

Advanced Sociology Core Concepts

Sociology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. According to Pierre Bourdieu's theory of practice, which form of capital is most closely associated with knowledge, skills, education, and intellectual pursuits?

- A) Economic capital
- B) Social capital
- C) Cultural capital**
- D) Symbolic capital

2. The concept of the 'sociological imagination,' as defined by C. Wright Mills, emphasizes the ability to connect:

- A) Individual experiences to personal biographies.
- B) Micro-level interactions to macro-level social structures.
- C) Personal troubles to public issues.**
- D) Historical events to economic trends.

3. Which of the following best describes the 'iron cage' of rationality, as theorized by Max Weber?

- A) The increasing bureaucratization of society leads to individuals becoming trapped in systems of efficiency and control.**
- B) The development of advanced technologies limits individual freedoms.
- C) The rise of capitalism creates a perpetual cycle of consumerism.
- D) Social movements inevitably become co-opted by existing power structures.

4. In symbolic interactionism, the concept of 'the generalized other' refers to:

- A) The set of attitudes, expectations, and viewpoints of society that a person internalizes.**
- B) The specific individuals with whom a person interacts regularly.
- C) The dominant cultural norms and values of a particular group.
- D) The unconscious biases that influence individual perceptions.

5. What is the primary methodological distinction between quantitative and qualitative research in sociology?

- A) Quantitative research focuses on numerical data and statistical analysis, while qualitative research focuses on in-depth understanding of experiences and meanings.**
- B) Quantitative research relies on interviews, while qualitative research uses surveys.
- C) Qualitative research aims for generalizability, while quantitative research seeks rich descriptions.
- D) Quantitative research is subjective, while qualitative research is objective.

6. The concept of 'intersectionality,' introduced by Kimberlé Crenshaw, highlights how different social categories, such as race, class, and gender, can:

- A) Operate independently of each other in shaping social experiences.
- B) Mutually reinforce and create unique systems of oppression and privilege.**
- C) Become less relevant as societies become more egalitarian.
- D) Only affect individuals in specific geographic regions.

7. According to Karl Marx's conflict theory, the primary driver of social change is:

- A) The gradual evolution of social institutions and norms.
- B) The competition for scarce resources between different social classes.**
- C) The development of new technologies and innovations.
- D) The spread of rationalization and bureaucracy.

8. What is the sociological term for a society characterized by widespread use of technology, large-scale organizations, and a focus on efficiency and productivity?

- A) Post-industrial society**
- B) Agrarian society
- C) Hunter-gatherer society
- D) Feudal society

9. Emile Durkheim's concept of 'anomie' refers to a state of:

- A) Intense social cohesion and solidarity.
- B) A lack of clear social norms and a breakdown of social regulation.**
- C) Complete individual autonomy and freedom from social constraints.
- D) Harmonious consensus among all members of society.

10. In the study of social stratification, the concept of 'social mobility' refers to:

- A) The movement of individuals or groups between different social classes or statuses.**
- B) The fixed and unchangeable nature of social hierarchies.
- C) The process by which social inequalities are maintained over generations.
- D) The degree of social isolation experienced by individuals.

11. What is the sociological definition of a 'social institution'?

- A) A set of interconnected roles, norms, and values that organize social behavior around a fundamental social need.**
- B) A formal organization with a hierarchical structure.
- C) A charismatic leader who inspires social change.
- D) A temporary gathering of people with shared interests.

12. The 'looking-glass self,' as proposed by Charles Horton Cooley, suggests that an individual's self-concept is developed through:

A) Introspection and self-reflection.

B) The perceptions and judgments of others.

C) Direct observation of biological predispositions.

D) The influence of mass media and popular culture.

13. Which theoretical perspective in sociology views society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability?

A) Conflict theory

B) Symbolic interactionism

C) Structural functionalism

D) Feminist theory

14. The concept of 'social capital,' as popularized by Robert Putnam, refers to:

A) Accumulated wealth and financial assets.

B) The networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.

C) The knowledge and skills acquired through formal education.

D) The degree of social prestige associated with an individual.

15. According to rational choice theory in sociology, individuals are motivated by:

A) Irrational impulses and emotional drives.

B) Altruism and the desire to serve others.

C) The pursuit of their own self-interest and the maximization of benefits.

D) Conformity to social norms and expectations.

16. Which of the following is a key characteristic of a bureaucracy, as described by Max Weber?

A) Informal communication channels

B) Emphasis on personal relationships

C) Hierarchical structure and division of labor

D) Flexible and adaptable rules

17. The term 'deviance' in sociology refers to:

A) Behavior that is always harmful to society.

B) Behavior that violates significant social norms.

C) Behavior that is statistically uncommon.

D) Behavior that is explicitly forbidden by law.

18. What is the sociological concept of 'secularization'?

A) The process by which religious institutions gain more power.

B) The decline in the influence of religion in public life and individual thought.

C) The fusion of religious and political authority.

D) The creation of new religious movements.