subject 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 competing on her high school's debate team
d. hazing rituals of sororities and fraternities in American colleges
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?

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Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: What doesn't Symbolic Interactionism See?
Difficulty Level: Hard

51. A symbolic interactionist would most likely study a corporation's decision to hire a White applicant over a better qualified racial minority by studying the _____.
a. overall hiring process of the corporation
b. general experiences of both applicants
c. racial makeup of the corporation's employees
d. hiring practices of several other major corporations
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: What doesn't Symbolic Interactionism See?
Difficulty Level: Hard

52. Which perspective is a combination of symbolic interactionism and conflict theory?
A. dramaturgical
B. the looking glass self
C. social constructionism
D. functionalism
Ans: C
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Easy

53. 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 perspective would find it most important to study this issue by focusing on immigration policy development, not the specific case of the immigrant family?
a. conflict perspective
b. symbolic interactionism
c. structural functionalism
d. social constructionism
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Hard

54. According to the _____ perspective, stratification is ultimately created and sustained through social systems, which must be made more just.
a. conflict
b. symbolic interactionism
c. structural functionalism

d. social constructionism
Ans: D
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is symbolic interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Medium

55. When we say that society determines what is "reasonable," we mean that it is _____.
A. always in conflict
B. socially constructed
C. based on social interaction
D. out of our control
Ans: B
Learning Objective: 2.5: How do structural functionalism, conflict perspectives, and symbolic interaction work together to help us get a more complete view of reality?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Full Theoretical Circle
Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. Theoretical perspectives are groups of theories that explain how sociologists see the world.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2.1: Why and how do sociologists use theoretical perspectives?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: What Is Theory?
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. 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: Understanding the Structural Functionalist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. 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

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4. Structural functionalists agree that rapid social change is a benefit to 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

5. 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
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: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Conflict theorists note that oppression is typically economic.
Ans: F
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

8. According to symbolic interactionists, society is a social construction.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Understanding the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Culture includes language, numbers, and gestures.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. At six years old, Bobby is being socialized every day, even though he doesn't know it. This is called elementary socialization.
Ans: F

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Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. When the American West was being discovered, groups of people banded together to cross the country and build new towns. They adopted a way of life that suited them and a shared purpose. In other words, they created a culture.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Hard

12. When children worry about what other children think of them, and base their own feelings about themselves on those interpretations, this demonstrates the looking glass self.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

13. Nikki's parents are hard-working and always show her how much they love her. When Nikki grew up, she mirrored their work ethic and affectionate behaviors. Nikki's parents are a primary group for her.
Ans: T
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

14. Cooley believed that socialization continues until a person is an adult, at which point it becomes fixed.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. In dramaturgical theory, when you are texting with friends, you are on the back stage.
Ans: F
Learning Objective: 2.4: What is Symbolic Interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory

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Difficulty Level: Easy

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

3. 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

4. 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 2 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

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Answer Location: Karl Marx and Advanced Capitalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. 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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Social Construction of Reality
Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. Define Marx's theory of false consciousness. Apply it to a contemporary problem.
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

2. 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 be 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) shapes 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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: The Looking Glass Self Theory
Difficulty Level: Medium

3. 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

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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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Application
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Theory
Difficulty Level: Hard

4. 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 interaction?
Cognitive Domain: Analysis
Answer Location: Social Constructionism
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. 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 interaction 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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