

# Advanced Sociology Core Concepts

Sociology · Practice Test · 18 Questions

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**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.