



TEXTBOOK TESTBANKS

# Test Bank for Sociology v4 1st Barkan

TEST BANK SAMPLE PREVIEW

PUBLISHER

**Flatworld**

---

COPYRIGHT

**2025**

RESOURCE TYPE

**Test Bank**

ISBN

**9798887943060**

*Test Bank for Sociology v4 1<sup>st</sup> Edition  
by Barkan*

ISBN: 9798887943060

**COPYRIGHT PAGE**

Published by:  
FlatWorld

© 2025 by FlatWorld. All rights reserved. Your use of this work is subject to the License Agreement available here [www.flatworld.com/terms](http://www.flatworld.com/terms). No part of this work may be used, modified, or reproduced in any form or by any means except as expressly permitted under the License Agreement.

## Chapter 1 Sociology and the Sociological Perspective

### True/False Questions

1. Americans have freedom, but the freedom to think and act is constrained at least to some degree by society's standards and expectations.  
**True; Easy**
2. Society totally determines our attitudes and behavior.  
**False; Easy**
3. Our social background does not affect our chances of being healthy, wealthy, well-educated and so on.  
**False; Easy**
4. The likelihood of an individual to commit suicide depends at least partly on various aspects of their social background.  
**True; Easy**
5. The degree to which people succeed in life in such areas as education, income, and health is termed as life chances.  
**True; Easy**
6. Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions.  
**True; Moderate**
7. Social support networks help people deal with personal problems.  
**True; Easy**
8. Sociological perspective is a general term for social backgrounds and other aspects of the society.  
**False; Moderate**
9. Social environment is the belief that people's social backgrounds influence their attitudes, behaviors, and life chances.  
**False; Easy**
10. The theme of sociology in which the aim is to go beyond superficial understandings of social reality is termed as sociological imagination.  
**False; Moderate**
11. One of the main goals of sociology is to discover the multiple meanings of social reality.  
**True; Moderate**
12. Social structure can be horizontal or vertical.  
**True; Easy**
13. Vertical social structure refers to the social relationships and social and physical characteristics of communities to which individuals belong.  
**False; Moderate**

14. Problems in society help account for problems that individuals experience.  
**True; Easy**
15. During severe economic downturn, unemployment is best understood as a personal trouble rather than a public issue.  
**False; Easy**
16. Although eating disorders often stem from personal problems, they also may reflect a cultural emphasis for women to have slender bodies. In this scenario, eating disorders are best understood as a public issue, not just as a personal trouble.  
**True; Moderate**
17. Sociology emphasizes that social problems like poverty and crime stem from structural problems in the larger society and not from the personal failings of the people suffering from them.  
**True; Moderate**
18. The horizontal social structure is also known as social inequality.  
**False; Moderate**
19. People's positions in society's hierarchy often have profound consequences for their attitudes, behaviors, and life chances, both for themselves and for their children.  
**True; Moderate**
20. Macrosociologists focus on the big picture, which usually means such things as social structure, social institutions, and social, political, and economic change.  
**True; Moderate**
21. There are two main perspectives in microsociology: functionalism and conflict theory.  
**False; Moderate**
22. Socialization helps to integrate us into society and to reinforce our respect for its rules.  
**True; Moderate**
23. The conflict theory perspective uses the human body as a model for understanding society.  
**False; Moderate**
24. Functionalism is often regarded as a conservative perspective.  
**True; Moderate**
25. In a capitalist society, the proletariat's interest lies in overthrowing the bourgeoisie to create an egalitarian society.  
**True; Moderate**
26. Radical feminists view gender inequality as present in all societies.  
**True; Moderate**
27. A major problem with the conflict theory is that it tends to support the status quo and thus seems to favor existing inequalities based on race, social class, and gender.  
**False; Moderate**

28. The macro perspectives pay relatively little attention to the reasons for, and possible solutions to, such “large” and fundamentally important issues as poverty, racism, sexism, and social change.  
**False; Moderate**
29. The conversation between two women inside a restaurant is most likely to be examined by a macrosociologist.  
**False; Moderate**
30. One of the major assumptions of functionalism is that the society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors.  
**False; Moderate**
31. Sociology as a social science relies heavily on systematic research that follows the standard rules of the scientific method.  
**True; Easy**
32. A generalization always implies that all people will fit the pattern.  
**False; Moderate**
33. Personal experience often offers only a very limited understanding of social reality other than our own.  
**True; Easy**
34. Because everyone’s personal experience is unique, we should not rely solely on our own personal experience in order to help us understand everything about a topic.  
**True; Moderate**
35. Common sense is always correct.  
**False; Easy**
36. Teachers, parents, and government officials can be trusted to give us a true, complete picture of social reality.  
**False; Moderate**
37. The news media often overly simplify complex topics, thus providing a misleading picture of social reality.  
**True; Easy**
38. Tradition can be a source of knowledge and understanding of social reality.  
**True; Easy**
39. Traditional ways of thinking about social reality often turn out to be inaccurate and incomplete.  
**True; Easy**
40. The scientific method helps reduce the potential for bias.  
**True; Moderate**
41. When sociological research tests relationships between variables, it is normally testing whether a dependent variable affects an independent variable.  
**False; Moderate**

42. A hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two variables concerning the units of analysis the researcher is studying.  
**True; Easy**
43. A variable that is influenced by an independent variable is called a dependent variable.  
**True; Easy**
44. A random sample is a subset drawn from the larger population in which every unit in the population has the same chance of being included in the subset.  
**True; Easy**
45. A random sample allows us to generalize the results of the sample to the population from which the sample comes.  
**True; Moderate**
46. Large surveys are usually cost-effective.  
**False; Moderate**
47. Observation studies do not involve random samples of the population and hence their results can readily be generalized to the population.  
**False; Moderate**
48. Experiments do not help in establishing cause-and-effect relationships.  
**False; Easy**
49. Observational studies can automatically be generalized to other settings and members of the population.  
**False; Moderate**
50. Participant observation is field research in which the researcher merely observes a group or setting.  
**False; Easy**
51. Secondary data analysis provides the researcher with data on all the variables that he or she may be interested.  
**False; Easy**

### Multiple Choice Questions

52. \_\_\_\_\_ is a general term for social backgrounds and other aspects of society.  
a. Social environment  
b. Social network  
c. Social circle  
d. Social pyramid  
e. Social mobility  
**a; Moderate**
53. The belief that people's social backgrounds influence their attitudes, behaviors, and life chances is referred to as:  
a. Social environment

- b. Social network
- c. Social fact
- d. Sociological perspective
- e. Social mobility

**d; Moderate**

54. Which of the following refers to the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions?

- a. Social environment
- b. Sociological perspective
- c. Sociology
- d. Social mobility
- e. Social fact

**c; Moderate**

55. \_\_\_\_\_ refer(s) to the degree to which people succeed in life in such areas as education, income, and health.

- a. The sociological perspective
- b. Life chances
- c. Generalizations
- d. Quality of life
- e. Systematization

**b; Moderate**

56. A group of people who live within a defined territory and who share a culture can be referred to as a:

- a. social network.
- b. social mobility.
- c. life chance.
- d. social imagination.
- e. society.

**e; Moderate**

57. Which of the following can help people deal with personal problems and deter them from committing suicide?

- a. Functionalism
- b. Conflict theory
- c. The debunking motif
- d. Anomie
- e. Social support network

**e; Moderate**

58. According to sociologist Peter L. Berger, a theme of sociology in which the aim is to go beyond superficial understandings of social reality is termed as:

- a. debunking motif
- b. anomie
- c. sociological perspective
- d. collective conscience
- e. conflict theory

**a; Moderate**

59. \_\_\_\_\_ is a term that refers to the concept that individuals are generally blamed, and may even blame themselves, for problems affecting them.

- a. Personal troubles
- b. Conflict theory
- c. Debunking motif
- d. Sociological imagination
- e. Anomie

**a; Moderate**

60. According to sociologist C. Wright Mills, \_\_\_\_\_ involves the realization that personal troubles are rooted in public issues.

- a. value orientation
- b. the sociological imagination
- c. abstract empiricism
- d. grand theory
- e. social fact

**b; Moderate**

61. The vertical social structure is also known as:

- a. social network.
- b. social inequality.
- c. anomie.
- d. sociological imagination.
- e. functionalism.

**b; Moderate**

62. The social patterns through which a society is organized is called:

- a. the debunking motif
- b. an anomie
- c. sociological perspective
- d. social structure
- e. social network aggregation

**d; Moderate**

63. The social relationships and social and physical characteristics of communities to which individuals belong is referred to as:

- a. Vertical social structure
- b. Anomie
- c. Social inequality
- d. The debunking motif
- e. Horizontal social structure

**e; Moderate**

64. The ways in which a society or group ranks people in a hierarchy, with some more "equal" than others, is referred to as:

- a. Anomie
- b. The debunking motif
- c. Vertical social structure
- d. Generalization
- e. Horizontal social structure

**c; Moderate**

65. William Ryan pointed out that Americans typically \_\_\_\_\_ when they think about the reasons for social problems like poverty, unemployment, and crime.
- a. blame the victim
  - b. blame value systems
  - c. blame the system
  - d. blame cultural patterns
  - e. blame inefficient systems

**a; Moderate**

66. The use of sociological insights and findings to address social issues and achieve social change is termed as:
- a. Activist sociology
  - b. Professional sociology
  - c. Academic sociology
  - d. Public sociology
  - e. Stratification theory

**d; Moderate**

67. Macrosociologists:
- a. study social interaction.
  - b. sometimes focus on economic change.
  - c. look at how families interact.
  - d. focus on why co-workers interact the way they do.
  - e. consider how small groups of people interpret the meanings of their interaction.

**b; Moderate**

68. Which of the following is a major assumption of the functionalism theory?
- a. Slow social change is desirable, but rapid social change threatens social order.
  - b. Far-reaching social change is needed to reduce social inequality and to create an egalitarian society.
  - c. Individuals negotiate their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations.
  - d. Social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary.
  - e. Society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors.

**a; Hard**

69. Social facts:
- a. help us learn society's rules and the need to cooperate.
  - b. are our ties to other people and to social institutions such as religion and the family.
  - c. help to socialize us, integrate us into society, and reinforce our respect for its rules.
  - d. are forces external to the individual that affect and constrain individual attitudes and behavior.
  - e. focus on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction.

**d; Hard**

70. When \_\_\_\_\_ sets in, people become more unclear about how to deal with problems in their life.
- a. the collective conscience
  - b. class consciousness

- c. social inequality
- d. the debunking motif
- e. anomie

**e; Moderate**

71. What does functionalism emphasize?

- a. Rapid social change and other major social upheaval.
- b. Traditional assumptions have given way to more repressive assumptions.
- c. The importance of social institutions for producing a stable society.
- d. Different groups in society have different interests stemming from their diverse social positions.
- e. The importance of social change to reduce inequality.

**c; Moderate**

72. According to Marx and Engels, revolution is inevitable in a capitalist society because:

- a. people act to maximize their pleasure and to reduce their pain.
- b. of structural contradictions arising from the nature of capitalism.
- c. when people interact, they seek to maximize the benefits they gain from the interaction and to reduce the advantages.
- d. it tends to support the status quo and thus seems to favor existing inequalities based on race, social class, and gender.
- e. capitalism overlooks the large degree of consensus on many important issues.

**b; Hard**

73. What is the main goal of capitalism?

- a. Profit
- b. Collective conscience
- c. Social reform
- d. Reduce the effects of poverty
- e. Reduce socioeconomic segregation

**a; Moderate**

74. Why is the conflict theory considered more of a progressive perspective than the functionalist theory?

- a. It focuses on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction.
- b. It emphasizes the benefits of the various parts of society for ongoing social stability.
- c. It views as overly deterministic the view of human thought and action.
- d. It favors social change to reduce inequality.
- e. It stresses that the various parts of society contribute to the ongoing stability of society.

**d; Hard**

75. According to symbolic interactionists:

- a. every society is divided into two classes based on the ownership of the means of production.
- b. people act rationally and decide before they act whether their behavior will cause them more pleasure or pain.
- c. all theories emphasize that society is filled with gender inequality such that women are the subordinate sex in many dimensions of social, political, and economic life.
- d. when people interact, they seek to maximize the benefits they gain from the interaction and to reduce the disadvantages.
- e. social order is possible because people learn what various symbols mean and apply these meanings to different kinds of situations.

**e; Moderate**

76. \_\_\_\_\_ is a general view of human behavior that says people act to maximize their pleasure and to reduce their pain.
- a. Kantian ethics
  - b. Ethnocentrism
  - c. Cultural relativism
  - d. Utilitarianism
  - e. Stereotype

**d; Moderate**

77. In explaining armed robbery, exchange theory:
- a. would state that armed robbery creates many jobs for police, the construction companies that build prisons, and the various businesses that provide products the public buys to help protect itself against crime.
  - b. might suggest armed robbery and other crime actually serve positive functions for society.
  - c. might note that most "street criminals" are poor and thus emphasize that armed robbery is the result of the frustration of living in poverty and facing a lack of jobs and other opportunities for economic and social success.
  - d. would focus on how armed robbers make such decisions as when and where to rob someone and on how their interactions with other criminals reinforce their own criminal tendencies.
  - e. would emphasize that armed robbers and other criminals are rational actors who carefully plan their crimes and who would be deterred by a strong threat of swift and severe punishment.

**e; Hard**

78. According to Marx and Engels, the particular class of people in a capitalist society who are the ruling class and own the means of production are termed as the:
- a. class conscious.
  - b. bourgeoisie.
  - c. aristocrats.
  - d. proletariat.
  - e. serf.

**b; Hard**

79. One of the major assumptions of utilitarianism is that:
- a. people construct their roles as they interact; they do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them.
  - b. society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors.
  - c. people act to maximize their advantages in a given situation and to reduce their disadvantages.
  - d. social stability is necessary to have a strong society, and adequate socialization and social integration are necessary to achieve social stability.
  - e. it may not contain data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested.

**c; Hard**

80. The view that social institutions are important for their contributions to social stability is known as:
- a. functionalism.
  - b. conflict theory.

- c. symbolic interactionism.
- d. utilitarianism
- e. exchange theory

**a; Moderate**

81. The micro perspective in sociology that focuses on the meanings people gain from social interaction is:

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

**e; Moderate**

82. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to a conclusion drawn from sociological research that is meant to apply to broad categories of people but to which many exceptions will always exist.

- f. Specialization
- g. Generalization
- h. Stereotype
- i. Mutual exclusion
- j. Systematization

**b; Easy**

83. \_\_\_\_\_ is a statement of a tendency, rather than a hard-and-fast law.

- k. Debunking motif
- l. Hypothesis
- m. Controlled conclusion
- n. Contact theory
- o. Generalization

**e; Moderate**

84. Alex grew up in the suburbs of Vermont where 99% of the population is white. While working on a sociology research report involving how many persons of color live in the United States, Alex predicted that almost 98% of the U.S population is white, which is not correct. This prediction made by Alex is more likely to be the result of her \_\_\_\_\_.

- p. common sense
- q. traditional beliefs
- r. expert advice
- s. media exposure
- t. personal experience

**e; Hard**

85. Media coverage \_\_\_\_\_.

- u. may overly simplify complex topics
- v. corresponds with what the best evidence from systematic research seems to be telling us
- w. provides a truthful picture of social reality
- x. is not very important
- y. offers us an enormous understanding of social reality including our own

**a; Moderate**

86. The basic steps involved in the scientific method are: a) formulating a hypothesis, b) measuring and gathering data, c) analyzing these data, and d) z. drawing appropriate conclusions.  
aa. conducting data review.  
bb. unit of analysis.  
cc. screening secondary data.  
dd. balancing variables.

**a; Easy**

87. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the classic steps by which research is conducted, including the formulation of a hypothesis, the gathering and analysis of data and drawing appropriate conclusions.

1. traditional method
2. scientific method
3. debunking motif
4. SCCS method
5. relational method

**b; Moderate**

88. In the scientific method of research, which of the following is the next step after measuring and gathering data?

- a. Screening secondary data
- b. Setting variables
- c. Analyzing data
- d. Drawing a conclusion
- e. Field research

**c; Moderate**

89. A researcher wanted to test the hypothesis that “the number of goals a team scores depends on the number of games the team gets to play.” The “number of games” in this hypothesis is a/an:

- ee. psychographic variable.
- ff. dependent variable.
- gg. independent variable.
- hh. scale variable.
- ii. indeterminable variable.

**c; Hard**

90. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the type of entity a researcher is studying.

- a. Hypothesis
- b. Variable
- c. Unit of analysis
- d. Sample
- e. Randomization

**c; Easy**

91. When using the scientific method in sociological research, after the formulation of hypothesis, the next step the researcher takes is to:

- jj. measure and gather data to test the hypothesis.
- kk. repeat the experiment.
- ll. draw conclusions.
- mm. choose the research the topic.
- nn. reformulate the hypothesis.

**a; Easy**

92. A subset drawn from the larger population in which every unit in the population has the same chance of being included in the subset is termed as a:

- oo. subset sample.
- pp. random sample.
- qq. nonrandom sample.
- rr. simple sample.
- ss. survey sample.

**b; Easy**

93. Which of the following is an advantage of a face-to-face survey?

- tt. It is cost-effective.
- uu. It can yield a high response rate.
- vv. It is very useful for establishing cause-and-effect relationships.
- ww. It is the only method that provides a full account of people's lives.
- xx. It provides more quantitative data than qualitative data.

**b; Moderate**

94. Which of the following is an advantage of field research?

- a. It may provide rich, detailed information about the people who are observed.
- b. The results can readily be generalized to the population.
- c. It is cost-effective.
- d. It does not take much time.
- e. It can yield a high response rate.

**a; Moderate**

95. Which of the following is a disadvantage of using secondary data analysis as a research method?

- yy. The researcher has to spend the time to gather the data.
- zz. The analysis may contain little data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested.
- aaa. The researcher has to spend money to gather the data.
- bbb. It can yield a high response rate.
- ccc. It contains data on variables that are measured in the way a sociologist prefers.

**b; Moderate**

96. When this research method is used, many people can be included in a given study and results can be generalized to the population, but the information can be relatively superficial.

- ddd. Experiments
- eee. Observation
- fff. Existing data
- ggg. Field Research
- hhh. Survey

**e; Moderate**

97. The major advantage of the experimental method is that:

- iii. the information collected is relatively superficial.
- jjj. the results can readily be generalized to the population.
- kkk. the data set that is being analyzed contains data on all the variables in which a sociologist is interested.

- lll. the researcher can be fairly sure of a cause-and-effect relationship.  
mmm. the researcher does not have to spend much time and money to gather data.

**d; Moderate**

98. The most common method used by sociologists to gather data for a research study is \_\_\_\_\_.

- nnn. a survey  
ooo. an experiment  
ppp. observation  
qqq. field study  
rrr. using existing data

**a; Moderate**

99. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the percentage of a sample that agrees to be included in a study, usually a survey.

- sss. Respondent turnover  
ttt. Response rate  
uuu. Percent response  
vvv. Research rate  
www. Polling rate

**b; Easy**

100. \_\_\_\_\_ involves the analysis of existing data.

- xxx. Variable analysis  
yyy. Primary data analysis  
zzz. Secondary data analysis  
aaaa. Experimental analysis  
bbbb. Collective analysis

**c; Easy**

101. One of the most important ethical guidelines in sociological and other human subject research concerns \_\_\_\_\_.

- cccc. privacy and confidentiality  
dddd. compensation  
eeee. openness and behavior  
ffff. behavior and resistance  
gggg. support and rehabilitation

**a; Moderate**

102. The statement that Black Americans were more likely to support Biden over Trump in the 2020 election is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a generalization  
b. a known issue  
c. a research sample  
d. a hypothesis  
e. common sense

**a; Easy**

### Short Answer Questions

103. With the secret ballot as an example, explain how the American democracy is not as “free” as we might think.

*The secret ballot is one of the most cherished principles of American democracy. We vote in secret so that our choice of a candidate is made freely and without fear of punishment; but it is also possible to predict the candidate for whom any one individual will vote if enough is known about the individual. If so, perhaps that means our choice of a candidate is affected by many aspects of our social backgrounds and, in this sense, is not as “free” as we might think.*

**Moderate**

104. Does society totally determine our attitudes and behavior? If yes, why and how?

*Society shapes our attitudes and behavior even if it does not determine them altogether. We still have freedom, but that freedom is limited by society's expectations. Moreover, our views and behavior depend to some degree on our social location in society—our gender, race, social class, religion, and so forth. Thus, society as a whole, and our own social backgrounds, affect our attitudes and behaviors.*

**Moderate**

105. Describe life chances.

*Our social backgrounds affect one important part of our lives, and that is our life chances—our chances of being healthy, wealthy, well-educated, and, more generally, of living a good, happy life.*

**Easy**

106. What is sociology? What is at the core of sociology?

*Sociology is the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions. At the heart of sociology is the sociological perspective.*

**Easy**

107. Define the sociological perspective.

*At the heart of sociology is the sociological perspective, the view that our social backgrounds influence our attitudes, behavior, and life chances. In this regard, we are not just individuals, but rather social beings deeply enmeshed in society. Although we all differ from each other in many respects, we share with many other people basic aspects of our social backgrounds, especially gender, race and ethnicity, and social class. This similarity makes us more similar to each other than we would otherwise be.*

**Moderate**

108. What is the debunking motif?

*The debunking motif is a theme of sociology in which by looking for levels of reality other than those given in the official interpretations of society, sociology looks beyond on-the-surface understandings of social reality and helps us recognize the value of alternative understandings.*

**Easy**

109. Compare and contrast between horizontal and vertical social structures.

*Horizontal social structure refers to the social relationships and social and physical characteristics of communities to which individuals belong. Vertical social structure refers to ways in which a society or group ranks people in a hierarchy, with some more “equal” than others.*

**Moderate**

110. Explain the terms “personal troubles” and “public issues.”

*Personal troubles refer to a problem affecting individuals that the affected individual, as well as other members of society, typically blame on the individual's own failings. Examples include such different problems as eating disorders, divorce, and unemployment. Public issues, whose source lies in the social structure and culture of a society, refer to a social problem affecting many individuals. Thus, problems in society help account for problems that individuals experience.*

**Easy**

111. What is sociological imagination?

*In recognizing the importance of social structure, sociology stresses that individual problems are often rooted in problems stemming from the horizontal and vertical social structures of society. This key insight informed C. Wright Mills' classic distinction between personal troubles and public issues.*

**Easy**

112. Explain the "blaming the victim" and "blaming the system" approaches with an example.

*Americans typically "blame the victim" when they think about the reasons for social problems like poverty, unemployment, and crime. They feel that these problems stem from personal failings of the people suffering them, and not from structural problems in the larger society. If instead we blame the system, we would focus our attention on the various social conditions that account for these problems. Specific examples for each answer will vary.*

**Moderate**

113. Describe public sociology.

*In 2004, sociologist Michael Burawoy called for "public sociology," or the use of sociological insights and findings to address social issues and achieve social change. Early U.S. sociologists emphasized the use of sociological research to achieve social reform, and today's public sociology reflects the historical roots of sociology in this regard.*

**Easy**

114. Compare and contrast macrosociology and microsociology.

*Macro sociologists focus on the "large picture," like social structure, social institutions, and social, political, and economic change. They look at the large-scale social forces that change the course of human society and the lives of individuals. Micro sociologists, on the other hand, study social interaction. They look at how families, co-workers, and other small groups of people interact, at why they interact the way they do, and at how they interpret the meanings of their interaction and of the social settings in which they find themselves.*

**Easy**

115. What are the major assumptions of the conflict theory?

*According to the conflict theory, society is characterized by pervasive inequality based on social class, gender, and other factors. Far-reaching social change is needed to reduce or eliminate social inequality and to create an egalitarian society.*

**Moderate**

116. What are the major assumptions of symbolic interactionism?

*According to symbolic interactionism, people construct their roles as they interact; they do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them. As this interaction occurs, individuals negotiate their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations. In so doing, they rely heavily on symbols such as words and gestures to reach a shared understanding of their interaction.*

**Moderate**

117. What are the major assumptions of utilitarianism, also known as the rational-choice theory?  
*According to the rational-choice theory, people act to maximize their advantages in a given situation and to reduce their disadvantages. If they decide the benefits outweigh disadvantages, they will initiate the interaction or continue it if already underway. If they instead decide the disadvantages outweigh the benefits, they will decline to begin interacting or stop the interaction if already begun. Social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary.*

**Moderate**

118. Describe socialization.  
*Socialization helps us learn society's rules and the need to cooperate, as people end up generally agreeing on important norms and values.*

**Easy**

119. Describe social integration.  
*Social integration relates to our ties to other people and to social institutions such as religion and the family. It helps to socialize us and to integrate us into society and reinforce our respect for the rules of society.*

**Easy**

120. As per Emile Durkheim, how does society limit individual aspirations?  
*In general, society comprises many types of social facts, or forces external to the individual, that affect and thus constrain individual attitudes and behavior. Socialization and social integration help establish a strong collective conscience that is needed for a stable society. By so doing, society "creates a kind of cocoon around the individual, making him/her less individualistic, more a member of the group."*

**Hard**

121. Explain why functionalism is often regarded as a conservative perspective.  
*Similar to the view of the conservative intellectuals from which it grew, functionalism is skeptical of rapid social change and other major social upheaval. Sudden and rapid changes in society and its social institutions are troublesome according to the functionalist perspective. Any sudden change in society thus threatens its stability and future. By taking a skeptical approach to social change, functionalism supports the status quo and is thus often regarded as a conservative perspective.*

**Hard**

122. What do you understand by the term "anomie"?  
*Anomie can be defined as normlessness, a state in which social norms are unclear. It results from situations, such as periods of rapid social change, when social norms are weak and unclear or social ties are weak. When anomie sets in, people become more unclear about how to deal with problems in their life. Their aspirations are no longer limited by society's constraints and thus cannot be fulfilled.*

**Easy**

123. What were the contributions of the French Revolution of 1789 and the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century towards the rise of functionalism?  
*Functionalism arose out of these two great revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries. The intense violence and bloody terror of the French Revolution of 1789 shook Europe to its core.*

*The aristocracy throughout Europe feared that revolution would spread to their own lands, and intellectuals feared that social order was crumbling. The Industrial Revolution of the 19th century reinforced these concerns. Starting first in Europe and then in the United States, the Industrial Revolution led to many changes, including the rise and growth of cities as people left their farms to live near factories. As the cities grew, people lived in increasingly poor, crowded, and decrepit conditions. One result of these conditions was mass violence, as mobs of the poor roamed the streets of European and American cities. They attacked bystanders, destroyed property, and generally wreaked havoc. Here was additional evidence, if European intellectuals needed it, of the breakdown of social order.*

**Hard**

124. Describe conflict theory.

*Conflict theory is the view that society is composed of groups with different interests arising from their placement in the social structure.*

**Easy**

125. Describe the two classes based on the ownership of the means of production.

*According to Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, every society is divided into two classes based on the ownership of the means of production—tools, factories, and the like. In a capitalist society, the bourgeoisie or ruling class owns the means of production, while the proletariat or working class does not own the means of production and instead is oppressed and exploited by the bourgeoisie. This difference creates automatic conflict of interests between the two groups. The bourgeoisie is interested in maintaining its position at the top of society, while the proletariat's interest lies in rising up from the bottom and overthrowing the bourgeoisie to create an egalitarian society.*

**Moderate**

126. According to Marx and Engels, revolution is inevitable in a capitalist society. Explain.

*Marx and Engels argue that in a capitalist society, revolution is inevitable because of structural contradictions arising from the nature of capitalism. Because profit is the main goal of capitalism, the bourgeoisie's interest lies in maximizing profit. To do so, capitalists try to keep wages as low as possible and to spend as little money as possible on working conditions. This central fact of capitalism eventually prompts the rise of class consciousness, or an awareness of the reasons for their oppression, among workers. Their class consciousness in turn leads them to revolt against the bourgeoisie to eliminate the oppression and exploitation they suffer.*

**Moderate**

127. Describe feminist theory.

*Feminist theory is the view that society is filled with gender inequality characterized by women being the subordinate sex in the social, political, and economic dimensions of society.*

**Moderate**

128. Describe symbolic interactionism.

*Symbolic interactionism is a micro perspective in sociology regarding the meanings people gain from social interaction. This perspective focuses on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction. Symbolic interactionists feel that people do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them; instead, they construct these roles as they interact. As they interact, they "negotiate" their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations. In so doing, they rely heavily on symbols such as words and gestures to reach a shared understanding of their interaction.*

**Hard**

129. What derivations do symbolic interactionists draw from the work of Herbert Blumer?

*Drawing on Blumer's work, symbolic interactionists feel that people do not merely learn the roles that society has set out for them; instead, they construct these roles as they interact. As they interact, they "negotiate" their definitions of the situations in which they find themselves and socially construct the reality of these situations. In so doing, they rely heavily on symbols such as words and gestures to reach a shared understanding of their interaction.*

**Moderate**

130. Describe utilitarianism.

*Utilitarianism is a general view of human behavior that says people act to maximize their pleasure (or benefits) and to reduce their pain (or disadvantages). If they decide the interaction's benefits outweigh its disadvantages, they will initiate the interaction or continue it if it is already underway. If they instead decide the interaction's disadvantages outweigh its benefits, they will decline to begin interacting or stop the interaction if already begun. Social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary.*

**Moderate**

131. How would you apply the concept of utilitarianism to a "dating relationship"?

*Each partner in a dating relationship gives up a bit of autonomy in return for love and other benefits of being close to someone. Yet every relationship has its good and bad moments, and both partners make frequent compromises to ensure the relationship will endure. As long as the couple feels the good moments outweigh the bad moments, the relationship will continue. But once one or both partners decide the reverse is true, the relationship will end.*

**Moderate**

132. Discuss some of the problems that arise from the conflict theory.

*By emphasizing inequality and dissensus in society, conflict theory overlooks the large degree of consensus on many important issues. And by emphasizing the ways in which social institutions contribute to social inequality, conflict theory minimizes the ways in which these institutions are necessary for society's stability.*

**Moderate**

133. What is generalization?

*Generalization is a conclusion drawn from sociological research that is meant to apply to broad categories of people but for which many exceptions will always exist.*

**Easy**

134. What are the five sources of social reality?

*Our knowledge and understanding of social reality come from at least five sources: (a) personal experience, (b) common sense, (c) the media (including the Internet), (d) "expert authorities," such as teachers, parents, and government officials, and (e) tradition.*

**Easy**

135. Why is sociology considered a social science?

*Sociology uses research to try to understand various aspects of human thought and behavior. When we say that sociology is a social science, we mean that it uses the scientific method to try to understand the many aspects of society that sociologists study.*

**Moderate**

136. Sociology can be a fascination as well as frustration. Explain.

*Sociology is fascinating because no matter how much sociologists are able to predict people's behavior, attitudes, and life chances, many people will not fit the predictions. Sociology is frustrating for the same reason. Because people can never be totally explained by their social environment, sociologists can never completely understand the sources of their behavior, attitudes, and life chances.*

**Moderate**

137. What is the limitation of using media as a means to enhance our knowledge and understanding of social reality?

*Though we learn a lot about current events and social and political issues from various media sources, it has been seen that media coverage may oversimplify complex topics or even distort what the best evidence from systematic research seems to be telling us.*

**Moderate**

138. What is the limitation of using tradition as a source to influence our understanding of social reality?

*Tradition is generally valuable because a society should always be aware of its roots. However, traditional ways of thinking about social reality often turn out to be inaccurate and incomplete.*

**Moderate**

139. List the basic steps of the scientific method.

*The scientific method involves these basic steps: (a) formulating a hypothesis, (b) measuring and gathering data to test the hypothesis, (c) analyzing these data, and (d) drawing appropriate conclusions.*

**Easy**

140. What is a unit of analysis? Briefly explain the different types of units of analysis in sociology.

*A unit of analysis refers to the type of entity a researcher is studying. It is the focus of sociological research, usually a person, organization, or geographical region. If we conduct research on the actions or behaviors of a person, then we are studying characteristics, or variables, involving people, and the person is the unit of analysis. When the focus is on how an organization and the members within it operate, then the unit of analysis is the organization. When a specific city, state, region, or whole society is studied then the unit of analysis is the geographical region.*

**Moderate**

141. Identify the three units of analysis in sociology.

*The most common unit of analysis in sociology is the person. Additionally, sociologists can use the organization or the geographical location as the basis for a study.*

**Easy**

142. What is the difference between an independent variable and a dependent variable?

*An independent variable is a variable we think can affect another variable. This other variable is the dependent variable, or the variable we think is affected by the independent variable.*

**Easy**

143. Define a variable and list a few variables used in sociological studies of people as units of analysis.

*A variable is any characteristic that varies among units of analysis. Key variables in sociological studies of people as the units of analysis include gender, race and ethnicity, social class, age, and any number of attitudes and behaviors.*

**Easy**

144. What are the advantages and disadvantages of surveys?

*An advantage of using a survey as a research method are that many people can be included. If given to a random sample of the population, a survey's results can be generalized to the population. A disadvantage of using a survey as a research method are that large surveys are expensive and time-consuming. Although much information is gathered, this information is also relatively superficial.*

**Moderate**

145. What are the advantages and disadvantages of experiments?

*The advantage of using an experiment as a research method is that if random assignment is used, experiments provide fairly convincing data on cause and effect. The disadvantage of using a survey as a research method is that because experiments do not involve random samples of the population and most often involve college students, their results cannot readily be generalized to the population.*

**Moderate**

146. What are the advantages and disadvantages of field research?

*The advantage of using observation for field research is that observational studies may provide rich, detailed information about the people who are observed. Because observation studies do not involve random samples of the population, their results cannot readily be generalized to the population which can be a disadvantage of using observation or field research.*

**Moderate**

147. What are the advantages and disadvantages of existing data?

*The advantage of using existing data is that it has already been gathered, so the researcher does not have to spend the time and money to gather the data. The disadvantages of using existing data are that the data set that is being analyzed may not contain data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested, or may contain data on variables that are not measured in ways the sociologist might prefer.*

**Moderate**

148. What are the major sociological research methods? Give a brief description of each.

*The major methods of conducting sociological research are surveys, experiments, observation (field research), and existing data. The survey is the most common research design in sociological research. For a survey, the respondents either fill out questionnaires themselves or provide verbal answers to interviewers asking them the questions. There are many different experimental designs, but a typical experiment consists of an experimental group and a control group, with subjects randomly assigned to either group. For observational research, also called field research, the researcher will go into the field to observe people and social settings in order to provide rich descriptions and analyses of behavior. Researchers may also analyze existing data, rather than gathering their own, which is called secondary data analysis.*

**Moderate**

149. What is a face-to-face survey? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

*A face-to-face survey is a survey in which interviewers meet with respondents to ask them questions. This type of survey can yield a lot of information, because interviewers typically will*

*spend at least an hour asking their questions, and a high response rate, which is important to be able to generalize the survey's results to the entire population. On the downside, this type of survey can be very expensive and time-consuming to conduct.*

**Moderate**

150. How are telephone surveys and mail surveys conducted? What are their advantages and drawbacks?

*Telephone surveys are conducted by random digit dialing through computers which results in a random sample of all telephone numbers being selected. Although the response rate and the number of questions asked are both lower than in face-to-face surveys (people can just hang up the phone at the outset or let their answering machine take the call), the ease and low expense of telephone surveys are making them increasingly popular. Mailed surveys, done by mailing questionnaires to respondents, are still used, but not as often. Compared with face-to-face surveys, mailed questionnaires are less expensive and time consuming but have lower response rates, because many people simply throw out the questionnaire along with other junk mail.*

**Moderate**

151. What is a response rate? Does the response rate depend on the type of survey used?

*A response rate is the percentage of a sample that agrees to be included in a study, usually a survey. The response rate tends to vary depending upon the type of survey conducted. Face-to-face surveys have a high response rate. Telephonic surveys and mailed surveys yield lower response rates compared to the face-to-face survey. Web surveys generally have a high response rate as it has the potential to reach many people with much less expense.*

**Easy**

152. Differentiate between the participant and nonparticipant observation methods.

*Participant observation is field research in which the researcher is an active member of the group or setting being observed. Nonparticipant observation is field research in which the researcher merely observes a group or setting.*

**Moderate**

153. What is intensive interviewing? What are its major advantages and disadvantages?

*Intensive interviewing is a type of research design where the researcher does not necessarily observe a group of people in their natural setting but rather sits down with them individually and interviews them at great length, often for one or two hours or even longer. The researcher typically records the interview and later transcribes it for analysis. The advantage of this type of interviewing is that it provides much information about the subjects being interviewed. The disadvantage is that the results of such interviewing cannot necessarily be generalized beyond the subjects.*

**Moderate**

154. What are experimental groups and control groups in experimental research?

*A typical experiment consists of an experimental group and a control group, with subjects randomly assigned to either group. The experimental group is the group that experiences the experimental condition. The control group is the group that does not experience the experimental condition.*

**Easy**

155. What is secondary data analysis? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

*Secondary data analysis occurs when sociologists do not gather their own data but instead analyze existing data that someone else has gathered. The advantage of using existing data is*

*that it has already been gathered, so the researcher does not have to spend the time and money to gather the data. The disadvantages of using existing data are that the data set that is being analyzed may not contain data on all the variables in which a sociologist may be interested, or it may contain data on variables that are not measured in ways the sociologist might prefer.*

**Moderate**

156. What steps should be taken in order to ensure that sociological research findings are indeed used to address the real sociological issues in our society?

*Although sociological research findings may be relevant for many social issues, this certainly does not guarantee that these findings will actually be marshaled to address these issues. For this to happen, elected officials and other policymakers must be open to the implications of research findings, and an informed public must make its desire for addressing these issues known.*

**Moderate**

### **Fill in the Blanks**

157. Americans have freedom, but the freedom to think and act is constrained at least to some degree by society's standards and expectations and by the many aspects of our social \_\_\_\_.

**backgrounds; Easy**

158. \_\_\_\_ is the scientific study of social behavior and social institutions.

**Sociology; Easy**

159. A \_\_\_\_ is a group of people who live within a defined territory and who share a culture.

**society; Easy**

160. A person's \_\_\_\_ influences but does not totally determine his or her attitudes and behavior.

**social background; Easy**

161. \_\_\_\_ is the degree to which people succeed in life in such areas as education, income, and health.

**Life chance; Easy**

162. Our \_\_\_\_ is a general term for social backgrounds and other aspects of society.

**social environment; Easy**

163. The concept that our social backgrounds influence a person's attitudes, behaviors, and life chances is \_\_\_\_.

**sociological perspective; Easy**

164. The \_\_\_\_ from Peter L. Berger, refers to a theme of sociology in which the aim is to go beyond superficial understandings of social reality.

**debunking motif; Moderate**

165. The social and physical characteristics of the communities to which we belong are the \_\_\_\_ social structure.

**horizontal; Moderate**

166. Vertical social structure is more commonly called \_\_\_\_.

**social inequality; Moderate**

167. \_\_\_\_\_ refer to problems affecting individuals that the individuals affected, as well as other members of society, typically blame on the individual's own failings.  
**Personal troubles; Easy**
168. The cultural attitude toward women and weight and the subsequent issues with eating disorders can be understood by \_\_\_\_\_.  
**sociological imagination; Moderate**
169. \_\_\_\_\_ refer to social problems affecting many individuals whose source lies in the social structure and culture of a society.  
**Public issues; Easy**
170. \_\_\_\_\_ is the belief that personal difficulties stem from problems in society.  
**Blaming the system; Easy**
171. \_\_\_\_\_ is the belief that people experiencing difficulties are to blame for their own personal troubles.  
**Blaming the victim; Easy**
172. The use of sociological insights and findings to achieve social change and address issues was promoted by \_\_\_\_\_ as public sociology.  
**Michael Burawoy; Moderate**
173. The term coined by C. Wright Mills to refer to the ability to appreciate the structural basis for individual problems is \_\_\_\_\_.  
**sociological imagination; Moderate**
174. \_\_\_\_\_ sociologists focus on the "large picture," which usually means things like social structure, social institutions, and social, political, and economic change.  
**Macro; Easy**
175. Rational-choice theory is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ theory.  
**exchange; Easy**
176. According to Durkheim, in general, society comprises many types of \_\_\_\_\_, or forces external to the individual, that affect and thus constrain individual attitudes and behavior.  
**social facts; Easy**
177. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the combined norms of society.  
**Collective conscience; Easy**
178. Anomie or \_\_\_\_\_, results from situations, such as periods of rapid social change, when social norms are weak and unclear or social ties themselves are weak.  
**normlessness; Easy**
179. By taking a skeptical approach to social change, \_\_\_\_\_ supports the status quo and is thus often regarded as a conservative perspective.  
**functionalism; Moderate**

180. \_\_\_\_\_ helps us learn society's rules and the need to cooperate, as people end up generally agreeing on important norms and values.  
**Socialization; Easy**
181. \_\_\_\_\_ helps socialize us and integrate us into society and reinforce our respect for its rules.  
**Social integration; Easy**
182. \_\_\_\_\_ theory refers to the view that society is composed of groups with different interests arising from their placement in the social structure.  
**Conflict; Moderate**
183. Acting to minimize disadvantages and maximize advantages is the \_\_\_\_\_ theory.  
**utilitarianism; Easy**
184. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to tools, factories, and other objects and processes by which a society carries out its economy.  
**Means of production; Easy**
185. In a capitalist society, the \_\_\_\_\_ or ruling class owns the means of production.  
**bourgeoisie; Easy**
186. In a capitalist society, the \_\_\_\_\_ or working class does not own the means of production and instead is oppressed and exploited by the bourgeoisie.  
**proletariat; Easy**
187. \_\_\_\_\_ are inherent problems in capitalism that lead to the development of class consciousness and eventually to revolution.  
**Structural contradictions; Moderate**
188. \_\_\_\_\_ is the awareness of one's placement in the social structure and the interests arising from this placement.  
**Class consciousness; Moderate**
189. The \_\_\_\_\_ theory is the view that society is filled with gender inequality characterized by women being the subordinate sex in the social, political, and economic dimensions of society.  
**feminist; Moderate**
190. \_\_\_\_\_ is a micro approach that focuses on the interaction of individuals and on how they interpret their interaction.  
**Symbolic interactionism; Moderate**
191. The fact that social order is possible because people realize it will be in their best interests to cooperate and to make compromises when necessary is one of the major assumptions of the \_\_\_\_\_ theory.  
**utilitarianism; Moderate**
192. The \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the classic steps by which scientific research is conducted, including the formulation of a hypothesis and the gathering and analysis of data.  
**scientific method; Easy**

193. The basic steps in the scientific method include formulating a hypothesis, measuring and gathering data to test the hypothesis, analyzing these data, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**drawing appropriate conclusions; Easy**
194. \_\_\_\_\_ is a statement of the nature of the relationship between an independent variable and a dependent variable.  
**Hypothesis; Easy**
195. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the focus of sociological research, usually a person, organization, or geographical region.  
**unit of analysis; Easy**
196. A \_\_\_\_\_ is any feature or factor that may differ among the units of analysis that a researcher is studying.  
**variable; Easy**
197. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ variable is a variable that can affect another variable.  
**independent; Easy**
198. Cities and states are an example of \_\_\_\_\_, the third unit of analysis in sociology.  
**geographical location; Easy**
199. With any type of survey question, it is important that it be \_\_\_\_\_ so that the response will be unambiguous.  
**clearly worded; Easy**
200. The common units of analysis in sociology are person, organization, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**geographical location; Easy**
201. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a subset drawn from the larger population in which every unit in the population has the same chance of being included in the subset.  
**random sample; Easy**
202. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the percentage of a sample that agrees to be included in a study, usually a survey.  
**response rate; Easy**
203. The major types of sociological research include surveys, \_\_\_\_\_, observational studies, and the use of existing data.  
**experiments; Easy**
204. If random assignment is used, \_\_\_\_\_ can provide fairly convincing data on cause and effect.  
**experiments; Moderate**
205. Typical experiments consist of an experimental group and a \_\_\_\_\_ group.  
**control; Easy**
206. The technique of field research in which the researcher is an active member of the group or setting being observed is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
**participant observation; Easy**

207. In an experiment, the group that does not experience the experimental condition is known as the \_\_\_\_\_.  
**control group; Easy**
208. In an experiment, the group that experiences the experimental condition is called the \_\_\_\_\_.  
**experimental group; Easy**
209. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to field research in which the researcher merely observes a group or setting.  
**Nonparticipant observation; Easy**
210. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the analysis of data from existing records.  
**Secondary data analysis; Easy**
211. According to the text, two of the most important ethical guidelines in sociological and other human subject research are privacy and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**confidentiality; Easy**