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Investigating Social Problems (4th)

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Total Questions: 56

Easy

Multiple Choice (16)

Q1. [Multiple Choice]

A _____ can be defined as a large group effort to solve a social problem by influencing changes in policy or social systems.

- a) **social movement ✓ correct**
- b) social institution
- c) social structure
- d) social constructionism

Q2. [Multiple Choice]

A collection of related concepts is called a(n) _____.

- a) social problem
- b) research statement
- c) abstract description
- d) **theory ✓ correct**

Q3. [Multiple Choice]

Conflict theory, with its focus on dissent, coercion, and antagonism in society, was used to criticize which social structure?

- a) cultural norms
- b) **capitalism ✓ correct**
- c) social regulation
- d) welfare legislation

Q4. [Multiple Choice]

How did Jane Addams's position as founder of a settlement house enable her to collect data on residents of Chicago's poorest neighborhood?

- a) The complicated paperwork required to receive services from the settlement house was a rich source of quantitative demographic information.
- b) Addams found new trends in social service needs as she could require immigrants to provide longitudinal data in exchange for settlement house services.
- c) **Addams was able to identify community needs by conducting participant observation studies on the immigrants seeking services from the settlement house. ✓ correct**
- d) Objective data collected by counting the number of users of each social service allowed Addams to observe cultural and socioeconomic trends.

Q5. [Multiple Choice]

The term _____ describes a social condition or pattern of behavior that negatively affects the well-being of a number of people.

- a) **social problem ✓ correct**
- b) social institution
- c) social structure
- d) social constructionism

Q6. [Multiple Choice]

What new type of sociology is socially responsible and mission-oriented for action and alleviation of social problems?

- a) social movement sociology
- b) service sociology ✓ correct**
- c) revolutionary sociology
- d) cultural sociology

Q7. [Multiple Choice]

What term is used to describe the ideas sociologists have about some aspect of the social world?

- a) theory
- b) concepts ✓ correct**
- c) variable
- d) method

Q8. [Multiple Choice]

What term is used to describe the negative consequences of how social institutions and social structures function?

- a) concepts
- b) dysfunctions ✓ correct**
- c) cohesion
- d) variables

Q9. [Multiple Choice]

What value is characterized by various forms of civic engagement, community service, and volunteerism that allow citizens to work together to ease the problems caused by a variety of social ills?

- a) social movement
- b) social integration
- c) culture of service ✓ correct**
- d) specialized caring

Q10. [Multiple Choice]

Which research method asks respondents to answer questions on a written questionnaire?

- a) survey research ✓ correct**
- b) participant observation
- c) qualitative research
- d) content analysis

Q11. [Multiple Choice]

Which research method involves asking respondents a series of questions on the phone or in person?

- a) survey research
- b) quantitative research
- c) mixed methods research
- d) interviewing ✓ correct**

Q12. [Multiple Choice]

Which sociological theory considers how various social phenomena work to maintain unity and order in society?

- a) structural functionalism ✓ correct**
- b) conflict theory
- c) symbolic interactionism
- d) feminist theory

Q13. [Multiple Choice]

Which theoretical approach describes the process that people go through to define a social problem?

- a) social movement
- b) social institution
- c) social structure
- d) **social constructionism ✓ correct**

Q14. [Multiple Choice]

Which theory depicts society as the product of words, gestures, and objects that are given meaning by people in their interactions?

- a) structural functionalism
- b) conflict theory
- c) **symbolic interactionism ✓ correct**
- d) feminist theory

Q15. [Multiple Choice]

_____ can be defined as any set of persons cooperating together to organize stable patterns of human activity.

- a) Social problems
- b) **Social institutions ✓ correct**
- c) Social structures
- d) Social constructionism

Q16. [Multiple Choice]

_____ is a written set of strategies for addressing a social problem.

- a) **Social policy ✓ correct**
- b) Social language
- c) Social law
- d) Social cohesion

True/False (3)

Q17. [True/False]

Race is considered a demographic characteristic.

- a) **True ✓ correct**
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q18. [True/False]

The action of social change is usually aimed at transforming the social structure.

- a) **True ✓ correct**
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Q19. [True/False]

The subjective aspects of social problems help us understand what people define as a social problem.

- a) **True ✓ correct**
- b) False

Correct answer: True

Medium

Multiple Choice (16)

Q20. [Multiple Choice]

According to Del Rosso, what is the relationship between denial of social problems and mobilization against these problems?

- a) They cultivate ignorance.
- b) They increase societalization.
- c) They limit prosecution and institutional reform.
- d) **They require broad acknowledgement of the problem. ✓ correct**

Q21. [Multiple Choice]

According to Mills, why is a global perspective essential to the sociological imagination?

- a) Examining global trends makes it easier to predict the behavior of other groups of people.
- b) The use of global perspective improves the attention we pay to marginalized individuals worldwide.
- c) Global perspectives allow us to implement the best solutions to social problems from other cultures.
- d) **Problems within an individual society are generally reflective of problems on a global scale. ✓ correct**

Q22. [Multiple Choice]

According to the text, what is the key benefit of using mixed methods in sociological research?

- a) It increases the accuracy of collected data.
- b) It focuses on one specific aspect of a social problem.
- c) **It provides a more complex understanding of social problems. ✓ correct**
- d) It introduces multicultural social expectations into a study.

Q23. [Multiple Choice]

As humans, the _____ makes it possible for us to see ourselves in relationship to others.

- a) **social self ✓ correct**
- b) self-fulfilling prophecy
- c) symbolic self
- d) functional self-image

Q24. [Multiple Choice]

How does the sociological imagination alter our understanding of individual-level problems?

- a) It reduces feelings of security and personal power.
- b) It encourages us to focus on the self as an isolated system.
- c) It allows us to connect biological influences to behavior.
- d) **It identifies the structural determinants that influence behavior. ✓ correct**

Q25. [Multiple Choice]

Joseph R. Gusfield examined how groups of people tried to preserve their own cultures, specifically how rural, middle-class, evangelical Protestants known as “the Dry forces” felt threatened by the drinking habits of ethnic immigrants. How did the Dry forces’ attempts at preservation change over time?

- a) Their focus on urban, lower-class Irish shifted to the more culturally dissimilar Italians.
- b) **Their attempts to convince immigrants to adopt the dominant culture became attempts to force them through legislation. ✓ correct**
- c) The influx of lower-class immigrants shifted the power structure so the previously dominant Protestants lost political power.
- d) Dry Protestants initially attempted to convert immigrants to Protestantism, but gradually shifted focus to attempt to integrate “dry” values into the immigrants’ own cultures.

Q26. [Multiple Choice]

Researchers interested in the objective aspects of social problems are most likely to use _____ methods.

- a) quantitative ✓ correct**
- b) qualitative
- c) primary
- d) secondary

Q27. [Multiple Choice]

Rising crime rates are a social problem of great concern to many people. What is an objective aspect of this social problem?

- a) fear of crime victimization
- b) crime rate trends ✓ correct**
- c) socioeconomic risk factors for crime
- d) political action organizations against crime

Q28. [Multiple Choice]

Settlement houses in Chicago provided services such as childcare, financial relief measures, and healthcare to poor immigrants. What type of mindset did these houses practice?

- a) sociological imagination
- b) social constructionism
- c) mixed methodology
- d) service sociology ✓ correct**

Q29. [Multiple Choice]

The combined effect of demographic factors is referred to as _____.

- a) social class
- b) a collective problem
- c) intersectionality ✓ correct**
- d) social problems

Q30. [Multiple Choice]

The conflict between gun safety groups and gun rights groups is an example of competing _____.

- a) capitalists
- b) functional institutions
- c) social classes
- d) interest groups ✓ correct**

Q31. [Multiple Choice]

Waverly Duck studied the residents of a poor African American neighborhood where drug dealing was prevalent to see how they were able to survive. He found that the community's interactions helped them cope with their poverty and racial isolation. Which term describes this finding?

- a) social isolation
- b) interaction order ✓ correct**
- c) self-fulfilling prophecy
- d) community cohesion

Q32. [Multiple Choice]

What is a strength of participant observation as a research method?

- a) broadly generalizable results
- b) understanding of the global structures that affect behavior
- c) ease of performing a lengthy longitudinal study using this method
- d) deep understanding of a group's inner workings ✓ correct**

Q33. [Multiple Choice]

Which factor is key to producing generalizable results in a sociological study?

- a) administering questionnaires through many different routes
- b) selecting a sample representative of the population ✓ correct**
- c) employing longitudinal studies
- d) using qualitative research methods

Q34. [Multiple Choice]

Which statement was a foundation of Talcott Parsons's theoretical interpretation of structural functionalism?

- a) The human body is a biological organism made up of many organs needed for survival.
- b) The social institutions of society each work in different ways that benefit some people more than others.
- c) Society can prevent disruptions by encouraging people to conform to societal norms. ✓ correct**
- d) Societies can only function through a family setting.

Q35. [Multiple Choice]

Émile Durkheim classified altruistic suicides as the result of which condition?

- a) highly cohesive groups ✓ correct**
- b) isolation from social bonds
- c) lack of social values
- d) excessive enforcement of social norms

True/False (2)

Q36. [True/False]

Durkheim's concept of anomie describes the absence of social integration.

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct**

Correct answer: False

Q37. [True/False]

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

- a) True
- b) False ✓ correct**

Correct answer: False

Essay (4)

Q38. [Essay]

Define the concept of self-fulfilling prophecy, and provide an example of its functionality.

Suggested answer: Sample response: The self-fulfilling prophecy is a social process where a false definition of a situation brings behavior that makes the false definition "true." For example, a 5-year-old boy who has a father imprisoned in the criminal justice system could be told by his mother that he looks just like his father and she cannot stand to look at him because she is afraid he will end up just like him. Then, that boy goes to school and his teachers also told him he is going to end up in prison like his father and they do not expect much from him. In turn, the boy starts to engage in delinquent behaviors and ends up in the criminal justice system. The socialization of his mother and teachers brought a pattern of behavior that made the false definition of him true by him ending up in the criminal justice system as predicted. Answers may vary based on the example chosen.

Q39. [Essay]

Describe the patterns of behavior that followed the pandemic caused by COVID-19 (coronavirus disease).

Suggested answer: Sample response: COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) was first reported in 2019 from China. Many governments responded with required guidelines for the behavior of their citizens including quarantines, nationwide lockdowns, mandatory closures of thousands of schools and businesses, and specific individual behaviors such as face masks and social distancing. These patterns of behavior were caused by the social problem of a rapidly spreading disease that caused a series of events that continue to impact our lives.

Q40. [Essay]

Explain how anomic suicide can help us understand the relationship between unemployment rates and men's suicide rates.

Suggested answer: Sample response: Emile Durkheim conducted a classical study on the social problem of suicide that concluded with the understanding that group differences are determined by social integration and social regulation levels. This led to the determination of four types of social suicide. In this question, anomic suicide is the result of too little social regulation leading to the absence of social norms. For example, the relationship between unemployment rates and men's suicide rates can be explained by understanding that when men lose their jobs, the societal norm of being the breadwinner is disrupted, causing an increase in suicide as they no longer are the productive, masculine person in the family.

Q41. [Essay]

Explain how the interviewing method of data collection is done and how the information is analyzed in a qualitative research methodology.

Suggested answer: Sample response: Interviewing is the form of data collection where researchers ask their respondents a series of questions. Interview data can be collected via face to face or on the phone for a variety of social problems. The researcher records the subject's responses in writing or audio format by allowing the subject to speak freely and at length for each question. When data collection is complete, the researcher then listens back to the recordings and reviews their notes to identify categories and themes across all the subjects in the study.

Hard

Multiple Choice (9)

Q42. [Multiple Choice]

A failing tech start-up undergoes a radical transformation in organizational structure, moving from a rigid hierarchy of leadership to a more flexible, self-directed management style. Sociologists would recognize this scenario as what concept?

- a) social problem
- b) social institution
- c) social structure
- d) **social revolution ✓ correct**

Q43. [Multiple Choice]

A person ends their life because they don't have any friends or social support. This would be classified as _____ suicide.

- a) **egoistic ✓ correct**
- b) anomic
- c) fatalistic
- d) altruistic

Q44. [Multiple Choice]

A woman was raised in a very strict culture in which others made all of her decisions for her. She felt trapped and oppressed and takes her own life to escape. This would be classified as _____ suicide.

- a) egoistic
- b) anomic
- c) fatalistic ✓ correct
- d) altruistic

Q45. [Multiple Choice]

Cintia is recording her conversations with Black Americans who lived in rural, suburban, and urban environments in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Act of 1965. She hopes to compare and contrast these individuals' lived experiences and identify how the environment has impacted their life course. This study is an example of _____.

- a) qualitative research ✓ correct
- b) global perspective
- c) experimental research
- d) participant observation

Q46. [Multiple Choice]

David wants to understand the experiences of low-income children attending an after-school program. Which data collection method is best?

- a) quantitative
- b) qualitative ✓ correct
- c) secondary research
- d) experimental

Q47. [Multiple Choice]

Evan believes he is going to do poorly at his job interview that afternoon. When he arrives for the interview, he is nervous and has trouble answering the interviewer's questions. Evan does not get the job. This scenario best demonstrates which concept?

- a) self-fulfilling prophecy ✓ correct
- b) social interaction
- c) social self
- d) social constructionism

Q48. [Multiple Choice]

Malik is interested in what social factors underlie adherence to treatment for type 2 diabetes. He meets several patients with diabetes and gets to know each of them through their interactions with doctors and nursing staff. He notes that poorer patients have more trouble affording their medications, a diabetic diet, and testing supplies. Malik is informally performing which type of research?

- a) survey research
- b) quantitative research
- c) experimental research
- d) participant observation ✓ correct

Q49. [Multiple Choice]

Many people have told Selena she is the best saxophone player they have ever heard. She is then distressed to find that she makes second chair rather than first chair in the jazz band she auditioned for. Selena is likely distressed because her perceived failure contrasts with what component of the self?

- a) social self
- b) self-fulfilling prophecy
- c) symbolic self
- d) looking-glass self ✓ correct**

Q50. [Multiple Choice]

Nevaeh seems to have a worsening drug addiction and her family tries to stage an intervention to get her professional help. They all have her best interests in mind, but she is resistant and maintains that her family cornered her just to tear her down emotionally. According to symbolic interactionism, why does Nevaeh have such a negative reaction to this well-meant intervention?

- a) Her social self conflicts with her looking-glass self, leading Nevaeh to lash out against her family as the source of the conflict.
- b) Since Nevaeh defines the intervention as a personal attack, she will act defensive regardless of her family's actual intent. ✓ correct**
- c) Nevaeh sees her family as coercing her into change, so she revolts because she resents this coercion.
- d) The dysfunctions in the family led to her addiction in the first place, so Nevaeh rejects the intrusion of her family into this personal matter.

Essay (6)

Q51. [Essay]

Describe George Herbert Mead's understanding of the relationship between mind, self, and society. Then, discuss how the concept of the looking-glass self furthered Mead's ideas.

Suggested answer: Sample response: George Herbert Mead was interested in understanding the relationship between mind, self, and society. His contributions to the field of sociology led to the creation of the symbolic interactionism theoretical perspective. The mind is the internal conversation we have with ourselves. For example, you may have an internal conversation by interpreting language and symbols without ever saying a word or feeling it consciously. The self is the process we go through to see ourselves in relationship to other people in the social world. We have to develop this social self over time through interactions with other people to fully understand where we "fit." Charles Horton Cooley took the ideas of the mind and self as they are related to society from George Herbert Mead and furthered them by proposing the concept of the looking-glass self or the idea that we see ourselves as we think others see us.

Q52. [Essay]

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

Suggested answer: Sample response: A mixed methodology has advantages over solely quantitative or qualitative research methods because combining methods often achieves a fuller picture of the social problem. For example, when exploring the everyday lives of families who immigrate to the United States from Mexico, a social scientist might rely on statistical analysis of immigrant data and interviews with family members about their experiences immigrating to another country. In this case, a researcher can understand the personal experiences of the immigrants and get a sense of who they are rather than just how many there are. Answers may vary based on the example provided.

Q53. [Essay]

Discuss how government implementation of social policy in the form of legislation made racial segregation illegal in the United States.

Suggested answer: Sample response: Government implementation of social policy in the form of legislation clearly articulates a condition or pattern of behavior that is legal or illegal. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a piece of legislation signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson to make racial segregation in public illegal in the United States. This led to guidelines demonstrated in the form of handbooks, manuals, and eventually today electronic methods that taught organizations what should and should not be acceptable behaviors in workplaces for racial segregation.

Q54. [Essay]

Evaluate how the phrase “social problems” has been defined by sociologists throughout history.

Suggested answer: Sample response: The phrase “social problems” has had a long history with social scientists. For most of the 19th century, the term referred to issues of unequal distribution of wealth. However, by the end of the 19th century, the phrase became framed as more of a social question that aided in determining sociology as a legitimate discipline. By the 1920s, the phrase “social problems” had been used to explain overpopulation, poverty, unemployment, labor conflicts, child labor, racism, crime, and juvenile delinquency. From the 1930s through the 1970s, the term “social problems” saw various definitions from state of mind versus value judgments to individual diagnoses. By 1987, the focus on social problems as subjective, constructionist, and claims-making had become the generally accepted perspective. The constructionist perspective, as it is known today, involves the process of claims-making or understanding individuals and groups through providing corrective conditions to the ills of society. A social problem is anything the public identifies as something that needs to be solved.

Q55. [Essay]

Explain the efforts of Jane Addams and the famous settlement house, Hull House, in one of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods in the 19th century.

Suggested answer: Sample response: Service sociology, public sociology, or activist research is meant to make sure that academics and universities serve the public. Jane Addams founded one of the most famous settlement houses in the 19th century called Hull House. Hull House was located in one of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods and had the goal of gathering empirical data on social problems affecting those living in groups in poverty. Throughout this research, Hull House also provided community services in the form of securing support for deserted women, conducting kindergarten and day nursery programs, implementing social programs for neighborhood improvement, and establishing a relief station.

Q56. [Essay]

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

Suggested answer: Sample response: Intersectionality is the way demographic factors combine to affect people's experiences. For example, if you are studying sexism in the workplace, you must account for race and ethnicity since White women's experiences differ from women of color. Age and social class may also shape women's experiences in the workplace. Answers will vary based on the example; however, age, ethnicity, gender, and social class are all common intersectionality principles that should be highlighted. Demographic factors combine to create unique experiences. Therefore, a true understanding of social problems requires an intersectional approach.