Sociology v4 1st edition Barkan Test Bank

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Chapter 1
Sociology and the Sociological Perspective

True/False Questions

1. Americans have freedom, but the freedom to think and act is constrained at least to some degree by society's standards and expectations.
   True; Easy

2. Society totally determines our attitudes and behavior.
   False; Easy

3. Our social background does not affect our chances of being healthy, wealthy, well-educated and so on.
   False; Easy

4. The likelihood of an individual to commit suicide depends at least partly on various aspects of their social background.
   True; Easy

5. The degree to which people succeed in life in such areas as education, income, and health is termed as life chances.
   True; Easy

6. Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions.
   True; Moderate

7. Social support networks help people deal with personal problems.
   True; Easy

8. Sociological perspective is a general term for social backgrounds and other aspects of the society.
   False; Moderate

9. Social environment is the belief that people's social backgrounds influence their attitudes, behaviors, and life chances.
   False; Easy

10. The theme of sociology in which the aim is to go beyond superficial understandings of social reality is termed as sociological imagination.
    False; Moderate

11. One of the main goals of sociology is to discover the multiple meanings of social reality.
    True; Moderate

12. Social structure can be horizontal or vertical.
    True; Easy

13. Vertical social structure refers to the social relationships and social and physical characteristics of communities to which individuals belong.
    False; Moderate

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14. Problems in society help account for problems that individuals experience.
    True; Easy

15. During severe economic downturn, unemployment is best understood as a personal trouble rather than a public issue.
    False; Easy

16. Although eating disorders often stem from personal problems, they also may reflect a cultural emphasis for women to have slender bodies. In this scenario, eating disorders are best understood as a public issue, not just as a personal trouble.
    True; Moderate

17. Sociology emphasizes that social problems like poverty and crime stem from structural problems in the larger society and not from the personal failings of the people suffering from them.
    True; Moderate

18. The horizontal social structure is also known as social inequality.
    False; Moderate

19. People's positions in society's hierarchy often have profound consequences for their attitudes, behaviors, and life chances, both for themselves and for their children.
    True; Moderate

20. Macrosociologists focus on the big picture, which usually means such things as social structure, social institutions, and social, political, and economic change.
    True; Moderate

21. There are two main perspectives in microsociology: functionalism and conflict theory.
    False; Moderate

22. Socialization helps to integrate us into society and to reinforce our respect for its rules.
    True; Moderate

23. The conflict theory perspective uses the human body as a model for understanding society.
    False; Moderate

24. Functionalism is often regarded as a conservative perspective.
    True; Moderate

25. In a capitalist society, the proletariat's interest lies in overthrowing the bourgeoisie to create an egalitarian society.
    True; Moderate

26. Radical feminists view gender inequality as present in all societies.
    True; Moderate

27. A major problem with the conflict theory is that it tends to support the status quo and thus seems to favor existing inequalities based on race, social class, and gender.
    False; Moderate

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28. The macro perspectives pay relatively little attention to the reasons for, and possible solutions to, such "large" and fundamentally important issues as poverty, racism, sexism, and social change.
False; Moderate

29. The conversation between two women inside a restaurant is most likely to be examined by a macrosociologist.
False; Moderate

30. One of the major assumptions of functionalism is that the society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors.
False; Moderate

31. Sociology as a social science relies heavily on systematic research that follows the standard rules of the scientific method.
True; Easy

32. A generalization always implies that all people will fit the pattern.
False; Moderate

33. Personal experience often offers only a very limited understanding of social reality other than our own.
True; Easy

34. Because everyone's personal experience is unique, we should not rely solely on our own personal experience in order to help us understand everything about a topic.
True; Moderate

35. Common sense is always correct.
False; Easy

36. Teachers, parents, and government officials can be trusted to give us a true, complete picture of social reality.
False; Moderate

37. The news media often overly simplify complex topics, thus providing a misleading picture of social reality.
True; Easy

38. Tradition can be a source of knowledge and understanding of social reality.
True; Easy

39. Traditional ways of thinking about social reality often turn out to be inaccurate and incomplete.
True; Easy

40. The scientific method helps reduce the potential for bias.
True; Moderate

41. When sociological research tests relationships between variables, it is normally testing whether a dependent variable affects an independent variable.
False; Moderate

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42. A hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two variables concerning the units of analysis the researcher is studying.
True; Easy

43. A variable that is influenced by an independent variable is called a dependent variable.
True; Easy

44. A random sample is a subset drawn from the larger population in which every unit in the population has the same chance of being included in the subset.
True; Easy

45. A random sample allows us to generalize the results of the sample to the population from which the sample comes.
True; Moderate

46. Large surveys are usually cost-effective.
False; Moderate

47. Observation studies do not involve random samples of the population and hence their results can readily be generalized to the population.
False; Moderate

48. Experiments do not help in establishing cause-and-effect relationships.
False; Easy

49. Observational studies can automatically be generalized to other settings and members of the population.
False; Moderate

50. Participant observation is field research in which the researcher merely observes a group or setting.
False; Easy

51. Secondary data analysis provides the researcher with data on all the variables that he or she may be interested.
False; Easy

Multiple Choice Questions

52. _____ is a general term for social backgrounds and other aspects of society.
    a. Social environment
    b. Social network
    c. Social circle
    d. Social pyramid
    e. Social mobility
    a; Moderate

53. The belief that people's social backgrounds influence their attitudes, behaviors, and life chances is referred to as:
    a. Social environment

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b. Social network
c. Social fact
d. Sociological perspective
e. Social mobility
d; Moderate

54. Which of the following refers to the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions?
a. Social environment
b. Sociological perspective
c. Sociology
d. Social mobility
e. Social fact
c; Moderate

55. _____ refer(s) to the degree to which people succeed in life in such areas as education, income, and health.
a. The sociological perspective
b. Life chances
c. Generalizations
d. Quality of life
e. Systematization
b; Moderate

56. A group of people who live within a defined territory and who share a culture can be referred to as a:
a. social network.
b. social mobility.
c. life chance.
d. social imagination.
e. society.
e; Moderate

57. Which of the following can help people deal with personal problems and deter them from committing suicide?
a. Functionalism
b. Conflict theory
c. The debunking motif
d. Anomie
e. Social support network
e; Moderate

58. According to sociologist Peter L. Berger, a theme of sociology in which the aim is to go beyond superficial understandings of social reality is termed as:
a. debunking motif
b. anomie
c. sociological perspective
d. collective conscience
e. conflict theory
a; Moderate

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59. _____ is a term that refers to the concept that individuals are generally blamed, and may even blame themselves, for problems affecting them.
    a. Personal troubles
    b. Conflict theory
    c. Debunking motif
    d. Sociological imagination
    e. Anomie
    a; Moderate

60. According to sociologist C. Wright Mills, _____ involves the realization that personal troubles are rooted in public issues.
    a. value orientation
    b. the sociological imagination
    c. abstract empiricism
    d. grand theory
    e. social fact
    b; Moderate

61. The vertical social structure is also known as:
    a. social network.
    b. social inequality.
    c. anomie.
    d. sociological imagination.
    e. functionalism.
    b; Moderate

62. The social patterns through which a society is organized is called:
    a. the debunking motif
    b. an anomie
    c. sociological perspective
    d. social structure
    e. social network aggregation
    d; Moderate

63. The social relationships and social and physical characteristics of communities to which individuals belong is referred to as:
    a. Vertical social structure
    b. Anomie
    c. Social inequality
    d. The debunking motif
    e. Horizontal social structure
    e; Moderate

64. The ways in which a society or group ranks people in a hierarchy, with some more "equal" than others, is referred to as:
    a. Anomie
    b. The debunking motif
    c. Vertical social structure
    d. Generalization
    e. Horizontal social structure
    c; Moderate

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65. William Ryan pointed out that Americans typically _____ when they think about the reasons for social problems like poverty, unemployment, and crime.
    a. blame the victim
    b. blame value systems
    c. blame the system
    d. blame cultural patterns
    e. blame inefficient systems
    a; Moderate

66. The use of sociological insights and findings to address social issues and achieve social change is termed as:
    a. Activist sociology
    b. Professional sociology
    c. Academic sociology
    d. Public sociology
    e. Stratification theory
    d; Moderate

67. Macrosociologists:
    a. study social interaction.
    b. sometimes focus on economic change.
    c. look at how families interact.
    d. focus on why co-workers interact the way they do.
    e. consider how small groups of people interpret the meanings of their interaction.
    b; Moderate

68. Which of the following is a major assumption of the functionalism theory?
    a. Slow social change is desirable, but rapid social change threatens social order.
    b. Far-reaching social change is needed to reduce social inequality and to create an egalitarian society.
    c. Individuals negotiate their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations.
    d. Social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary.
    e. Society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors.
    a; Hard

69. Social facts:
    a. help us learn society's rules and the need to cooperate.
    b. are our ties to other people and to social institutions such as religion and the family.
    c. help to socialize us, integrate us into society, and reinforce our respect for its rules.
    d. are forces external to the individual that affect and constrain individual attitudes and behavior.
    e. focus on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction.
    d; Hard

70. When _____ sets in, people become more unclear about how to deal with problems in their life.
    a. the collective conscience
    b. class consciousness

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c. social inequality
d. the debunking motif
e. anomie
e; Moderate

71. What does functionalism emphasize?
a. Rapid social change and other major social upheaval.
b. Traditional assumptions have given way to more repressive assumptions.
c. The importance of social institutions for producing a stable society.
d. Different groups in society have different interests stemming from their diverse social positions.
e. The importance of social change to reduce inequality.
c; Moderate

72. According to Marx and Engels, revolution is inevitable in a capitalist society because:
a. people act to maximize their pleasure and to reduce their pain.
b. of structural contradictions arising from the nature of capitalism.
c. when people interact, they seek to maximize the benefits they gain from the interaction and to reduce the advantages.
d. it tends to support the status quo and thus seems to favor existing inequalities based on race, social class, and gender.
e. capitalism overlooks the large degree of consensus on many important issues.
b; Hard

73. What is the main goal of capitalism?
a. Profit
b. Collective conscience
c. Social reform
d. Reduce the effects of poverty
e. Reduce socioeconomic segregation
a; Moderate

74. Why is the conflict theory considered more of a progressive perspective than the functionalist theory?
a. It focuses on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction.
b. It emphasizes the benefits of the various parts of society for ongoing social stability.
c. It views as overly deterministic the view of human thought and action.
d. It favors social change to reduce inequality.
e. It stresses that that the various parts of society contribute to the ongoing stability of society.
d; Hard

75. According to symbolic interactionists:
a. every society is divided into two classes based on the ownership of the means of production.
b. people act rationally and decide before they act whether their behavior will cause them more pleasure or pain.
c. all theories emphasize that society is filled with gender inequality such that women are the subordinate sex in many dimensions of social, political, and economic life.
d. when people interact, they seek to maximize the benefits they gain from the interaction and to reduce the disadvantages.
e. social order is possible because people learn what various symbols mean and apply these meanings to different kinds of situations.

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e; Moderate

76. _____ is a general view of human behavior that says people act to maximize their pleasure and to reduce their pain.
    a. Kantian ethics
    b. Ethnocentrism
    c. Cultural relativism
    d. Utilitarianism
    e. Stereotype
    d; Moderate

77. In explaining armed robbery, exchange theory:
    a. would state that armed robbery creates many jobs for police, the construction companies that build prisons, and the various businesses that provide products the public buys to help protect itself against crime.
    b. might suggest armed robbery and other crime actually serve positive functions for society.
    c. might note that most "street criminals" are poor and thus emphasize that armed robbery is the result of the frustration of living in poverty and facing a lack of jobs and other opportunities for economic and social success.
    d. would focus on how armed robbers make such decisions as when and where to rob someone and on how their interactions with other criminals reinforce their own criminal tendencies.
    e. would emphasize that armed robbers and other criminals are rational actors who carefully plan their crimes and who would be deterred by a strong threat of swift and severe punishment.
    e; Hard

78. According to Marx and Engels, the particular class of people in a capitalist society who are the ruling class and own the means of production are termed as the:
    a. class conscious.
    b. bourgeoisie.
    c. aristocrats.
    d. proletariat.
    e. serf.
    b; Hard

79. One of the major assumptions of utilitarianism is that:
    a. people construct their roles as they interact; they do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them.
    b. society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors.
    c. people act to maximize their advantages in a given situation and to reduce their disadvantages.
    d. social stability is necessary to have a strong society, and adequate socialization and social integration are necessary to achieve social stability.
    e. it may not contain data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested.
    c; Hard

80. The view that social institutions are important for their contributions to social stability is known as:
    a. functionalism.
    b. conflict theory.

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c. symbolic interactionism.
d. utilitarianism
e. exchange theory
a; Moderate

81. The micro perspective in sociology that focuses on the meanings people gain from social interaction is:
a. utilitarianism.
b. functionalism.
c. feminist theory.
d. conflict theory.
e. symbolic interactionism.
e; Moderate

82. _____ refers to a conclusion drawn from sociological research that is meant to apply to broad categories of people but to which many exceptions will always exist.
f. Specialization
g. Generalization
h. Stereotype
i. Mutual exclusion
j. Systematization
b; Easy

83. _____ is a statement of a tendency, rather than a hard-and-fast law.
k. Debunking motif
l. Hypothesis
m. Controlled conclusion
n. Contact theory
o. Generalization
e; Moderate

84. Alex grew up in the suburbs of Vermont where 99% of the population is white. While working on a sociology research report involving how many persons of color live in the United States, Alex predicted that almost 98% of the U.S population is white, which is not correct. This prediction made by Alex is more likely to be the result of her _____.
p. common sense
q. traditional beliefs
r. expert advice
s. media exposure
t. personal experience
e; Hard

85. Media coverage _____.
u. may overly simplify complex topics
v. corresponds with what the best evidence from systematic research seems to be telling us
w. provides a truthful picture of social reality
x. is not very important
y. offers us an enormous understanding of social reality including our own
a; Moderate

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86. The basic steps involved in the scientific method are: a) formulating a hypothesis, b) measuring and gathering data, c) analyzing these data, and d)
z. drawing appropriate conclusions.
aa. conducting data review.
bb. unit of analysis.
cc. screening secondary data.
dd. balancing variables.
a; Easy

87. The _____ is the classic steps by which research is conducted, including the formulation of a hypothesis, the gathering and analysis of data and drawing appropriate conclusions.
1. traditional method
2. scientific method
3. debunking motif
4. SCCS method
5. relational method
b; Moderate

88. In the scientific method of research, which of the following is the next step after measuring and gathering data?
a. Screening secondary data
b. Setting variables
c. Analyzing data
d. Drawing a conclusion
e. Field research
c; Moderate

89. A researcher wanted to test the hypothesis that "the number of goals a team scores depends on the number of games the team gets to play." The "number of games" in this hypothesis is a/an:
ee. psychographic variable.
ff. dependent variable.
gg. independent variable.
hh. scale variable.
ii. indeterminable variable.
c; Hard

90. _____ refers to the type of entity a researcher is studying.
a. Hypothesis
b. Variable
c. Unit of analysis
d. Sample
e. Randomization
c; Easy

91. When using the scientific method in sociological research, after the formulation of hypothesis, the next step the researcher takes is to:
jj. measure and gather data to test the hypothesis.
kk. repeat the experiment.
ll. draw conclusions.
mm. choose the research the topic.
nn. reformulate the hypothesis.

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a; Easy

92. A subset drawn from the larger population in which every unit in the population has the same chance of being included in the subset is termed as a:
oo. subset sample.
pp. random sample.
qq. nonrandom sample.
rr. simple sample.
ss. survey sample.
b; Easy

93. Which of the following is an advantage of a face-to-face survey?
tt. It is cost-effective.
uu. It can yield a high response rate.
vv. It is very useful for establishing cause-and-effect relationships.
ww. It is the only method that provides a full account of people's lives.
xx. It provides more quantitative data than qualitative data.
b; Moderate

94. Which of the following is an advantage of field research?
a. It may provide rich, detailed information about the people who are observed.
b. The results can readily be generalized to the population.
c. It is cost-effective.
d. It does not take much time.
e. It can yield a high response rate.
a; Moderate

95. Which of the following is a disadvantage of using secondary data analysis as a research method?
yy. The researcher has to spend the time to gather the data.
zz. The analysis may contain little data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested.
aaa. The researcher has to spend money to gather the data.
bbb. It can yield a high response rate.
ccc. It contains data on variables that are measured in the way a sociologist prefers.
b; Moderate

96. When this research method is used, many people can be included in a given study and results can be generalized to the population, but the information can be relatively superficial.
ddd. Experiments
eee. Observation
fff. Existing data
ggg. Field Research
hhh. Survey
e; Moderate

97. The major advantage of the experimental method is that:
iii. the information collected is relatively superficial.
jjj. the results can readily be generalized to the population.
kkk. the data set that is being analyzed contains data on all the variables in which a sociologist is interested.

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lll. the researcher can be fairly sure of a cause-and-effect relationship.
mmm. the researcher does not have to spend much time and money to gather data.
d; Moderate

98. The most common method used by sociologists to gather data for a research study is _____.
nnn. a survey
ooo. an experiment
ppp. observation
qqq. field study
rrr. using existing data
a; Moderate

99. _____ refers to the percentage of a sample that agrees to be included in a study, usually a survey.
sss. Respondent turnover
ttt. Response rate
uuu. Percent response
vvv. Research rate
www. Polling rate
b; Easy

100. _____ involves the analysis of existing data.
xxx. Variable analysis
yyy. Primary data analysis
zzz. Secondary data analysis
aaaa. Experimental analysis
bbbb. Collective analysis
c; Easy

101. One of the most important ethical guidelines in sociological and other human subject research concerns _____.
cccc. privacy and confidentiality
dddd. compensation
eeee. openness and behavior
ffff. behavior and resistance
gggg. support and rehabilitation
a; Moderate

102. The statement that Black Americans were more likely to support Biden over Trump in the 2020 election is _____.
a. a generalization
b. a known issue
c. a research sample
d. a hypothesis
e. common sense
a; Easy

Short Answer Questions

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103. With the secret ballot as an example, explain how the American democracy is not as "free" as we might think.
The secret ballot is one of the most cherished principles of American democracy. We vote in secret so that our choice of a candidate is made freely and without fear of punishment; but it is also possible to predict the candidate for whom any one individual will vote if enough is known about the individual. If so, perhaps that means our choice of a candidate is affected by many aspects of our social backgrounds and, in this sense, is not as "free" as we might think.
Moderate

104. Does society totally determine our attitudes and behavior? If yes, why and how?
Society shapes our attitudes and behavior even if it does not determine them altogether. We still have freedom, but that freedom is limited by society's expectations. Moreover, our views and behavior depend to some degree on our social location in society—our gender, race, social class, religion, and so forth. Thus, society as a whole, and our own social backgrounds, affect our attitudes and behaviors.
Moderate

105. Describe life chances.
Our social backgrounds affect one important part of our lives, and that is our life chances—our chances of being healthy, wealthy, well-educated, and, more generally, of living a good, happy life.
Easy

106. What is sociology? What is at the core of sociology?
Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions. At the heart of sociology is the sociological perspective.
Easy

107. Define the sociological perspective.
At the heart of sociology is the sociological perspective, the view that our social backgrounds influence our attitudes, behavior, and life chances. In this regard, we are not just individuals, but rather social beings deeply enmeshed in society. Although we all differ from each other in many respects, we share with many other people basic aspects of our social backgrounds, especially gender, race and ethnicity, and social class. This similarity makes us more similar to each other than we would otherwise be.
Moderate

108. What is the debunking motif?
The debunking motif is a theme of sociology in which by looking for levels of reality other than those given in the official interpretations of society, sociology looks beyond on-the-surface understandings of social reality and helps us recognize the value of alternative understandings.
Easy

109. Compare and contrast between horizontal and vertical social structures.
Horizontal social structure refers to the social relationships and social and physical characteristics of communities to which individuals belong. Vertical social structure refers to ways in which a society or group ranks people in a hierarchy, with some more "equal" than others.
Moderate

110. Explain the terms "personal troubles" and "public issues."

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Personal troubles refer to a problem affecting individuals that the affected individual, as well as other members of society, typically blame on the individual's own failings. Examples include such different problems as eating disorders, divorce, and unemployment. Public issues, whose source lies in the social structure and culture of a society, refer to a social problem affecting many individuals. Thus, problems in society help account for problems that individuals experience.
Easy

111. What is sociological imagination?
In recognizing the importance of social structure, sociology stresses that individual problems are often rooted in problems stemming from the horizontal and vertical social structures of society. This key insight informed C. Wright Mills' classic distinction between personal troubles and public issues.
Easy

112. Explain the "blaming the victim" and "blaming the system" approaches with an example.
Americans typically "blame the victim" when they think about the reasons for social problems like poverty, unemployment, and crime. They feel that these problems stem from personal failings of the people suffering them, and not from structural problems in the larger society. If instead we blame the system, we would focus our attention on the various social conditions that account for these problems. Specific examples for each answer will vary.
Moderate

113. Describe public sociology.
In 2004, sociologist Michael Burawoy called for "public sociology," or the use of sociological insights and findings to address social issues and achieve social change. Early U.S. sociologists emphasized the use of sociological research to achieve social reform, and today's public sociology reflects the historical roots of sociology in this regard.
Easy

114. Compare and contrast macrosociology and microsociology.
Macro sociologists focus on the "large picture," like social structure, social institutions, and social, political, and economic change. They look at the large-scale social forces that change the course of human society and the lives of individuals. Micro sociologists, on the other hand, study social interaction. They look at how families, co-workers, and other small groups of people interact, at why they interact the way they do, and at how they interpret the meanings of their interaction and of the social settings in which they find themselves.
Easy

115. What are the major assumptions of the conflict theory?
According to the conflict theory, society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors. Far-reaching social change is needed to reduce or eliminate social inequality and to create an egalitarian society.
Moderate

116. What are the major assumptions of symbolic interactionism?
According to symbolic interactionism, people construct their roles as they interact; they do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them. As this interaction occurs, individuals negotiate their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations. In so doing, they rely heavily on symbols such as words and gestures to reach a shared understanding of their interaction.

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Moderate

117. What are the major assumptions of utilitarianism, also known as the rational-choice theory?
According to the rational-choice theory, people act to maximize their advantages in a given situation and to reduce their disadvantages. If they decide the benefits outweigh disadvantages, they will initiate the interaction or continue it if already underway. If they instead decide the disadvantages outweigh the benefits, they will decline to begin interacting or stop the interaction if already begun. Social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary.
Moderate

118. Describe socialization.
Socialization helps us learn society's rules and the need to cooperate, as people end up generally agreeing on important norms and values.
Easy

119. Describe social integration.
Social integration relates to our ties to other people and to social institutions such as religion and the family. It helps to socialize us and to integrate us into society and reinforce our respect for the rules of society.
Easy

120. As per Emile Durkheim, how does society limit individual aspirations?
In general, society comprises many types of social facts, or forces external to the individual, that affect and thus constrain individual attitudes and behavior. Socialization and social integration help establish a strong collective conscience that is needed for a stable society. By so doing, society "creates a kind of cocoon around the individual, making him/her less individualistic, more a member of the group."
Hard

121. Explain why functionalism is often regarded as a conservative perspective.
Similar to the view of the conservative intellectuals from which it grew, functionalism is skeptical of rapid social change and other major social upheaval. Sudden and rapid changes in society and its social institutions are troublesome according to the functionalist perspective. Any sudden change in society thus threatens its stability and future. By taking a skeptical approach to social change, functionalism supports the status quo and is thus often regarded as a conservative perspective.
Hard

122. What do you understand by the term "anomie"?
Anomie can be defined as normlessness, a state in which social norms are unclear. It results from situations, such as periods of rapid social change, when social norms are weak and unclear or social ties are weak. When anomie sets in, people become more unclear about how to deal with problems in their life. Their aspirations are no longer limited by society's constraints and thus cannot be fulfilled.
Easy

123. What were the contributions of the French Revolution of 1789 and the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century towards the rise of functionalism?
Functionalism arose out of these two great revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries. The intense violence and bloody terror of the French Revolution of 1789 shook Europe to its core.

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The aristocracy throughout Europe feared that revolution would spread to their own lands, and intellectuals feared that social order was crumbling. The Industrial Revolution of the 19th century reinforced these concerns. Starting first in Europe and then in the United States, the Industrial Revolution led to many changes, including the rise and growth of cities as people left their farms to live near factories. As the cities grew, people lived in increasingly poor, crowded, and decrepit conditions. One result of these conditions was mass violence, as mobs of the poor roamed the streets of European and American cities. They attacked bystanders, destroyed property, and generally wreaked havoc. Here was additional evidence, if European intellectuals needed it, of the breakdown of social order.
Hard

124. Describe conflict theory.
Conflict theory is the view that society is composed of groups with different interests arising from their placement in the social structure.
Easy

125. Describe the two classes based on the ownership of the means of production.
According to Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, every society is divided into two classes based on the ownership of the means of production—tools, factories, and the like. In a capitalist society, the bourgeoisie or ruling class owns the means of production, while the proletariat or working class does not own the means of production and instead is oppressed and exploited by the bourgeoisie. This difference creates automatic conflict of interests between the two groups. The bourgeoisie is interested in maintaining its position at the top of society, while the proletariat's interest lies in rising up from the bottom and overthrowing the bourgeoisie to create an egalitarian society.
Moderate

126. According to Marx and Engels, revolution is inevitable in a capitalist society. Explain.
Marx and Engels argue that in a capitalist society, revolution is inevitable because of structural contradictions arising from the nature of capitalism. Because profit is the main goal of capitalism, the bourgeoisie's interest lies in maximizing profit. To do so, capitalists try to keep wages as low as possible and to spend as little money as possible on working conditions. This central fact of capitalism eventually prompts the rise of class consciousness, or an awareness of the reasons for their oppression, among workers. Their class consciousness in turn leads them to revolt against the bourgeoisie to eliminate the oppression and exploitation they suffer.
Moderate

127. Describe feminist theory.
Feminist theory is the view that society is filled with gender inequality characterized by women being the subordinate sex in the social, political, and economic dimensions of society.
Moderate

128. Describe symbolic interactionism.
Symbolic interactionism is a micro perspective in sociology regarding the meanings people gain from social interaction. This perspective focuses on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction. Symbolic interactionists feel that people do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them; instead, they construct these roles as they interact. As they interact, they "negotiate" their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations. In so doing, they rely heavily on symbols such as words and gestures to reach a shared understanding of their interaction.
Hard

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129. What derivations do symbolic interactionists draw from the work of Herbert Blumer?
Drawing on Blumer's work, symbolic interactionists feel that people do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them; instead, they construct these roles as they interact. As they interact, they "negotiate" their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations. In so doing, they rely heavily on symbols such as words and gestures to reach a shared understanding of their interaction.
Moderate

130. Describe utilitarianism.
Utilitarianism is a general view of human behavior that says people act to maximize their pleasure (or benefits) and to reduce their pain (or disadvantages). If they decide the interaction's benefits outweigh its disadvantages, they will initiate the interaction or continue it if it is already underway. If they instead decide the interaction's disadvantages outweigh its benefits, they will decline to begin interacting or stop the interaction if already begun. Social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary.
Moderate

131. How would you apply the concept of utilitarianism to a "dating relationship"?
Each partner in a dating relationship gives up a bit of autonomy in return for love and other benefits of being close to someone. Yet every relationship has its good and bad moments, and both partners make frequent compromises to ensure the relationship will endure. As long as the couple feels the good moments outweigh the bad moments, the relationship will continue. But once one or both partners decide the reverse is true, the relationship will end.
Moderate

132. Discuss some of the problems that arise from the conflict theory.
By emphasizing inequality and dissensus in society, conflict theory overlooks the large degree of consensus on many important issues. And by emphasizing the ways in which social institutions contribute to social inequality, conflict theory minimizes the ways in which these institutions are necessary for society's stability.
Moderate

133. What is generalization?
Generalization is a conclusion drawn from sociological research that is meant to apply to broad categories of people but for which many exceptions will always exist.
Easy

134. What are the five sources of social reality?
Our knowledge and understanding of social reality come from at least five sources: (a) personal experience, (b) common sense, (c) the media (including the Internet), (d) "expert authorities," such as teachers, parents, and government officials, and (e) tradition.
Easy

135. Why is sociology considered a social science?
Sociology uses research to try to understand various aspects of human thought and behavior. When we say that sociology is a social science, we mean that it uses the scientific method to try to understand the many aspects of society that sociologists study.
Moderate

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136. Sociology can be a fascination as well as frustration. Explain.
Sociology is fascinating because no matter how much sociologists are able to predict people's behavior, attitudes, and life chances, many people will not fit the predictions. Sociology is frustrating for the same reason. Because people can never be totally explained by their social environment, sociologists can never completely understand the sources of their behavior, attitudes, and life chances.
Moderate

137. What is the limitation of using media as a means to enhance our knowledge and understanding of social reality?
Though we learn a lot about current events and social and political issues from various media sources, it has been seen that media coverage may oversimplify complex topics or even distort what the best evidence from systematic research seems to be telling us.
Moderate

138. What is the limitation of using tradition as a source to influence our understanding of social reality?
Tradition is generally valuable because a society should always be aware of its roots. However, traditional ways of thinking about social reality often turn out to be inaccurate and incomplete.
Moderate

139. List the basic steps of the scientific method.
The scientific method involves these basic steps: (a) formulating a hypothesis, (b) measuring and gathering data to test the hypothesis, (c) analyzing these data, and (d) drawing appropriate conclusions.
Easy

140. What is a unit of analysis? Briefly explain the different types of units of analysis in sociology.
A unit of analysis refers to the type of entity a researcher is studying. It is the focus of sociological research, usually a person, organization, or geological region. If we conduct research on the actions or behaviors of a person, then we are studying characteristics, or variables, involving people, and the person is the unit of analysis. When the focus is on how an organization and the members within it operate, then the unit of analysis is the organization. When a specific city, state, region, or whole society is studied then the unit of analysis is the geographical region.
Moderate

141. Identify the three units of analysis in sociology.
The most common unit of analysis in sociology is the person. Additionally, sociologists can use the organization or the geographical location as the basis for a study.
Easy

142. What is the difference between an independent variable and a dependent variable?
An independent variable is a variable we think can affect another variable. This other variable is the dependent variable, or the variable we think is affected by the independent variable.
Easy

143. Define a variable and list a few variables used in sociological studies of people as units of analysis.

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A variable is any characteristic that varies among units of analysis. Key variables in sociological studies of people as the units of analysis include gender, race and ethnicity, social class, age, and any number of attitudes and behaviors.
Easy

144. What are the advantages and disadvantages of surveys?
An advantage of using a survey as a research method are that many people can be included. If given to a random sample of the population, a survey's results can be generalized to the population. A disadvantage of using a survey as a research method are that large surveys are expensive and time-consuming. Although much information is gathered, this information is also relatively superficial.
Moderate

145. What are the advantages and disadvantages of experiments?
The advantage of using an experiment as a research method is that if random assignment is used, experiments provide fairly convincing data on cause and effect. The disadvantage of using a survey as a research method is that because experiments do not involve random samples of the population and most often involve college students, their results cannot readily be generalized to the population.
Moderate

146. What are the advantages and disadvantages of field research?
The advantage of using observation for field research is that observational studies may provide rich, detailed information about the people who are observed. Because observation studies do not involve random samples of the population, their results cannot readily be generalized to the population which can be a disadvantage of using observation or field research.
Moderate

147. What are the advantages and disadvantages of existing data?
The advantage of using existing data is that it has already been gathered, so the researcher does not have to spend the time and money to gather the data. The disadvantages of using existing data are that the data set that is being analyzed may not contain data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested, or may contain data on variables that are not measured in ways the sociologist might prefer.
Moderate

148. What are the major sociological research methods? Give a brief description of each.
The major methods of conducting sociological research are surveys, experiments, observation (field research), and existing data. The survey is the most common research design in sociological research. For a survey, the respondents either fill out questionnaires themselves or provide verbal answers to interviewers asking them the questions. There are many different experimental designs, but a typical experiment consists of an experimental group and a control group, with subjects randomly assigned to either group. For observational research, also called field research, the researcher will go into the field to observe people and social settings in order to provide rich descriptions and analyses of behavior. Researchers may also analyze existing data, rather than gathering their own, which is called secondary data analysis.
Moderate

149. What is a face-to-face survey? What are its advantages and disadvantages?
A face-to-face survey is a survey in which interviewers meet with respondents to ask them questions. This type of survey can yield a lot of information, because interviewers typically will

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spend at least an hour asking their questions, and a high response rate, which is important to be able to generalize the survey's results to the entire population. On the downside, this type of survey can be very expensive and time-consuming to conduct.
Moderate

150. How are telephone surveys and mail surveys conducted? What are their advantages and drawbacks?
Telephone surveys are conducted by random digit dialing through computers which results in a random sample of all telephone numbers being selected. Although the response rate and the number of questions asked are both lower than in face-to-face surveys (people can just hang up the phone at the outset or let their answering machine take the call), the ease and low expense of telephone surveys are making them increasingly popular. Mailed surveys, done by mailing questionnaires to respondents, are still used, but not as often. Compared with face-to-face surveys, mailed questionnaires are less expensive and time consuming but have lower response rates, because many people simply throw out the questionnaire along with other junk mail.
Moderate

151. What is a response rate? Does the response rate depend on the type of survey used?
A response rate is the percentage of a sample that agrees to be included in a study, usually a survey. The response rate tends to vary depending upon the type of survey conducted. Face-to-face surveys have a high response rate. Telephonic surveys and mailed surveys yield lower response rates compared to the face-to-face survey. Web surveys generally have a high response rate as it has the potential to reach many people with much less expense.
Easy

152. Differentiate between the participant and nonparticipant observation methods.
Participant observation is field research in which the researcher is an active member of the group or setting being observed. Nonparticipant observation is field research in which the researcher merely observes a group or setting.
Moderate

153. What is intensive interviewing? What are its major advantages and disadvantages?
Intensive interviewing is a type of research design where the researcher does not necessarily observe a group of people in their natural setting but rather sits down with them individually and interviews them at great length, often for one or two hours or even longer. The researcher typically records the interview and later transcribes it for analysis. The advantage of this type of interviewing is that it provides much information about the subjects being interviewed. The disadvantage is that the results of such interviewing cannot necessarily be generalized beyond the subjects.
Moderate

154. What are experimental groups and control groups in experimental research?
A typical experiment consists of an experimental group and a control group, with subjects randomly assigned to either group. The experimental group is the group that experiences the experimental condition. The control group is the group that does not experience the experimental condition.
Easy

155. What is secondary data analysis? What are its advantages and disadvantages?
Secondary data analysis occurs when sociologists do not gather their own data but instead analyze existing data that someone else has gathered. The advantage of using existing data is

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that it has already been gathered, so the researcher does not have to spend the time and money to gather the data. The disadvantages of using existing data are that the data set that is being analyzed may not contain data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested, or it may contain data on variables that are not measured in ways the sociologist might prefer.
Moderate

156. What steps should be taken in order to ensure that sociological research findings are indeed used to address the real sociological issues in our society?
Although sociological research findings may be relevant for many social issues, this certainly does not guarantee that these findings will actually be marshaled to address these issues. For this to happen, elected officials and other policymakers must be open to the implications of research findings, and an informed public must make its desire for addressing these issues known.
Moderate

Fill in the Blanks

157. Americans have freedom, but the freedom to think and act is constrained at least to some degree by society's standards and expectations and by the many aspects of our social _____.
backgrounds; Easy

158. _____ is the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions.
Sociology; Easy

159. A _____ is a group of people who live within a defined territory and who share a culture.
society; Easy

160. A person's _____ influences but does not totally determine his or her attitudes and behavior.
social background; Easy

161. _____ is the degree to which people succeed in life in such areas as education, income, and health.
Life chance; Easy

162. Our _____ is a general term for social backgrounds and other aspects of society.
social environment; Easy

163. The concept that our social backgrounds influence a person's attitudes, behaviors, and life chances is _____.
sociological perspective; Easy

164. The _____ from Peter L. Berger, refers to a theme of sociology in which the aim is to go beyond superficial understandings of social reality.
debunking motif; Moderate

165. The social and physical characteristics of the communities to which we belong are the _____ social structure.
horizontal; Moderate

166. Vertical social structure is more commonly called _____.

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social inequality; Moderate

167. _____ refer to problems affecting individuals that the individuals affected, as well as other members of society, typically blame on the individual's own failings.
Personal troubles; Easy

168. The cultural attitude toward women and weight and the subsequent issues with eating disorders can be understood by _____.
sociological imagination; Moderate

169. _____ refer to social problems affecting many individuals whose source lies in the social structure and culture of a society.
Public issues; Easy

170. _____ is the belief that personal difficulties stem from problems in society.
Blaming the system; Easy

171. _____ is the belief that people experiencing difficulties are to blame for their own personal troubles.
Blaming the victim; Easy

172. The use of sociological insights and findings to achieve social change and address issues was promoted by _____ as public sociology.
Michael Burawoy; Moderate

173. The term coined by C. Wright Mills to refer to the ability to appreciate the structural basis for individual problems is _____.
sociological imagination; Moderate

174. _____ sociologists focus on the "large picture," which usually means things like social structure, social institutions, and social, political, and economic change.
Macro; Easy

175. Rational-choice theory is also known as the _____ theory.
exchange; Easy

176. According to Durkheim, in general, society comprises many types of _____, or forces external to the individual, that affect and thus constrain individual attitudes and behavior.
social facts; Easy

177. _____ refers to the combined norms of society.
Collective conscience; Easy

178. Anomie or _____, results from situations, such as periods of rapid social change, when social norms are weak and unclear or social ties themselves are weak.
normlessness; Easy

179. By taking a skeptical approach to social change, _____ supports the status quo and is thus often regarded as a conservative perspective.
functionalism; Moderate

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180. _____ helps us learn society's rules and the need to cooperate, as people end up generally agreeing on important norms and values.
Socialization; Easy

181. _____ helps socialize us and integrate us into society and reinforce our respect for its rules.
Social integration; Easy

182. _____ theory refers to the view that society is composed of groups with different interests arising from their placement in the social structure.
Conflict; Moderate

183. Acting to minimize disadvantages and maximize advantages is the _____ theory.
utilitarianism; Easy

184. _____ refers to tools, factories, and other objects and processes by which a society carries out its economy.
Means of production; Easy

185. In a capitalist society, the _____ or ruling class owns the means of production.
bourgeoisie; Easy

186. In a capitalist society, the _____ or working class does not own the means of production and instead is oppressed and exploited by the bourgeoisie.
proletariat; Easy

187. _____ are inherent problems in capitalism that lead to the development of class consciousness and eventually to revolution.
Structural contradictions; Moderate

188. _____ is the awareness of one's placement in the social structure and the interests arising from this placement.
Class consciousness; Moderate

189. The _____ theory is the view that society is filled with gender inequality characterized by women being the subordinate sex in the social, political, and economic dimensions of society.
feminist; Moderate

190. _____ is a micro approach that focuses on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction.
Symbolic interactionism; Moderate

191. The fact that social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary is one of the major assumptions of the _____ theory.
utilitarianism; Moderate

192. The _____ refers to the classic steps by which scientific research is conducted, including the formulation of a hypothesis and the gathering and analysis of data.
scientific method; Easy

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193. The basic steps in the scientific method include formulating a hypothesis, measuring and gathering data to test the hypothesis, analyzing these data, and _____.
drawing appropriate conclusions; Easy

194. _____ is a statement of the nature of the relationship between an independent variable and a dependent variable.
Hypothesis; Easy

195. A _____ is the focus of sociological research, usually a person, organization, or geographical region.
unit of analysis; Easy

196. A _____ is any feature or factor that may differ among the units of analysis that a researcher is studying.
variable; Easy

197. A(n) _____ variable is a variable that can affect another variable.
independent; Easy

198. Cities and states are an example of _____, the third unit of analysis in sociology.
geographical location; Easy

199. With any type of survey question, it is important that it be _____ so that the response will be unambiguous.
clearly worded; Easy

200. The common units of analysis in sociology are person, organization, and _____.
geographical location; Easy

201. A _____ is a subset drawn from the larger population in which every unit in the population has the same chance of being included in the subset.
random sample; Easy

202. The _____ is the percentage of a sample that agrees to be included in a study, usually a survey.
response rate; Easy

203. The major types of sociological research include surveys, ____, observational studies, and the use of existing data.
experiments; Easy

204. If random assignment is used, _____ can provide fairly convincing data on cause and effect.
experiments; Moderate

205. Typical experiments consist of an experimental group and a _____ group.
control; Easy

206. The technique of field research in which the researcher is an active member of the group or setting being observed is called _____.
participant observation; Easy

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207. In an experiment, the group that does not experience the experimental condition is known as the _____.
control group; Easy

208. In an experiment, the group that experiences the experimental condition is called the _____.
experimental group; Easy

209. _____ refers to field research in which the researcher merely observes a group or setting.
Nonparticipant observation; Easy

210. _____ refers to the analysis of data from existing records.
Secondary data analysis; Easy

211. According to the text, two of the most important ethical guidelines in sociological and other human subject research are privacy and _____.
confidentiality; Easy

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