

Chapter 1 – Sociology: A Unique Way to View the World

Multiple Choice

1. According to the text, the smallest unit sociologists study is a(n):
A) Triad
*B) Dyad
C) Individual
D) Community

2. In comparison, sociology focuses on _____, whereas psychology focuses on _____.
A) humans, rats
*B) group patterns, behavior of individuals
C) behavior of individuals, group patterns
D) society, members of society

3. Rigid beliefs that are often untested or unfounded about a certain group of people are referred to as:
*A) Stereotypes
B) Common sense
C) Prejudices
D) Discriminations

4. Common sense differs from sociology primarily because:
*A) Sociology uses scientific research methods to test ideas while common sense relies primarily on untested information.
B) Sociology is an unpopular discipline and common sense is viewed as a reliable source of information.
C) Common sense is only used by the uneducated while only educated persons use sociology.
D) Common sense relies only on emotion to draw conclusions while sociology relies only on logic to formulate studies.

5. Which of the following sociologists is most closely associated with the sociological imagination?
A) Peter Berger
B) Karl Marx
*C) C. Wright Mills
D) Émile Durkheim

6. While walking down the street, Alana notices a homeless man. She thinks to herself, "That man must be homeless because he became unemployed. I'm sure that's because our local economy is so bad and companies seem to be moving to other countries. He probably lost his family, too." Sociologists would say that Alana is using her:
*A) Sociological imagination
B) Psychological training
C) Economic perspective
D) Investigative abilities

7. Which of the following elements did C. Wright Mills attribute as being the one that sociologists would use to explain individual behavior?

- A) Common Sense
- *B) Instinct
- C) External influence
- D) Inherited ability

8. A social scientist is trained to study the contents of garbage heaps. "What can we learn from studying garbage?" would most likely be asked by a(n):

- *A) Anthropologist
- B) Economist
- C) Political scientist
- D) Psychologist

9. The discipline a social scientist is trained in plays a role in the questions the social scientist asks. "What are individuals' physiological reactions to a violent movie like Saw?" would most likely be asked by a(n):

- A) Anthropologist
- B) Economist
- *C) Psychologist
- D) Political scientist

10. The discipline a social scientist is trained in plays a role in the questions the social scientist asks. "How will high gas prices impact automobile sales in the near future?" would most likely be asked by a(n):

- A) Anthropologist
- *B) Economist
- C) Psychologist
- D) Sociologist

11. The discipline a social scientist is trained in plays a role in the questions the social scientist asks. "How do educational opportunities for women impact national infant mortality rates in Eastern European countries?" would most likely be asked by a(n):

- *A) Sociologist
- B) Psychologist
- C) Political scientist
- D) Economist

12. The discipline a social scientist is trained in plays a role in the questions the social scientist asks. "How do couples negotiate roles in a marriage?" would most likely be asked by a(n):

- *A) Sociologist
- B) Economist
- C) Political scientist
- D) Psychologist

13. The difference between common sense and sociology is that:

- *A) Common sense refers to ideas that are taken for granted, while sociology tests beliefs in a scientific manner.

B) Common sense is only useful in survival situations.

C) Sociology finds the true answers, while common sense is not true.

D) None of the above

14. Interconnected parts of the social world ranging from small groups to entire societies are:

*A) Social units

B) Social structures

C) Social institutions

D) National societies

15. The aspects of society that provide the rules, roles, and relationships needed to shape human behavior are:

A) Social units

B) Social structures

*C) Social institutions

D) National societies

16. The authors of the text would argue that a change in the economy would eventually result in a change in the family. This is because:

A) People panic when the economy changes, and they frequently take their stresses out on their families.

B) The economy and the family remain separated unless something bad occurs in one institution or the other.

*C) All social institutions are interrelated.

D) The authors of the text would not use any of the above arguments.

17. Jennifer and Tyrone have been dating for two years. They have decided to attend the same college together, so both move in to the same dorm. In this example, "Jennifer and Tyrone" are a _____ and "moving in to the same dorm" is a _____.

A) social unit, social institution

B) social structure, social process

C) social process, social structure

*D) social unit, social process

18. When her four-year-old son wanted to wear a dress to kindergarten, Lisette told him that he could not because "boys don't wear dresses." In doing so, Lisette engaged in the process of:

*A) Socialization

B) Change

C) Stratification

D) Institutionalism

19. In 1989, numerous Chinese students were killed as they protested in Tiananmen Square. The students had become dissatisfied with the government and were calling for political and economic reform. These students were attempting to engage in the process of:

A) Socialization

*B) Change

C) Stratification

D) Institutionalization

20. _____ refers to the layering of individuals into social strata based on factors such as income, education, and occupation.

- A) Socialization
- B) Stereotyping
- *C) Stratification
- D) Institutionalism

21. Kevin is a member of his college hockey team. The team is supported by the university, fans, and corporate sponsors and is connected to other teams, their sports conference governing board, and all of the individual team members' families and friends. In this example, Kevin's team is _____ and the team's supporters and connections are _____.

- A) an institution, the environment
- *B) a social unit, the environment
- C) an institution, a social unit
- D) the environment, a social structure

22. Byron is a sociologist who studies social change. In his study of the election of a new congressional representative for his district, Byron concluded that "Representative Phillips will inevitably be harmful for the working-class people of our district." What error did Byron make in his study?

- A) He failed to interview the representative.
- *B) Rather than just explaining the change, he made a judgment about it.
- C) He failed to inform Representative Phillips of his conclusion before releasing it to the public.
- D) He should have used both qualitative and quantitative data in his study.

23. Which of the following is an advantage of using micro-level analysis?

- *A) It is important for understanding the basis for all social groups and organizations.
- B) It is important for the study of processes and institutions in a society.
- C) It helps explain how larger social forces shape everyday aspects of social life.
- D) It helps explain the moral implications of social organizations.

24. A study that examines how elementary school children form cliques on the playground would constitute:

- *A) Micro-level research
- B) Meso-level research
- C) Macro-level research
- D) Mega-level research

25. Which of the following is an advantage of using meso-level analysis?

- A) It is important for understanding the basis for all social organizations.
- *B) It is important for the study of processes and institutions in a society.
- C) It helps explain how larger social forces shape everyday aspects of social life.
- D) It helps explain the moral implications of social organizations.

26. A study that examines how the No Child Left Behind Act has changed education in Iowa best reflects the _____-level of analysis.

- A) micro
- *B) meso

- C) macro
- D) None of the above

27. All of the following represent micro-level analysis except a:

- A) Sociology class
- B) Study group cramming for an exam
- C) Sociology department
- *D) Professional sociological association

28. All of the following represent the meso-level of analysis except:

- A) State board of education
- B) National Education Association
- *C) World literacy programs
- D) Catholic school systems

29. How are the three levels of analysis related to one another?

- A) The three are not related to one another.
- B) The distinctions between the three are very clear.
- *C) The three levels can overlap on a continuum.
- D) The three levels are not at all clearly delineated.

30. Which of the following is not a social unit?

- A) A group of sociology students studying for a test
- B) Two warring tribes fighting over land rights
- C) A boss teaching a new employee
- *D) A college professor preparing a sociology lecture in her office

31. Lauren is a sociology student who wants to examine the effects that a new restaurant, the Tasty Tidbit, has on the wait staff at competing restaurants in her town. She decides that she needs to learn more about the restaurant industry, her town's economy, the national economy, and food service workers in general to better understand the impact of the Tasty Tidbit. Lauren is using the:

- A) Cultural anthropological model
- B) Environmental model
- *C) Social world model
- D) Commonsense model

32. According to the text, a more complete and accurate perspective on the social world can be gained by using:

- A) Commonsense beliefs obtained through logic and past experiences
- B) Socialization through parents, schools, and religious figures
- C) Multiple perspectives gained through a nationally representative survey
- *D) The concepts, theories, methods, and levels of analysis used by sociologists

33. Psychologists are most likely to study:

- A) Human interaction
- *B) Individual behavior and mental processes
- C) The distribution of power
- D) The way of life of a particular society

34. While psychologists would explain behavior by examining the personality traits of individuals, sociologists would examine:

- A) What motivates individual behavior
- B) Physiological reactions to violent media
- *C) Human interaction and social structure
- D) People's thought processes in decision-making situations

35. Sociology is based on a few assumptions about the social world. Which of the following is not one of these assumptions?

- A) People are social by nature.
- B) People live much of their lives in social groups.
- *C) Human behavior is determined by the supply of goods and services.
- D) Conflict and change are inevitable features of groups.

True/False

36. According to sociologists, human beings are naturally social creatures.

- *A) True
- B) False

37. Sociology, political science, and psychology are separate disciplines and do not overlap.

- A) True
- *B) False

38. Sociologists study how personality traits affect an individual's behavior.

- A) True
- *B) False

39. Your sociology class is an example of a large group, according to the sociological definition of large groups.

- A) True
- *B) False

40. Commonsense assumptions are never true when tested sociologically.

- A) True
- *B) False

41. Because sociology is based on common sense, it is an excellent discipline for students who approach the world in a rational, matter-of-fact way.

- A) True
- *B) False

42. Tyler heard a story from a friend about a woman who was being beaten by her husband. He decided that the only reason the woman stayed with her husband was because she was too weak to leave him. In this case, Tyler was using his sociological imagination.

- A) True
- *B) False

43. Tyler read the news story about a 12-year-old boy who was caught selling crack cocaine. "My hypothesis is that the boy must be living in true poverty in a neighborhood full of crime." In this case, Tyler was using his sociological imagination.

*A) True

B) False

44. Ethnology is the subfield of anthropology most closely related to sociology.

*A) True

B) False

45. A married couple is a social unit.

*A) True

B) False

46. According to the text, the changes in the institution of the family will not likely have an impact on religion.

A) True

*B) False

47. The social world is organized into two parts, structures and processes.

*A) True

B) False

48. According to the text, religion and family are examples of social processes.

A) True

*B) False

49. C. Wright Mills developed the concept of sociological imagination.

*A) True

B) False

50. Social institutions are found in every society.

*A) True

B) False

51. Our social positions in society are the result of stratification.

*A) True

B) False

52. Sociologists generally judge social processes as "good" or "bad."

A) True

*B) False

53. An environment includes everything that influences a social unit.

*A) True

B) False

54. Complete harmony between social units is unusual.

*A) True

B) False

55. Psychologists tend to focus on groups, while sociologists tend to focus on individuals.

A) True

*B) False

56. A focus on individual or small-group interaction entails micro-level analysis.

*A) True

B) False

57. Sociologists argue that conflict is a natural part of social life.

*A) True

B) False

58. August Comte coined the term sociological imagination.

A) True

*B) False

59. Analysis of intermediate-sized social units is called meso-level analysis.

*A) True

B) False

60. The examination of changes in women's status can only take place at the macro-level of analysis.

A) True

*B) False

61. The types of jobs that sociologists do depend on their level of education.

*A) True

B) False

62. The social world engulfs each of us from the moment of our birth until we die.

*A) True

B) False

63. Understanding individual human behavior often requires investigation of larger societal beliefs supporting that behavior.

*A) True

B) False

64. According to the text, rates of violence against women are relatively uniform across countries.

A) True

*B) False

65. The social sciences share some concepts, but do not share theories or methods of inquiry.

- A) True
- *B) False

66. Sociologists consider a street gang and a work group as examples of small groups.

- *A) True
- B) False

67. Sociology provides a method to assess the accuracy of our commonsense assumptions about the social world.

- *A) True
- B) False

68. Most sociologists with a bachelor's degree work in colleges or universities.

- A) True
- *B) False

69. No social unit of our social world can stand alone.

- *A) True
- B) False

Critical Answer Essay

70. Briefly discuss the difference between sociology and psychology.

- *A) Varies

71. Briefly describe how sociology and common sense differ from one another.

- *A) Varies

72. Compare and contrast sociology and at least two of the other social sciences discussed in the text.

- *A) Varies

73. List and briefly explain the three levels of analysis discussed in the text.

- *A) Varies

74. Compare and contrast social units and social institutions. Provide at least two examples of each.

- *A) Varies

75. What are social processes? Provide at least two examples.

- *A) Varies

76. Briefly discuss what sociologists mean by the sociological imagination. Provide an example of its application.

- *A) Varies

77. According to the text, what two parts are essential to the study of our social world?

- *A) Varies

78. What do the authors of the text mean when they state that "the social world is a human creation"?

*A) Varies

79. Briefly describe what applied sociologists are likely to do with research findings. Provide an example in your answer.

*A) Varies

80. Drilling for oil affects all levels of the sociological world. Using your knowledge of sociology, explain how this behavior (drilling for oil) affects human relationships on the micro, meso, and macro levels.

*A) Varies

81. Imagine you wanted to study child poverty from a micro, meso, and macro level. For each of the three levels of analysis, describe what question or questions you might ask to learn more about child poverty and why that level of analysis is appropriate for your question.

*A) Varies

82. Explain how social units, social structures, and social institutions are related. Using examples from your own life, illustrate the interconnectedness of these concepts.

*A) Varies

83. What are some commonsense beliefs you hold about the social world? What factors led you to hold those beliefs? What evidence would be necessary for you to change those beliefs?

*A) Varies

84. Consider the social problem of homelessness in the United States. What questions might someone from anthropology ask about homelessness? What about someone from economics? Political science? Psychology? Sociology? Which of these disciplines do you think could best help find a solution for homelessness and why?

*A) Varies