

Chapter 1: Sociology and Social Problems

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. _____ can be defined as any set of persons cooperating together to organize stable patterns of human activity.
- Social problem
 - Social institution
 - Social structure
 - Social constructionism

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
COG: Knowledge

2. Government, military, and marriage are examples of _____.
- structural functionalism
 - social institutions
 - demographic factors
 - interest groups

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Structural Functionalism
OBJ: 1.6: Evaluate how each of the three theoretical perspectives can be applied to improve our understanding of social problems.
COG: Application

3. Which of the following occupations would be considered working class?
- professor
 - architect
 - factory worker
 - teacher

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
COG: Application

4. Which of the following would be an example of a pattern or behavior that is a social problem?
- prescription drug abuse among teenagers
 - Hurricane Sandy
 - a student regularly arriving to class late
 - high unemployment rates

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
REF: The Objective and Subjective Aspects of Social Problems
OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Comprehension

5. _____ can be defined as the social process by which people define a social problem into existence.
- Social problem
 - Social institution
 - Social structure

d. Social constructionism

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: The Objective and Subjective Aspects of Social Problems

OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Knowledge

6. _____ include patterns of behavior that a large number of people have identified as negatively impacting their well-being and in need of amelioration.
- Social problems
 - Social institutions
 - Social structures
 - Social constructions

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: The Sociological Study of Social Problems

OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Knowledge

7. A _____ can be defined as a large group effort to solve a social problem by influencing changes in policy or social systems.
- social movement
 - social institution
 - social structure
 - social constructionism

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: Types of Action

OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem.

COG: Knowledge

8. _____ can be defined as a pattern of interrelated social institutions.
- Social problem
 - Social organization
 - Social structure
 - Social constructionism

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: Types of Action

OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem.

COG: Knowledge

9. A cohort is defined as individuals within a population who share similar _____.
- socioeconomic status and gender
 - age and experiences
 - family backgrounds and social status
 - age and interests

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: Settling for Less

OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem.

COG: Knowledge

10. Using _____ people become conscious of circumstances outside their immediate environments and comprehend structural transformations occurring in society.
- social problem
 - social organization
 - social structure
 - sociological imagination

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Medium

REF: The Sociological Imagination
COG: Knowledge

OBJ: 1.3: Explain the Sociological Imagination.

11. Which of the terms below allows us to see the intersection between history and biography?
- social lens
 - social movement
 - social structure
 - the sociological imagination

ANS: D

PTS: 1

DIF: Easy

REF: The Sociological Imagination
COG: Knowledge

OBJ: 1.3: Explain the Sociological Imagination.

12. Researchers interested in the objective aspects of social problems are most likely to use _____ methods.
- quantitative
 - qualitative
 - primary
 - secondary

ANS: A

PTS: 1

DIF: Medium

REF: Sociological Research

OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.

COG: Comprehension

13. Researchers interested in the subjective aspects of social problems are most likely to use _____ methods.
- quantitative
 - qualitative
 - primary
 - secondary

ANS: B

PTS: 1

DIF: Medium

REF: Sociological Research

OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.

COG: Comprehension

14. Which of the following research methods asks respondents to answer questions on a written questionnaire?
- survey research
 - participant observation
 - qualitative research
 - content analysis

ANS: A

PTS: 1

DIF: Medium

REF: Survey Research

OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.

COG: Comprehension

15. Jennifer Silva's research on the lives and feelings of working-class men and women can best be characterized as _____.
- survey research
 - quantitative research
 - qualitative research

d. content analysis

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Sociological Research
OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.
COG: Application

16. Which of the following research methods involves observing people in their everyday settings?
- survey research
 - quantitative research
 - experimental research
 - participant observation

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Participant Observation
OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.
COG: Knowledge

17. In 2016, Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve examined how the criminal courts in Cook County–Chicago dispensed racialized punishments to African American and Latino defendants before, during, and after they were found guilty. During this research, Van Cleve observed open-court interactions and private plea bargaining exchanges. She interacted with court officials and defendants—in attorney’s offices, courtrooms, hallways, jail, and judge’s chambers. This is an example of _____.
- survey research
 - quantitative research
 - experimental research
 - participant observation

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Participant Observation
OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.
COG: Application

18. Which of the following research methods involves asking respondents a series of questions on the phone or in person?
- survey research
 - quantitative research
 - qualitative research
 - interviewing

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Interviewing
OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.
COG: Application

19. Which of the following research methods involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches?
- survey research
 - content analysis
 - mixed methods research
 - interviewing

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Mixed Methods
OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.
COG: Knowledge

20. A collection of related concepts is called a(n) _____.
a. social problem
b. research statement
c. abstract description
d. theory

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Three Sociological Theories
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

21. Which sociological theory considers how various social phenomena work to maintain unity and order in society?
a. structural functionalism
b. conflict theory
c. symbolic interactionism
d. feminist theory

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Structural Functionalism
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

22. Viewing society as an integrated system made up of different social institutions that work together to keep it going best illustrates which theoretical approach?
a. structural functionalism
b. conflict theory
c. symbolic interactionism
d. feminist theory

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Structural Functionalism
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Analysis

23. Which sociological theory focuses on dissent, coercion, and antagonism in society?
a. structural functionalism
b. conflict theory
c. symbolic interactionism
d. feminist theory

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Conflict Theory
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

24. Karl Marx's theory that people in a capitalist society are primarily divided into two antagonistic social classes is an example of _____.
a. structural functionalism
b. conflict theory
c. symbolic interactionism
d. feminist theory

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Conflict Theory
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Analysis

25. Ralf Dahrendorf's theory that those with power give orders and those without power take orders, leading to tensions between interests groups, is an example of _____.
a. structural functionalism
b. conflict theory
c. symbolic interactionism
d. feminist theory

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Conflict Theory
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Analysis

26. Which theory depicts society as the product of words, gestures, and objects that are given meaning by people in their interactions?
a. structural functionalism
b. conflict theory
c. symbolic interactionism
d. feminist theory

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Symbolic Interactionism
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

27. The _____ is a process by which we are able to see ourselves in relationship to others.
a. social self
b. mirror image
c. symbolic self
d. functional self-image

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Symbolic Interactionism
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

28. Charles Horton Cooley's concept that we see ourselves as we think others see us is known as the _____.
a. social self
b. mirror image
c. symbolic self
d. looking-glass self

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Symbolic Interactionism
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

29. _____ is the social process whereby a false definition of the situation brings about behavior that makes the false definition "come true."
a. Self-fulfilling prophecy
b. Symbolic interaction
c. Signification theory
d. Self-defeating prophecy

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Symbolic Interactionism

OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

30. In his classic study on the social problem of suicide, Émile Durkheim found that suicide rates are primarily influenced by _____.
a. social integration and social regulation
b. social integration and social unity
c. social regulation and social repression
d. social integration and social dysfunction

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: Structural Functionalism| Suicide

OBJ: 1.6: Evaluate how each of the three theoretical perspectives can be applied to improve our understanding of social problems. COG: Knowledge

31. Which type of suicide occurs when a society has too little social integration?
a. egoistic
b. anomic
c. fatalistic
d. altruistic

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Medium

REF: Structural Functionalism| Suicide

OBJ: 1.6: Evaluate how each of the three theoretical perspectives can be applied to improve our understanding of social problems. COG: Knowledge

32. Which type of suicide occurs when a society has too much social integration?
a. egoistic
b. anomic
c. fatalistic
d. altruistic

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Medium

REF: Structural Functionalism| Suicide

OBJ: 1.6: Evaluate how each of the three theoretical perspectives can be applied to improve our understanding of social problems. COG: Knowledge

33. If our friends, family, and teachers continually tell us that we are clever, then we are likely to see ourselves as clever. This is an example of what sociological perspective?
a. structural functionalism
b. conflict theory
c. symbolic interactionism
d. feminist theory

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Symbolic Interactionism

OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Comprehension

34. A _____ can be defined as a total transformation in the structure of society.
a. social problem
b. social institution
c. social structure
d. social revolution

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Social Policy
OBJ: 1.7: Discuss the role of social policy in managing social problems.
COG: Knowledge

35. A sociologist wants to study how the views that inner-city youth have of themselves and the larger social world are shaped by their experiences as they go from home to school and back. The best research method to use would be _____.
a. mixed methods
b. surveys
c. quantitative research
d. qualitative research

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Mixed Methods
OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.
COG: Application

36. A style of life that includes various forms of civic engagement, community service, and volunteerism intended to help alleviate social problems is defined as _____.
a. a social movement
b. service sociology
c. a social revolution
d. a culture of service

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Medium
REF: Service Sociology and Social Problems
OBJ: 1.9: Identify ways in which service sociology can make a difference.
COG: Knowledge

37. Because social problems are _____ in nature, large collections of people are required to define them as problems before the need for change is recognized.
a. objective
b. collective
c. overt
d. covert

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Medium
REF: The Objective and Subjective Aspects of Social Problems
OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Comprehension

38. Action to bring about large-scale *social change* is usually aimed at transforming the _____ and the pattern of interrelated social institutions.
a. interaction order
b. social norms
c. class system
d. social structure

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Patterns and Trends
OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Comprehension

39. _____ theories examine relatively narrow features of society and/or very specific social problems.
a. Specialized

- b. Integrated
- c. Constructionist
- d. Macro

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Specialized Theories
 OBJ: 1.8: Explore the role of specialized theories in sociology. COG: Comprehension

40. _____ sought to compile empirical data on various social problems by gathering detailed descriptions of the conditions of groups living in poverty.
- a. Vladimir Lenin
 - b. Joseph R. Gusfield
 - c. Jane Addams
 - d. Émile Durkheim

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Medium REF: Specialized Theories
 OBJ: 1.8: Explore the role of specialized theories in sociology. COG: Knowledge

TRUE/FALSE

1. The labor market is a social institution.

ANS: T PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
 OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
 COG: Knowledge

2. Members of the millennial generation are less likely to live with their parents as young adults than 18- to 24-year-olds in the 1960s.

ANS: F PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
 OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
 COG: Comprehension

3. Race is not considered a demographic characteristic.

ANS: F PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
 OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
 COG: Knowledge

4. Most social scientists agree there are five social classes in the United States.

ANS: F PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
 OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
 COG: Comprehension

5. Income affects social class but wealth does not.

ANS: F PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
 OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
 COG: Knowledge

6. Most working-class Americans have jobs in manufacturing or the service economy.

ANS: T PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Settling for Less
OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
COG: Knowledge

7. A large collection of people must define something as a problem for it to be considered a social problem.

ANS: T PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
REF: The Sociological Study of Social Problems
OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Knowledge

8. The sociological imagination requires one to make connections between personal troubles and public issues.

ANS: T PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
REF: The Sociological Imagination OBJ: 1.3: Explain the Sociological Imagination.
COG: Comprehension

9. Anomie is defined as a state of harmony within society.

ANS: F PTS: 1 DIF: Easy
REF: Structural Functionalism| Suicide
OBJ: 1.6: Evaluate how each of the three theoretical perspectives can be applied to improve our understanding of social problems. COG: Knowledge

10. According to the social constructionist approach, when people define certain behaviors, events, and social conditions as social problems, they are social problems.

ANS: T PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: Symbolic Interactionism
OBJ: 1.5: Explain the three main sociological perspectives of structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. COG: Knowledge

ESSAY

1. What is intersectionality? Pick a social problem and explain why it is important to look at this problem from an intersectional perspective. How might our understanding of this problem be limited if we did not take an intersectional approach?

ANS:
Intersectionality is the way demographic factors combine to affect people's experiences. Answers will vary based on the example.

PTS: 1 DIF: Hard REF: Settling for Less
OBJ: 1.1: Describe how working-class young adults are currently experiencing their lives.
COG: Application

2. What is a social problem? Discuss examples of each of the following types of social problems: social condition, event, and pattern of behavior.

ANS:

A social problem is a social condition, event, or pattern of behavior that negatively affects the well-being of a significant number of people (or a number of significant people) who believe it needs to be changed or ameliorated. Answers will vary based on the examples chosen.

PTS: 1 DIF: Hard REF: The Sociological Study of Social Problems
OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Analysis

3. What is the difference between the objective and subjective aspects of a social problem? Pick a social problem discussed in class and explain the difference between the objective and subjective aspects of this problem.

ANS:

Objective aspects are the concrete measures of the problem and its prevalence. Subjective aspects are shaped by what people define as a social problem. The rest of the answer will vary based on the example.

PTS: 1 DIF: Hard
REF: The Objective and Subjective Aspects of Social Problems
OBJ: 1.2: Define what constitutes a social problem. COG: Analysis

4. Define the sociological imagination. Discuss why this is an important aspect of sociology and how we can use it to help connect with others.

ANS:

The sociological imagination is a form of self-consciousness that allows us to go beyond our immediate environments (of family, neighborhood, work) and understand the major structural transformations that have occurred and are occurring. It helps us make the connection between history and biography, between our own society and our private lives, and become aware of all individuals in similar circumstances. In short, the sociological imagination allows us to see our personal troubles as social problems. In this way, we are not only able to confront social problems, but we are also aware of the social problems' origins. Using the sociological imagination allows us to better understand other individuals' experiences and, therefore, be of service to them.

PTS: 1 DIF: Hard REF: The Sociological Imagination
OBJ: 1.3: Explain the Sociological Imagination. COG: Application

5. Describe the benefits of employing a mixed methods approach to research instead of using only a quantitative or qualitative method. Provide an example of when this research method might be more useful than one of the other two methods.

ANS:

Combining quantitative and qualitative methods of research can achieve a fuller picture of the social problems an individual is studying. The remainder of the answer will vary depending on the example chosen.

PTS: 1 DIF: Hard REF: Mixed Methods
OBJ: 1.4: Discuss how sociological research can be used to study social problems.
COG: Application