

Sociology's Foundational Concepts

Sociology · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. Which sociological paradigm emphasizes the role of social inequality and power struggles in shaping society, often focusing on the exploitation of subordinate groups by dominant ones?

- A) Structural Functionalism
- B) Symbolic Interactionism
- C) Conflict Theory
- D) Rational Choice Theory

2. Max Weber's concept of 'verstehen' is most closely associated with which methodological approach in sociology?

- A) Quantitative statistical analysis
- B) Objective measurement of social facts
- C) Interpretive understanding of social action
- D) Large-scale surveys and data collection

3. The 'looking-glass self' theory, proposing that our self-concept develops through how we perceive others perceive us, was developed by which early American sociologist?

- A) George Herbert Mead
- B) Charles Horton Cooley
- C) W.E.B. Du Bois
- D) Robert E. Park

4. Emile Durkheim, in his study of 'Suicide,' identified distinct types of suicide based on the degree of social integration and regulation. Which type is characterized by a lack of social integration, leading individuals to feel detached and without purpose?

- A) Egoistic suicide
- B) Altruistic suicide
- C) Anomic suicide
- D) Fatalistic suicide

5. The concept of the 'iron cage' of rationality, where bureaucratic structures and rationalization can trap individuals in a system of impersonal rules and procedures, is a key contribution of which sociologist?

- A) Karl Marx
- B) Max Weber
- C) Georg Simmel
- D) Ferdinand Tönnies

6. According to Karl Marx, the primary driver of historical change is the conflict between which two social classes?

- A) The aristocracy and the clergy
- B) The bourgeoisie and the proletariat
- C) The landowners and the peasants
- D) The managers and the workers

7. Which of the following is NOT considered one of the four main social institutions identified by many sociologists?

- A) Family
- B) Religion
- C) The Economy
- D) Personal Hobbies

8. The idea that society is a system whose parts work together to maintain stability and solidarity is the central tenet of which sociological paradigm?

- A) Social Exchange Theory
- B) Feminist Theory
- C) Structural Functionalism
- D) Postmodernism

9. W.E.B. Du Bois' concept of 'double consciousness' refers to the experience of African Americans in the United States having to see themselves through the eyes of a white society while also seeing themselves as individuals. This concept is central to his analysis of:

- A) Class conflict
- B) Racial inequality and identity
- C) Urbanization and social disorganization
- D) The role of religion in society

10. The process by which individuals learn the values, beliefs, and norms of their society is known as:

- A) Social stratification
- B) Social mobility
- C) Socialization
- D) Social control

11. According to symbolic interactionism, social reality is created and maintained through:

- A) Large-scale economic forces
- B) The exercise of political power
- C) The interpretation and negotiation of shared symbols
- D) Biological and genetic predispositions

12. What is the sociological term for a hierarchical arrangement of social classes in a society?

- A) Social cohesion
- B) Social capital
- C) Social stratification
- D) Social network

13. The study of the relationship between social structures and individual behavior is a core concern of:

- A) Psychology
- B) Anthropology
- C) Sociology
- D) Economics

14. Ferdinand Tönnies distinguished between two fundamental types of social ties. 'Gemeinschaft' (community) is characterized by:

- A) Impersonal, contractual relationships based on self-interest
- B) Close-knit relationships based on kinship, friendship, and shared values
- C) Bureaucratic structures and formal organizations
- D) Anonymous interactions in urban settings

15. Which sociological concept refers to the shared beliefs, values, and norms that bind members of a society together?

- A) Social dilemma
- B) Social solidarity
- C) Social inequality
- D) Social stigma

16. The development of complex societies with a high degree of division of labor and interdependence is known as:

- A) Social assimilation
- B) Social differentiation
- C) Social conformity
- D) Social deviance

17. The feminist perspective in sociology primarily critiques:

- A) The role of religion in maintaining social order
- B) The ways in which gender inequality is embedded in social structures and institutions
- C) The impact of economic globalization on local cultures
- D) The limitations of traditional family structures

18. According to sociological theory, a 'social norm' is best defined as:

- A) A genetically inherited behavior pattern
- B) A formal legal statute
- C) An expectation of how people should behave in specific situations
- D) A spontaneous, unplanned action