

Chapter Two

PRODUCING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SPORTS IN SOCIETY

What is the Role of Research and Theory?

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Knowledge produced in the sociology of sport is primarily based on
- the informed opinions of journalists and other experts.
 - social research and social theories.
 - statements made by people in sports.
 - personal theories and data collection.
- Ans: b
2. Social theories are useful and practical because they
- justify our personal biases and enable us to put those biases into action.
 - prevent us from making decisions that could get us into trouble.
 - enable us to make sense out of life and learn from our experiences.
 - often impress other people who lack formal education and training.
- Ans: c
3. Sociological theories are different from our personal theories in that they
- don't allow us to make predictions.
 - are based on the insights of people who have special analytical abilities.
 - combine the observations of men and women and old and young.
 - are developed by using systematic research and logic.
- Ans: d
4. In the chapter it is noted that personal theories, as opposed to sociological theories,
- have little practical value.
 - reproduce social worlds in their current forms.
 - are based on the immediate experiences of individuals.
 - enable people to anticipate general social events.
- Ans: c
5. Sociologist Mike Messner decided to initiate his research on gender and sports after witnessing events at
- his son's soccer season opening ceremonies.
 - a Los Angeles Lakers game in which Kobe Bryant was playing.
 - a park where adult teams played flag football.
 - his daughter's first softball game of the season.
- Ans: a

6. The process of producing knowledge in the sociology of sport, as well as other scientific disciplines, is a five-stage process that begins with observation and ends with
- the analysis of data.
 - a review of past research on the same topic.
 - the publication of research results.
 - conclusions based on data.

Ans: c

7. As Messner began his investigation of gender and sports, he formed research questions around
- issues related to culture, social interaction, and social structure.
 - his concerns as a father of a talented girl who played softball.
 - the ways that gender equity had been defined in the United States.
 - the policies of elite sport teams at the University of Southern California.

Ans: a

8. Theories that explain what is known about the ways that people express their values, ideas, and beliefs are called
- structural theories.
 - action theories.
 - cultural theories.
 - interactionist theories.

Ans: c

9. Theories that used concepts such as role model and identity are
- interactionist theories.
 - cultural theories.
 - structural theories.
 - psycho-social theories.

Ans: a

10. The theories most likely to be used in research on the process of developing and maintaining athletic identities are
- interactionist theories.
 - Freudian theories.
 - cultural theories.
 - opportunity theories.

Ans: a

11. The theories that explain what is known about patterns of relationships that influence opportunities to play sports are
- opportunity theories.
 - action theories.
 - interactionist theories.
 - structural theories.

Ans: d

12. The theories most likely to use concepts such as values, symbols, ideology, and beliefs are

- a. structural theories.
- b. cultural theories.
- c. psycho-social theories.
- d. performance theories

Ans: b

13. When Messner used cultural theories as a guide for collecting and analyzing data in his research project, he focused primarily on
- a. the way soccer players performed gender.
 - b. the number of teams coached by men or women.
 - c. team names and colors.
 - d. the ways that sports are a reflection of society.

Ans: c

14. When sociologists study socialization as it occurs in sports, they are most likely to be guided by
- a. structural theories.
 - b. transmission theories.
 - c. gender theories.
 - d. interactionist theories.

Ans: d

15. Messner and other sociologists use either quantitative or qualitative methods when they do research. Which of the following statements about these two methods is **false**?
- a. Quantitative methods are used to study general social patterns in a social world.
 - b. Qualitative methods are useful for discovering meanings that inform actions.
 - c. Quantitative methods are used primarily when the sample population is small.
 - d. Qualitative methods involve the use of interpretive procedures and tests.

Ans: c

16. Social scientists generally collect data through the use of surveys, observations, and
- a. text analysis.
 - b. photographs and videos.
 - c. personal insights.
 - d. forensic methods.

Ans: a

17. In Messner's studies of gender and sports he used
- a. fieldwork to gather all of his data.
 - b. both quantitative and qualitative methods.
 - c. participant observation to collect data.
 - d. video equipment to record the actions of players and coaches.

Ans: b

18. When sociologists do ethnographies, data are collected in the field through
- a. surveys combined with narrative analysis.

- b. in-depth interviews combined with a deconstruction of narratives and images.
- c. the use of quantitative methods.
- d. observations and in-depth interviews.

Ans: d

19. When Messner and his colleagues analyzed local network sports news and ESPN Sports Center coverage, they
- a. used data collected through participant observation.
 - b. deconstructed narratives and images from the broadcasts.
 - c. focused on information collected through in-depth interviews with broadcasters.
 - d. used data collected through nonparticipant observation.

Ans: a

20. When Messner collected and analyzed data on the organization of the AYSO leagues and teams he found that they were organized in ways that
- a. made people very aware of gender.
 - b. eliminated the influence of gender.
 - c. created highly gendered experiences.
 - d. gave women formal authority over men.

Ans: c

21. Messner's research findings enabled him to explain that gender consists of
- a. meaning, performance, and organization.
 - b. a collection of traits that identify a person's status in life.
 - c. patterns of action related to sex hormones.
 - d. the sexual orientations of human beings.

Ans: a

22. The purpose of publication in the research process is to
- a. force scholars to develop their writing skills.
 - b. provide people in society with scientific information about the world.
 - c. create standards that can be used to evaluate scholars.
 - d. allow other scholars to critically review the quality and accuracy of research

Ans: d

23. In the chapter it is noted that the commonly made statement that "sports are reflections of society"
- a. is not supported in any of the research done in the sociology of sport.
 - b. applies to race and gender issues, but not to other social issues.
 - c. ignores the capacity of people to act as agents of cultural production.
 - d. is likely to inspire people to want to change sports.

Ans: c

24. The author explains that sports are more than reflections of society because they are sites where
- a. people have important personal and social experiences.

- b. society and culture are created and reproduced.
- c. social differences are meaningless.
- d. there is no social inequality.

Ans: b

25. The author points out that knowledge produced by research in the sociology of sport can be used to

- a. improve our sport performances.
- b. inform the decisions we make about sports and sport participation.
- c. understand more fully the strategies used by coaches.
- d. create training programs that will prevent serious injuries.

Ans: b

26. Knowledge and theories in the sociology of sport enable us to

- a. discover ultimate truths about the role of sports in society.
- b. view sports from multiple perspectives.
- c. predict how athletes and teams will perform under pressure.
- d. eliminate the causes of serious injuries in sports.

Ans: b

27. Which of the following questions would NOT be asked when using a critical approach in a sociological study of sports?

- a. Who has power in sports and how do they use it?
- b. What is the most efficient way to organize spectator sports?
- c. Who is disadvantaged by the prevailing ideas and beliefs associated with sports?
- d. Who is advantaged by existing forms of organization in sports?

Ans: b

28. When Messner used a critical approach in his research on gender and sports, he was interested in

- a. how sports can be used to challenge exploitive practices in society.
- b. how he could help children adjust to the sex segregation of their teams.
- c. providing sport administrators with the tools to be more efficient.
- d. the ways that youth sports could generate revenues for worthy causes.

Ans: a

29. Critical feminist theory is used as a guide by Messner and many others in the sociology of sport. It is based on the assumption that knowledge about social life requires that we understand

- a. the biological differences between males and females.
- b. how gender and gender relations operate in our lives.

- c. the role that women play in creating social inequality.
- d. how ideology can be used to defuse the power of men in society.

Ans: b

30. Feminism is less visible today than in previous decades because
- a. gender is no longer influential in social life.
 - b. most people don't want gender equity in society.
 - c. younger scholars have rejected feminist goals.
 - d. many people take it for granted without identifying it by name.

Ans: d

31. The author explains that he uses a critical approach when studying sports in society. As a result, many of the discussions in *Sports in Society* emphasize
- a. fairness and equity issues.
 - b. personal development and self-esteem.
 - c. social progress depends on the motivation of leaders.
 - d. the need for clear rules and ethical standards.

Ans: a