CHAPTER 1

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Most of us think of ourselves as unique individuals with distinctive experiences like no other. However, many of our personal experiences are not really exceptional; instead, they are patterned and shaped by _____.
    a.   sociological perspectives
    b.   social problems
    c.   social structure
    d.   social innovation

    Answer: c
    Topic: The Sociological Imagination
    Learning Objective 1.1: Explain the sociological imagination.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

2. The organized arrangements of relationships and institutions that together form the basis of society are called _____.
    a.   sociological perspectives
    b.   social problems
    c.   the sociological imagination
    d.   social structure

    Answer: d
    Topic: The Sociological Imagination
    Learning Objective 1.1: Explain the sociological imagination.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Émile Durkheim (1897) conducted an early study on the subject of suicide, documenting how social structure affects human behavior. What did he find?
    a. Suicide was not a completely random event and that there were several important patterns.
    b. Counseling can help those who suffer from depression.
    c. Personal reasons such as job loss or the ending of a relationship were the best predictors of suicide.
    d. Catholics were more likely to commit suicide than were Protestants.

    Answer: a
    Topic: The Sociological Imagination
    Learning Objective 1.1: Explain the sociological imagination.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

4. The sociological imagination draws attention to the fact that seemingly private issues are often _____.
    a. hidden from the rest of society
    b. defined as illegal or immoral
    c. addressed by religious groups
    d. public issues

    Answer: d
    Topic: The Sociological Imagination
    Learning Objective 1.1: Explain the sociological imagination.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty Level: Easy

5. The health care system is an example of an organized arrangement of relationships and institutions that form one basis of society—helping people when they are ill. Therefore, the health care system is part of _____.
    a. a social problem
    b. the social structure
    c. a cultural marketing strategy
    d. the sociological imagination

    Answer: b
    Topic: The Sociological Imagination
    Learning Objective 1.1: Explain the sociological imagination.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

6.	A social problem exists when most people in a society _____.
	a.	learn about the problem from the mass media
	b.	agree that something should be done to remedy a condition
	c.	have become victimized by criminals or other deviants
	d.	become politically active and vote on the basis of a single issue: that particular social problem

	Answer: b
	Topic: What is a Social Problem?
	Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty Level: Moderate

7.	When enough people in a society agree that a condition exists that threatens the quality of their lives and their most cherished values, *and* they agree that something should be done to remedy that condition, sociologists say that the society has defined that condition as _____.
	a.	a social problem
	b.	a public concern
	c.	a private concern
	d.	an act of war

	Answer: a
	Topic: What is a Social Problem?
	Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty Level: Moderate

8.	Ashley is writing an essay about social problems. Which of the following statements about social problems is TRUE, and therefore she would likely include it in her essay?
	a.	Immigration is considered the top social problem in the United States.
	b.	Social problems tend to be distinct and unrelated, with only a few exceptions to this.
	c.	The idea that a society should intervene to remedy conditions that affect the lives of its citizens is very long-held idea.
	d.	There must be enough consensus among people in a society that a problem exists for action to take place, but this consensus on the problem does not indicate consensus on the solution.

	Answer: d
	Topic: What is a Social Problem?
	Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty Level: Difficult

9.   Many people are poor because they were raised in poverty, or choose to drop out of school, or have a baby before they are financially prepared to do so. These facts reveal _____.
      a.   Durkheim's study of suicide did not go far enough
      b.   social problems tend to affect women more than men
      c.   social problems are often closely related
      d.   the fallacy of the sociological imagination

      Answer: c
      Topic: What is a Social Problem?
      Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
      Skill Level: Analyze It
      Difficulty Level: Moderate

10.   It took many years of dedicated commitment to the organization, persuasion, and demonstration by the leaders of the civil rights movement to convince significant numbers of Americans that separate schools for black and white children resulted in inequality. This fact illustrates _____.
      a.   that social structure has lost its relevance over the past several decades
      b.   the importance of power in the definition of social problems
      c.   that the lack of voting rights was a personal trouble experienced by a few people
      d.   a lack of consensus on a solution to a social problem

      Answer: b
      Topic: What is a Social Problem?
      Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
      Skill Level: Analyze It
      Difficulty Level: Difficult

11.   Your text illustrates the definition of a social problem with two examples: opium use in China and women's lack of the right to vote in the United States until 1920. These examples demonstrate that _____.
      a.   an existing social condition becomes a social problem when it is redefined as a problem that must be solved
      b.   minorities, such as drug users and women, often cause social problems
      c.   drug use and lacking the right to vote are social problems, no matter where they occur
      d.   social problems occur everywhere

      Answer: a
      Topic: What is a Social Problem?
      Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
      Skill Level: Analyze It
      Difficulty Level: Moderate

12. The idea that a society should intervene to remedy conditions affecting its citizens was a new development in the _____.
    a. period of social unrest of the 1960s
    b. period of urban-industrialization of the nineteenth century
    c. "enlightenment" of the late eighteenth century
    d. economic depression years of the 1930s

    Answer: c
    Topic: What is a Social Problem?
    Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
    Skill Level: Apply What You Know
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

13. Your text illustrates the three basic perspectives on social problems by showing how they explain the problem of _____.
    a. unemployment
    b. mental illness
    c. criminal deviance
    d. poverty

    Answer: c
    Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Sociologists use the term _____ to refer to the positions one holds in groups or organizations.
    a. statuses
    b. norms
    c. roles
    d. institutions

    Answer: a
    Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty Level: Easy

15.   In a school, the student, the teacher, the principal, and the custodian are all members of a
        social group concerned with education. Each of these individuals has a _____ that
        requires the performance of a certain set of behaviors, known as a(n) _____.
        a.   label; social disorganization
        b.   status; interactionist norm
        c.   label; institution
        d.   status; role

        Answer: d
        Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
        Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives
        on social problems.
        Skill Level: Apply What You Know
        Difficulty Level: Moderate

16.   Sociologists use the term _____ to refer to behaviors expected of performance in a
        position that one holds in a group or organization.
        a.   activities
        b.   roles
        c.   statuses
        d.   demands

        Answer: b
        Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
        Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives
        on social problems.
        Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
        Difficulty Level: Easy

17.   As a sociological concept, the term *institution* refers to _____.
        a.   some social unit that is old, respected, and revered
        b.   a place where the mentally ill are treated
        c.   a group or organization that has become deeply embedded in social life
        d.   a social structure of statuses and roles devoted to meeting the basic needs of
                people in a society

        Answer: d
        Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
        Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives
        on social problems.
        Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
        Difficulty Level: Easy

18.   Ray, a sociologist, tends to hold the functionalist perspective on social problems. He believes that the main reason for the existence of social problems is that _____.
       a.   societies are fundamentally corrupt
       b.   societies sometimes fail to adapt successfully to change and new conditions
       c.   organizations become too rigid and inflexible over time
       d.   deviance is a natural outcome of increasingly complex social conditions

       Answer: d
       Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
       Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
       Skill Level: Apply What You Know
       Difficulty Level: Moderate

19.   How do functionalists answer the question of why particular crimes are committed and punished in some societies, but not in others?
       a.   Each society has its own unique definition of what is criminal, and punishes accordingly.
       b.   Individuals whose crimes challenge or threaten society's most cherished values will be punished more severely.
       c.   Each society will punish the members of minority groups more severely than the members of dominant groups.
       d.   Since there is an element of chance in being caught, different crimes will be severely punished in different societies.

       Answer: b
       Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
       Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
       Skill Level: Analyze It
       Difficulty Level: Moderate

20.	According to the _____ perspective, societies fear most the crimes that threaten their members' most cherished values, and individuals who dare to challenge those values will receive the most severe punishments.
	a.	functionalist
	b.	conflict
	c.	interactionist
	d.	developmental

	Answer: a
	Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
	Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
	Skill Level: Apply What You Know
	Difficulty Level: Moderate

21.	Social disorganization can be manifested in three major ways, which are: _____.
	a.	positive, negative, and neutral conditions
	b.	normlessness, culture conflict, and breakdown
	c.	rootlessness, anomalies, coping, and disorder
	d.	hyper-order, disorder, and order

	Answer: b
	Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
	Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty Level: Moderate

22.	A more modern version of the functionalist perspective attempts to show how people reorganize their lives to cope with new conditions, resulting in new kinds of organizations and/or whole new institutions. Research focusing on these attempts is _____.
	a.	institution-building
	b.	social pathology
	c.	value conflict
	d.	disequilibrium

	Answer: a
	Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
	Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty Level: Moderate

23.   The _____ perspective on social problems is based on the belief that social problems arise out of major contradictions, leading to contention between those who have access to the "good life," and those who do not.
        a.   functionalist
        b.   conflict
        c.   symbolic interactionist
        d.   social disorganization

        Answer: b
        Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
        Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
        Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
        Difficulty Level: Moderate

24.   Which classic figure from early sociology made major contributions to the conflict perspective on social problems?
        a.   Herbert Spencer
        b.   Edward Risso
        c.   Karl Marx
        d.   Emile Durkheim

        Answer: c
        Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
        Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
        Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
        Difficulty Level: Easy

25.   Which perspective, concerned with power, is based on the belief that social problems arise out of major contradictions in the way societies are organized, contradictions that lead to large-scale conflict between those who have access to the good life and those who do not?
        a.   symbolic interactionist
        b.   functionalist
        c.   institution building
        d.   conflict

        Answer: d
        Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
        Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
        Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
        Difficulty Level: Moderate

26. The conflict view of deviance emphasizes _____.
    a. the underlying value consensus of a society and why rules are broken
    b. the characteristics of people who commit crimes
    c. the career patterns adopted by criminals
    d. differences in the power of different groups or classes in society

    Answer: d
    Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

27. In their work, scholars who adopt a conflict perspective on deviance usually emphasize how _____.
    a. existing institutions can be improved through minor reforms
    b. rehabilitation programs can change people by shifting the blame for problems in social populations
    c. inequalities of wealth and power seem to account for the distribution of social problems in populations
    d. police forces can be made more effective

    Answer: c
    Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

28. "Social problems occur when groups with different values meet and compete." This statement describes _____ theory.
    a. value-conflict
    b. social disorganization
    c. social pathology
    d. labeling

    Answer: a
    Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

29.	According to value-conflict theory, a common approach to solving social problems involves _____.
   a.	strengthening the police so that they may detect more crime and punish wrongdoers
   b.	finding ways to facilitate negotiation and compromise between and among groups
   c.	altering the ways that prisons rehabilitate prisoners
   d.	finding ways to radically restructure social institutions

   Answer: b
   Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
   Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
   Skill Level: Apply What You Know
   Difficulty Level: Moderate

30.	According to the _____ perspective on social problems, an individual's or group's definition of the situation is central to understanding the actions of that individual or group.
   a.	functionalist
   b.	conflict
   c.	symbolic interactionist
   d.	normative

   Answer: c
   Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
   Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
   Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
   Difficulty Level: Moderate

31.	_____ theory stresses that a social process separates deviant and nondeviant persons not by what they do, but by how society reacts to what they do.
   a.	Labeling
   b.	Value-conflict
   c.	Value-reaction
   d.	Social disorganization

   Answer: a
   Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
   Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
   Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
   Difficulty Level: Moderate

1

32.   According to labeling theory, the act of labeling a person or group deviant may cause society to suffer in which of the following ways?
       a.   Labeling causes those who are labeled to avoid deviance, thereby deterring them.
       b.   The labeled may accept the definition of themselves as deviant and increase their deviance as a result.
       c.   The labeling has no effect because of the pro-criminal self-concepts of those labeled.
       d.   The labeling causes those who are labeled to become an important, powerful, political force.

       Answer: b
       Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
       Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
       Skill Level: Analyze It
       Difficulty Level: Moderate

33.   Drug addicts may possess illegal drugs—an act that is criminal. To maintain their "habit," addicts may commit crimes in order to maintain their supply of drugs. This type of crime is categorized as _____ deviance.
       a.   unnecessary
       b.   criminalized
       c.   stress-related
       d.   secondary

       Answer: d
       Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
       Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
       Skill Level: Apply What You Know
       Difficulty Level: Moderate

34. Justin has been using drugs for a number of years. He has been labeled as a drug addict by his peers, who now want nothing to do with him. Justin has recently adopted elements of what is seen as a drug addict's lifestyle: resisting employment or treatment, getting into fights, and engaging in crime. Sociologists label this behavior _____.
    a.   social disorganized deviance
    b.   third-order deviance
    c.   secondary deviance
    d.   social deviance

    Answer: c
    Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
    Skill Level: Apply What You Know
    Difficulty: Moderate

35. Early in the twentieth century, sociologists recognized that social problems often seemed to develop in a series of phases or stages. They called the study of this process the _____.
    a.   coalition forming schema
    b.   consensus formation mode
    c.   institution building system
    d.   natural history approach

    Answer: d
    Topic: The Natural History of Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.4: Describe the process that reveals the natural history of social problems.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty: Easy

36. Sociologists distinguish between the nature of media coverage of a social problem and the way that a problem is perceived by the public and political leaders. They have also devoted considerable study to the question of how social problems develop from underlying conditions into publicly defined problems that engender social policies and sustained social movements. This subject is often referred to as the "_____" of social problems.
   a.   natural history
   b.   prime predictor
   c.   essence
   d.   prime mover

   Answer: a
   Topic: The Natural History of Social Problems
   Learning Objective 1.4: Describe the process that reveals the natural history of social problems.
   Skill Level: Analyze It
   Difficulty: Moderate

37. Which of the following is NOT one of the major stages that most social problems seem to go through, as identified by Spector and Kitsuse?
   a.   legal invasion
   b.   problem definition
   c.   legitimacy
   d.   reemergence of demands

   Answer: a
   Topic: The Natural History of Social Problems
   Learning Objective 1.4: Describe the process that reveals the natural history of social problems.
   Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
   Difficulty: Moderate

38. To readers of daily websites and news sites, and to those who watch television news, social problems may often resemble fads because the focus on any given subject by the press and the public tends to last only a few days or weeks. Why does this occur?
    a. There are many social problems to cover, and the media can spare only a few days or weeks on each one.
    b. Most people are not interested in social problems.
    c. Most people are interested in social problems, but they lose interest in a very short time.
    d. The media wants to attract large numbers of viewers or readers so they constantly pursue stories that will capture the attention of the public.

    Answer: d
    Topic: The Natural History of Social Problems
    Learning Objective 1.4: Describe the process that reveals the natural history of social problems.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty: Difficult

39. This text has four themes. Which is NOT one of them?
    a. Sociological understanding of social problems requires a comparative perspective.
    b. Sociological understanding of social problems requires a qualitative approach.
    c. Sociological understanding of social problems requires linking individual experiences with social structure.
    d. Sociological understanding of social problems requires recognizing the importance of social inequality.

    Answer: b
    Topic: Themes of this Text
    Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty: Easy

40. A method that answers questions through a systematic collection and analysis of data is called _____.
    a. a comparative perspective
    b. a structural functionalist perspective
    c. an empirical approach
    d. a constructivist approach

    Answer: c
    Topic: Themes of this Text
    Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty: Easy

> **Commented [RB1]:** The word "this" should really be capitalized, but it is lower case in the book. Left as is for consistency with text.

41.	The text describes four goals of empirical research. Which is NOT one of them?
	a.	distinguish between right and wrong
	b.	examine the factors that predict or are associated with some phenomena
	c.	explain cause and effect relationships
	d.	describe some phenomena

	Answer: a
	Topic: Themes of this Text
	Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty: Moderate

42.	Marco is interested in learning more about the amount of time men spend on leisure as compared to women. He put together a survey that asks men and women to record (in minutes) the amount of time they spend on leisure activities from a checklist of activities on the survey. He is going to tabulate this information. What type of methods is Marco likely using?
	a.	quantitative
	b.	analytical
	c.	empirical
	d.	qualitative

	Answer: a
	Topic: Themes of this Text
	Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
	Skill Level: Apply What You Know
	Difficulty: Moderate

43.	Understanding social inequality is important because people usually live out their lives in generally the same social class in which they were born. Why is this the case?
	a.	The United States is no longer stratified.
	b.	The wealthy have been able to eliminate their social capital while lower-income people still have theirs.
	c.	Low-income people learn to be lazy, and high-income people learn to work hard.
	d.	Parents pass on their wealth and social capital (or their lack of it) to their children.

	Answer: d
	Topic: Themes of this Text
	Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
	Skill Level: Apply What You Know
	Difficulty: Moderate

44. Several sociologists have been studying why poor men and women often do not marry before having a child. They are looking beyond individual preferences and are exploring issues such as unemployment rates, sex ratios, and other patterns of social organization. What theme does this represent from the text?
    a.   linking personal experience with social structure
    b.   using a comparative perspective
    c.   emphasizing a qualitative approach
    d.   individuals are responsible for their own achievements

    Answer: a
    Topic: Themes of this Text
    Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
    Skill Level: Apply What You Know
    Difficulty: Moderate

45. Corrine is a college student on a study abroad program in Austria. Unfortunately she fell when hiking and broke her arm. She was surprised that the hospital fixed her arm for such a low fee. This got her comparing and contrasting the U.S. health system with that of Austria's. Corrine is using _____.
    a.   a structural functionalist perspective
    b.   a comparative perspective
    c.   an empirical approach
    d.   a constructionist approach

    Answer: b
    Topic: Themes of this Text
    Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
    Skill Level: Apply What You Know
    Difficulty: Moderate

46. Social _____ are formal procedures designed to remedy social problems.
    a.   solutions
    b.   structures
    c.   policies
    d.   stratifications

    Answer: c
    Topic: Social Policy
    Learning Objective 1.6: Assess the social policy debates between conservatives and liberals.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty: Easy

47.	As a type of social policy, _____ is/are usually advocated today by those who are "conservative" on the political spectrum.
	a.	expanded public assistance programs
	b.	increased governmental regulation, intervention, and involvement
	c.	reduced government regulation so that private free-market forces will solve problems
	d.	social programs like in the 1960s

	Answer: c
	Topic: Social Policy
	Learning Objective 1.6: Assess the social policy debates between conservatives and liberals.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty: Moderate

48.	As a type of social policy, _____ is/are usually advocated today by those who are "liberal" on the political spectrum.
	a.	programs that involve public or governmental actions to address social problems
	b.	public subsidies for large corporations
	c.	encouraging free-market forces to create jobs
	d.	enhancing opportunities for private profit

	Answer: a
	Topic: Social Policy
	Learning Objective 1.6: Assess the social policy debates between conservatives and liberals.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty: Moderate

49.	Voices on the conservative side of the ideological spectrum of American politics tend to take a moral stance on many social problems and often insist on _____ for solving them.
	a.	private or market solutions
	b.	intellectual probings
	c.	individual responsibility
	d.	public or government intervention

	Answer: a
	Topic: Social Policy
	Learning Objective 1.6: Assess the social policy debates between conservatives and liberals.
	Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
	Difficulty: Moderate

50. Carmen believes that government has a responsibility to address social problems, achieve equal opportunity, and to protect civil liberties and human rights. She is cautious of the dominance of the market and believes that it can be unfair and exploitive to certain groups in society. Carmen is likely _____.
    a.   a Republican
    b.   a moderate
    c.   a conservative
    d.   a liberal

    Answer: d
    Topic: Social Policy
    Learning Objective 1.6: Assess the social policy debates between conservatives and liberals.
    Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
    Difficulty: Moderate

ESSAY

51. Explain the importance of the sociological imagination. Provide two specific topics and demonstrate the importance of the sociological imagination.

    Topic: The Sociological Imagination
    Learning Objective 1.1: Explain the sociological imagination.
    Skill Level: Apply What You Know
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

52. List 3 of the 5 social problems today according to survey polls, and explain how public opinion on these 3 issues has shifted over the past decade.

    Topic: What is a Social Problem?
    Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

53. Write an essay that includes the definition of a social problem, the role of consensus, the interrelatedness of social problems, and why the views of certain people or issues are highlighted and others are not.

    Topic: What is a Social Problem?
    Learning Objective 1.2: Discuss the definition of a social problem.
    Skill Level: Analyze It
    Difficulty Level: Moderate

54. Compare and contrast the three basic sociological perspectives on social problems. How are they similar and how are they different?

Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

55. Select a specific social problem (other than crime or deviance, which are used in your text) and compare and contrast how each of the basic sociological perspectives approach the problem.

Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

56. Examine crime or deviance using one of the following perspectives: (a) the functionalist perspective; (b) conflict perspective; or (3) symbolic interactionist perspective.

Topic: Sociological Perspectives on Social Problems
Learning Objective 1.3: Compare and contrast the three main sociological perspectives on social problems.
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

57. Discuss the natural history of social problems. Be sure to mention the major stages that most social problems seem to go through, as identified by Spector and Kitsuse.

Topic: The Natural History of Social Problems
Learning Objective 1.4: Describe the process that reveals the natural history of social problems.
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty: Moderate

58.   List and briefly discuss the four themes of this text.

        Topic: Themes of this Text
        Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
        Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
        Difficulty: Moderate

59.   Select a social problem of interest and discuss it using each of the four themes of the text.

        Topic: Themes of this Text
        Learning Objective 1.5: Review the four themes of the text.
        Skill Level: Apply What You Know
        Difficulty: Moderate

60.   Write an essay in which you compare and contrast a conservative and a liberal position
        on social problems. How are they similar and how are they different?

        Topic: Social Policy
        Learning Objective 1.6: Assess the social policy debates between conservatives and
        liberals.
        Skill Level: Analyze It
        Difficulty: Moderate