

The Sociology Project: Introducing the Sociological Imagination

Manza, *The Sociology Project* 2.0, Test Bank
Chapter 2 Social Theory

Multiple-Choice Questions

Social theories explain the relationship between _____ and _____.

- a. universes; individuals
- b. individuals; societies
- c. social classes; social norms
- d. nations; countries

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.1.1

Learning Objective: LO 2.1.1: Define social theory and describe the range of different social theories.

Topic: What Is Social Theory?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Sociology is different from some of the other social sciences because it has _____ and _____ social theories.

- a. similar; consistent
- b. singular; dominant
- c. multiple; competing
- d. abundant; unified

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.1.2

Learning Objective: LO 2.1.1: Define social theory and describe the range of different social theories.

Topic: What Is Social Theory?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

One of the three common themes of social theory is *social order*. This theme is chiefly concerned with _____.

- a. what holds society together
- b. what is the nature of the individual
- c. how societies change
- d. how we use social theory

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.1.3

Learning Objective: LO 2.1.2: Identify the three common themes that all of the major sociological theories have sought to address.

Topic: What Is Social Theory?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

The basis of social order, the nature of the individual, and the circumstances of social change are three themes associated with _____.

- a. social perspectives

- b. social approaches
- c. sociology
- d. social theories

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.1.4

Learning Objective: LO 2.1.2: Identify the three common themes that all of the major sociological theories have sought to address.

Topic: What Is Social Theory?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

The argument that was most central to Karl Marx's theory of society is that _____.

- a. human history is best understood through the history of a society's economic system
- b. society does not change as a result of how societies produce goods
- c. the socialist movement is what allows society to change
- d. social classes ease tension in society

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.5

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.1: Discuss why Marx believed that societies were so heavily shaped by their economic systems.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

According to Marx, an automated welding machine used to assemble automobile bodies would be an example of _____.

- a. capital
- b. forces of production
- c. social relations of production
- d. modes of production

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.6

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.1: Discuss why Marx believed that societies were so heavily shaped by their economic systems.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Marx argued that the _____ would overthrow capitalism in favor of _____.

- a. proletariat; socialism
- b. proletariat; communism
- c. bourgeoisie; socialism
- d. bourgeoisie; communism

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.7

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.1: Discuss why Marx believed that societies were so heavily shaped by their economic systems.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Marx argued that groups of people who were treated differently by the economic system would inevitably be in conflict with each other. This is called the theory of _____.

- a. the bourgeoisie and the proletariat
- b. capital
- c. class struggle
- d. economic struggle

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.8

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.1: Discuss why Marx believed that societies were so heavily shaped by their economic systems.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Emile Durkheim claimed that any regularity or rule of everyday life in human communities is a

- a. _____.
- b. social fact
- c. social law
- d. social pattern
- e. socialization

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.9

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.2: Analyze Emile Durkheim's explanation of what holds societies together.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Unwritten rules of society, such as social norms, are an example of _____.

- a. social theories
- b. social perspectives
- c. community forces
- d. social facts

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.10

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.2: Analyze Emile Durkheim's explanation of what holds societies together.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

When Bill started talking on his cellphone during class, he was probably _____.

- a. demonstrating socialization
- b. subject to social forces
- c. breaking a social norm
- d. proving a social fact

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.11

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.2: Analyze Emile Durkheim's explanation of what holds societies together.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Organic solidarity describes a(n) _____ society that is characterized by _____.

- a. modern; an extensive division of labor
- b. modern; a dominant form of solidarity
- c. undeveloped; a minimal division of labor
- d. undeveloped; extended families linked horizontally

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.12

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.2: Analyze Emile Durkheim's explanation of what holds societies together.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Durkheim argues that individuals in modern societies have the freedom to express their own unique preferences, tastes, and beliefs and that this freedom, also referred to as _____, is the basis of social solidarity in modern society.

- a. "the sacred and the profane"
- b. "mechanical solidarity"
- c. "organic solidarity"
- d. "the cult of the individual"

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.13

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.2: Analyze Emile Durkheim's explanation of what holds societies together.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Max Weber focused primarily on individual action as a foundation of _____.

- a. social order
- b. material conditions
- c. morality
- d. social forces

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.14

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

According to Max Weber, *interpretative sociology* is a method for understanding society by focusing on _____.

- a. interpreting the economic system

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- b. understanding the religious system
- c. understanding the motivations of social action
- d. interpreting the spirit of capitalism

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.15

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Each year millions of people watch, and many attend, the Super Bowl. This sporting event brings people together in a shared activity where team logos, colors, the field, and the half-time show are considered to be "sacred" objects and events. What sociological concept best explains football in contemporary America?

- a. religion
- b. authority
- c. intersectionality
- d. charisma

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.16

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.2: Analyze Emile Durkheim's explanation of what holds societies together.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of the World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

According to Weber the mechanisms that make individuals respect hierarchies and obey orders in society are _____ and _____.

- a. the sacred; the profane
- b. the individual; behavior
- c. charisma; power
- d. power; authority

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.17

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

While driving on the highway, David was pulled over to the side of the road by the police. Weber would say David obeyed the police as a result of _____.

- a. power
- b. respect
- c. authority
- d. conformity

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.18

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Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

People, more often than not, obey firefighters in emergency situations because they believe it is the "right thing to do." Weber would refer to this as an example of _____.

- a. legitimacy
- b. charisma
- c. power
- d. morality

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.19

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Weber's _____ have similar kinds of attributes and identities. These may be based on a wide variety of attributes such as race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or social class.

- a. social groups
- b. economic groups
- c. reference groups
- d. status groups

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.20

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Susan worked tirelessly as an activist trying to stop the use of children in sweatshop labor. She organized protests, started a boycott campaign of major clothing brands, and founded her own charitable organization to fight against the use of children in sweatshops. How would Weber describe Susan's identity as an activist?

- a. this is her charisma
- b. this is her status group membership
- c. this is her form of legitimacy
- d. this is her spirit of capitalism

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.21

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

A(n) _____ is when different groups have inequality that persists over time and can result in conflict between those groups.

- a. moral system
- b. economic system
- c. group status system
- d. stratification system

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.22

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

According to Bourdieu, what differentiates "social" from "symbolic" capital?

- a. Symbolic capital is how much capital you want whereas social capital is how much capital you have.
- b. Social capital can be earned whereas symbolic capital is inherited.
- c. Social capital is your support system whereas symbolic capital is your reputation.
- d. Symbolic capital is more powerful than social capital.

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.23

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.4: Discuss how Bourdieu redefined classes and the nature of class differences.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

The rigorous training and licensing of doctors controlled by the American Medical Association is an example of Weber's concept of _____.

- a. social closure
- b. social solidarity
- c. social stratification
- d. social distance

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.24

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.3: Discuss Max Weber's contributions to our understanding of motivations for behavior, legitimacy and authority, and status groups and social closure.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Simmel argued that group membership in society was a series of _____.

- a. social systems
- b. horizontally aligned groups
- c. overlapping social circles
- d. structures of social order

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.25

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.4: Explain how Georg Simmel's insights on social circles and social distance help us understand how individuals and groups relate to each other.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Christine works at the high school, is a deacon at her church, a den mother for the Girl Scouts, a ~~Sargent~~ sergeant in the National Guard, and a kickboxing instructor at her gym. What concept best describes Christine's associations with others?

- a. social networks
- b. social solidarity
- c. social cohesion
- d. social class

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.26

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.4: Explain how Georg Simmel's insights on social circles and social distance help us understand how individuals and groups relate to each other.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Luthor has been part of the football team for two years, but he still feels like an outsider with many of the players. His teammates never asked him to hang out after practices or get together at any other time separate from team functions. Simmel would describe Luthor's experience as being a result of his _____.

- a. social circles
- b. social distance
- c. status group membership
- d. social closure

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.27

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.4: Explain how Georg Simmel's insights on social circles and social distance help us understand how individuals and groups relate to each other.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Simmel's concept of social distance can be used as _____.

- a. a way to describe how close or distant an individual feels from others within a group
- b. a way to explain how group membership defines our identity
- c. an explanation of the different social statuses we occupy simultaneously
- d. a measure of the physical distance between individuals as a way of understanding group membership

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.28

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.4: Explain how Georg Simmel's insights on social circles and social distance help us understand how individuals and groups relate to each other.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

A number of popular celebrities, such as Morgan Freeman, have fallen victim to rumors of their death spread on the Internet. Whether the news is passed through electronic messages or face-to-face, insights gleaned from _____ could help to explain how this misinformation is passed through social circles.

- a. class fractions
- b. stratification
- c. symbolic interaction
- d. network analysis

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.29

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.4: Explain how Georg Simmel's insights on social circles and social distance help us understand how individuals and groups relate to each other.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

By carefully researching the lives of African Americans in a predominantly black neighborhood of Philadelphia, W. E. B. Du Bois demonstrated that _____ and _____ shaped every aspect of the lives of African Americans.

- a. class membership; social circles
- b. limited opportunities; racism
- c. prejudice; social justice
- d. double consciousness; prejudice

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.30

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.5: Explain W. E. B. Du Bois's views of the diverse ways in which racism influences the lives of African Americans and how racism produces a double consciousness.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Dominant theories of race during the time of W. E. B. Du Bois claimed that race _____.

- a. was not important in daily life
- b. was a socially created distinction
- c. had deep cultural patterns that shaped individuals' lives
- d. biologically determined different levels of intelligence in individuals

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.31

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.5: Explain W. E. B. Du Bois's views of the diverse ways in which racism influences the lives of African Americans and how racism produces a double consciousness.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

When Derek arrived at his new high school for the first day of school he noticed that there weren't any other black students in his classrooms. Derek had never felt so aware of his race before. Du Bois would argue that Derek is experiencing _____.

- a. double consciousness
- b. overt discrimination
- c. institutional racism
- d. limited opportunities

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.32

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.5: Explain W. E. B. Du Bois's views of the diverse ways in which racism influences the lives of African Americans and how racism produces a double consciousness.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Which of the following statements about social theorists is chronologically accurate?

- a. Foucault wrote before Weber.
- b. Marx wrote before Bourdieu.
- c. Parsons wrote before Durkheim.
- d. Du Bois wrote before Marx.

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.33

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.4: Discuss how Bourdieu redefined classes and the nature of class differences.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

By attempting to develop a unified theory for sociology, Talcott Parsons argued that the key elements of any society were _____.

- a. inherently embroiled in constant conflict
- b. constructed through the interactions of social actors
- c. aspects of social control and constraint on the individual
- d. organized around the broader and often hidden needs of society

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.34

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.1: Discuss the roles that norms, values, and institutions play in society, according to the theory of structural functionalism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Parsons's theory of an overarching social system guiding the individuals, groups, and social institutions of society would become known as _____.

- a. structural functionalism
- b. conflict theory
- c. symbolic interactionism

d. social constructionism

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.35

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.1: Discuss the roles that norms, values, and institutions play in society, according to the theory of structural functionalism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

According to structural functionalism, individuals act a certain way in the social system by taking on particular _____.

- a. statuses
- b. jobs
- c. roles
- d. positions

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.36

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.1: Discuss the roles that norms, values, and institutions play in society, according to the theory of structural functionalism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

The structural functionalist view on social change is that society _____.

- a. changes only after significant technological changes occur
- b. changes gradually by norms and institutions adapting to new social challenges
- c. only changes after deep divisions of inequality result in violent revolution that reestablishes institutions
- d. only changes as governments create social policies and laws that redefine our relationship to society

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.37

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.1: Discuss the roles that norms, values, and institutions play in society, according to the theory of structural functionalism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Conflict theorists were critical of Parsons's structural functionalist theory because they argued it presented _____.

- a. an unrealistic image of consensus and harmony in society
- b. a biased view of the power of institutions
- c. an overemphasis on the individual's role in creating social structure
- d. an inaccurate view of revolutions in society

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.38

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.2: Discuss how conflict theory attempted to explain social inequalities.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

According to C. Wright Mills, President Barack Obama, Bill Gates, and Rupert Murdoch are all members of the _____.

- a. governing economy
- b. power hierarchy
- c. power elite
- d. social order

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.39

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.2: Discuss how conflict theory attempted to explain social inequalities.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Conflict theory was developed primarily from the work of sociologists looking for new ways of thinking about _____ and _____.

- a. society; individuals
- b. social institutions; social structures
- c. conflict; social order
- d. inequality; social justice

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.40

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.2: Discuss how conflict theory attempted to explain social inequalities.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

For symbolic interactionists, social order _____.

- a. starts from individuals and the meanings they give to objects
- b. is the foundation of all institutions and has real consequences for social actors
- c. is created through the struggle of opposing groups fighting for resources
- d. is the basis for social inequality and needs careful guidance through social policy

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.41

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.3: Analyze how everyday social interaction lies at the heart of understanding society, according to symbolic interactionism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Understanding everyday social interactions, such as having dinner with friends, going out on a date, or attending a football game, are at the center of understanding society according to _____.

- a. conflict theory
- b. symbolic interactionism
- c. structural functionalism
- d. feminist theory

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.42

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.3: Analyze how everyday social interaction lies at the heart of understanding society, according to symbolic interactionism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Imagine you are sitting at a table thinking about love. How would Herbert Blumer distinguish the three types of objects that could be subject to interpretation in your situation?

- a. the table (physical), the person (abstract), and the idea (social)
- b. the table (social), the person (physical), and the idea (abstract)
- c. the table (physical), the person (social), and the idea (abstract)
- d. the table (abstract), the person (physical), and the idea (social)

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.43

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.3: Analyze how everyday social interaction lies at the heart of understanding society, according to symbolic interactionism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

In *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Goffman compares social life to _____ and claims that we are _____.

- a. the theater; actors playing roles
- b. the government; officials making rules
- c. the corporation; workers with the same goals
- d. the church; players in the ritual of social life

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.44

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.3: Analyze how everyday social interaction lies at the heart of understanding society, according to symbolic interactionism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in Mid-Twentieth Century?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

According to _____, social programs such as food stamps and "Obamacare" are concessions made to the working class to save capitalism from its own worst tendencies.

- a. symbolic interactionists
- b. globalists
- c. neo-Marxists
- d. structural functionalists

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.45

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.1: Discuss neo-Marxist ideas about the capitalist state, social classes, and globalization.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

The capitalist world system is a theory of globalization that argues _____.

- a. capitalism is an economic system that has consequences between countries and not just within them
- b. the economic systems of other nations have no influence on the U.S. economy
- c. each nation has an economy that is independent of all other economies in the world
- d. capitalism is an economic system that only has consequences within nations

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.46

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.1: Discuss neo-Marxist ideas about the capitalist state, social classes, and globalization.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

The interlocking nature of social inequality that shapes how gender is constructed and performed is also known as _____.

- a. patriarchy
- b. social construction
- c. gender assignment
- d. intersectionality

Answer: d

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.47

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.2: Analyze the role of intersectionality in theories of gender inequality.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Easy

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

The NSA's ability to tap phone lines and review our email is a form of surveillance that Foucault would argue is part of _____.

- a. the modern-day Panopticon
- b. the process of globalization
- c. intersectionality
- d. a modern form of punishment

Answer: a

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.48

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.3: Explain Foucault's theory of how power operates in society.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Sandy and John recently went to an art museum together. While they were there, Sandy discovered that John was very knowledgeable about art history and contemporary art. Bourdieu would argue that John has high _____.

- a. economic capital
- b. habitus
- c. cultural capital

d. social capital

Answer: c

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.49

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.4: Discuss how Bourdieu redefined classes and the nature of class differences.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Structural individualism is a theory of analytical sociology that argues that society is based on the choices and actions that individuals and groups make, while _____.

- a. their choices only influence other social actors immediately around them
- b. the actions that follow from these choices are constrained by society
- c. other groups and individuals make their own choices
- d. their choices are actually meaningless compared to the power of social institutions

Answer: b

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.50

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.5: Discuss the relationship between the individual and society for analytical sociologists ~~role of structural individualism in analytical sociology.~~

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

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Essay Questions

According to Marx's theory of society, what social classes are in constant competition? What characterizes each of these social classes and overall class conflict in society? Finally, how can you apply this theory to contemporary social life?

Answer: Karl Marx identifies the two classes of society under capitalism as the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. The basis of the conflict between these two classes is the bourgeoisie's greater access to special resources that Marx refers to as capital. Capital allows the bourgeoisie to make investments, own property, and hire workers. The proletariat, or working class, must seek employment and sell their labor to make ends meet. This social arrangement has a polarizing affect on these two groups, resulting in inequality. The owners and executives of large corporations that control the production and distributions of goods, services, and cultural ideas are modern-day examples of the bourgeoisie; everyone else in society would be equivalent to the proletariat.

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.51

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.1: Discuss why Marx believed that societies were so heavily shaped by their economic systems.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of the World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

Emile Durkheim's definition of religion is centered on those parts of society that are considered sacred. How does Durkheim explain the sacred in society? In your answer describe at least three examples of sacred elements in contemporary society.

Answer: Durkheim believed that particular parts of society were treated with exceptional deference and held in higher regard by members of society than everyday objects. In Durkheim's estimation, objects, places, beliefs, and behaviors can all be considered sacred to particular groups. For example, a place such as the baseball stadium in Boston called Fenway Park might be considered sacred by a dedicated Red Sox fan, the American flag is also considered to be a sacred object with no real direct connection to religion, and finally, the ritual of marriage can be enacted in a church or at the town hall, but it is still seen as a sacred ritual despite its location. Examples will vary.

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.52

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.2: Analyze Emile Durkheim's explanation of what holds societies together.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of the World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Georg Simmel discusses social circles and social distance to demonstrate how individuals are connected to the rest of society. Explain what a social circle is using two that you are a member of. Include in your explanation how the idea of social distance applies to your two example social circles.

Answer: A social circle describes the network of connections an individual develops through the people they regularly interact with. Two examples of social circles are the family and Facebook friends. Social distance describes how strong or weak our connections to others are in our social circles. In the case of the family, connections should be strong, resulting in close social distance. Facebook friends would likely have weaker connections and as a result have greater social distance. Simmel uses these ideas to explain the power of social relationships over the individual.

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.2.53

Learning Objective: LO 2.2.4: Explain how Georg Simmel's insights on social circles and social distance help us understand how individuals and groups relate to one another.

Topic: How Did the Early Social Theorists Make Sense of the World?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

The "dramaturgical" approach to social life outlined by Erving Goffman uses the stage as a metaphor for understanding how individuals behave in society. He argues that social actors use "impression management" to present themselves to others in all social situations. Explain "impression management" and present an example of how you have used this in your own life.

Answer: Impression management describes how we manipulate the ways we present ourselves to others to create the best possible impression as we understand it. In other words, we consider the social situation we are in and we act accordingly to satisfy how we want to be seen by others as well as how we can achieve particular goals. For example, a person who dresses up for a job interview and presents ~~their~~ his or her most professional behavior is engaging in impression management. Also, ~~a person~~ individuals going on a first date ~~is~~ are likely to carefully present whom they are based on whether or not they wish to have a second date.

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.3.54

Learning Objective: LO 2.3.3: Analyze how everyday social interaction lies at the heart of understanding society, according to symbolic interactionism.

Topic: What Innovations in Social Theory Emerged in the Mid-Twentieth Century?

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Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

One perspective from feminist theory points to the interlocking nature of inequality. This perspective is referred to as intersectionality. Using yourself as an example, apply the concept of intersectionality to three aspects of your identity.

Answer: Intersectionality, by focusing on the connections between disadvantaged groups, looks at the way inequalities ~~are~~ experienced together. For example, if I were to consider my gender, as a woman of color from the working class, my experience with gender inequality will be significantly different from a white woman in the middle class, or even a black woman in poverty. To truly understand the nuances of inequality we must look at how all these elements contribute to the inequality an individual or group experiences.

Test Bank Item Title: TB_Q2.4.55

Learning Objective: LO 2.4.2: Analyze the role of intersectionality in theories of gender inequality.

Topic: How Has a New Generation of Social Theory Evolved?

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Skill Level: Analyze It

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