Test Bank for Understanding Social Problems CDN 5th Holmes

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Name:_____ Class:_____ Date:_____

CHAPTER 1 - Thinking about Social Problems

1. According to the textbook, which element of a social problem refers to the real existence of a social condition?
   a. the objective element
   b. the subjective element
   c. the symbolic element
   d. the human element

ANSWER: a

2. Some theorists believe that drug abuse is a social problem only if it is perceived by society to diminish the quality of human life. What is the focus of this perspective?
   a. the human element
   b. the objective element
   c. the subjective element
   d. the variability element

ANSWER: c

3. What is a social problem?
   a. a social condition that interferes with the functioning of society
   b. a social condition that results in conflict among segments of society
   c. a social condition that a segment of society views as harmful to society
   d. a social condition that requires immediate government intervention

ANSWER: c

4. A small group of individuals believe that cigarette smoking should be banned from public places. What would they be engaging in?
   a. conflict-based activities
   b. morally based activities
   c. norm-setting
   d. claims-making activities

ANSWER: d

5. Which theoretical approach argues that solutions to social problems involve strengthening the norms against it?
   a. structural functionalism
   b. symbolic interactionism
   c. social disorganization
   d. conflict

ANSWER: c

6. Which of the following is an ascribed status?
   a. race
   b. university graduate
   c. parent
   d. hockey coach

ANSWER: a

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7. Clients, customers, employers and their employees, are examples of which types of groups?
   a. primary groups
   b. secondary groups
   c. manifest groups
   d. latent groups

ANSWER: b

8. Which of the following is defined as two or more people who have a common identity, interact, and form a social relationship?
   a. institution
   b. role set
   c. social group
   d. tertiary encounter

ANSWER: c

9. Which of the following is an achieved status?
   a. senior citizen
   b. French Canadian
   c. woman
   d. university professor

ANSWER: d

10. Which of the following describes a master status?
   a. one that is highly valued by society
   b. one that a person is born into
   c. one that is difficult to achieve
   d. one that is significant in a person's social identity

ANSWER: d

11. A role is a set of rights, obligations, and expectations. What is a role associated with?
   a. a norm
   b. an identity
   c. a status
   d. a master status

ANSWER: c

12. Which type of group is characterized by impersonal and formal interaction?
   a. primary groups
   b. secondary groups
   c. tertiary groups
   d. social groups

ANSWER: b

13. Your classmates may be best described as being which of the following?

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a. a master status
b. a primary group
c. a secondary group
d. a role set

ANSWER: c

14. Which of the following is a characteristic of a master status?
a. It involves several roles.
b. It is typically not selected by the individual himself or herself.
c. It stays fixed throughout our lifetime.
d. It is only part of a structure of some societies.

ANSWER: b

15. Which of the following is an element of social structure?
a. roles
b. subcultures
c. crime
d. beliefs

ANSWER: d

16. Which of the following would be a good example of an institution?
a. a group of friends
b. corporations
c. globalization
d. the Catholic church

ANSWER: d

17. What do we call norms that are formalized and backed by political authority?
a. roles
b. folkways
c. statuses
d. laws

ANSWER: d

18. What are folkways, laws, and mores three types of?
a. sanctions
b. norms
c. values
d. master statuses

ANSWER: b

19. Which of the following are associated with sanctions?
a. norms
b. roles

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c. statuses
d. beliefs

ANSWER: a

20. What would incest be a violation of?
a. folkways
b. informal norms
c. mores
d. institutionalized values

ANSWER: c

21. What are all norms associated with?
a. laws
b. sanctions
c. policing
d. informal justice

ANSWER: b

22. Who developed the term "sociological imagination"?
a. Karl Marx
b. Talcott Parsons
c. Robert Merton
d. C. Wright Mills

ANSWER: d

23. A person is fined for failure to dispose of trash properly. What type of sanction is this an example of?
a. positive formal sanction
b. positive informal sanction
c. negative formal sanction
d. negative informal sanction

ANSWER: c

24. What are language and gestures both examples of?
a. mores
b. folkways
c. symbols
d. roles

ANSWER: c

25. What does the "sociological imagination" refer to?
a. the ability to see the connections between our personal lives and the social world we live in
b. the ability to envision a world without social problems
c. the ability to see the positive aspects of social problems
d. the ability to understand social problems by putting ourselves in the shoes of those who are suffering because

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of social problems

ANSWER: a

26. What are a police badge and the peace sign examples of?
    a. mores
    b. folkways
    c. symbols
    d. ascribed statuses

ANSWER: c

27. A person receives a citizen's award for organizing a neighbourhood recycling program. What is this an example of?
    a. positive formal sanction
    b. positive informal sanction
    c. negative formal sanction
    d. negative informal sanction

ANSWER: a

28. Which perspective argues that a society needs to have cohesion in its different parts?
    a. symbolic interactionism
    b. conflict theory
    c. feminist theory
    d. structural-functionalism

ANSWER: d

29. Which type of function of religion might meeting a potential spouse be?
    a. a manifest function
    b. a latent function
    c. a regressive function
    d. a societal function

ANSWER: b

30. What aspect of the family is spousal abuse an excellent example of?
    a. a functional aspect
    b. a conflict aspect
    c. a dysfunctional aspect
    d. a moral aspect

ANSWER: c

31. Which perspective sees society as a system of interconnected parts that work together in harmony to maintain a state of balance and social equilibrium for the whole?
    a. conflict
    b. structural-functionalist
    c. symbolic interactionist
    d. constructionist

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ANSWER: b

32. Which of the following is characteristic of manifest functions?
    a. neither functional nor dysfunctional
    b. unintended and often hidden
    c. both functional and dysfunctional
    d. intended and commonly recognized

ANSWER: d

33. Which of the following is characteristic of latent functions?
    a. neither functional nor dysfunctional
    b. unintended and often hidden
    c. both functional and dysfunctional
    d. intended and commonly recognized

ANSWER: b

34. Which of the following is a latent function of the educational institution?
    a. to transmit knowledge to youth
    b. to transmit skills to youth
    c. to offer a place for young adults to meet
    d. to impart knowledge necessary to secure a job

ANSWER: c

35. Who was the sociologist responsible for developing the concepts of manifest and latent functions?
    a. Ralf Dahrendorf
    b. Robert Merton
    c. Charles Horton Cooley
    d. Erving Goffman

ANSWER: b

36. Which viewpoint sees social problems as resulting from the breakdown of inadequacies in the family and in religious, economic, educational, and political institutions?
    a. the symbolic interactionist perspective
    b. the social pathology model
    c. the Marxist conflict perspective
    d. the non-Marxist conflict perspective

ANSWER: b

37. Which of the following is a key element of conflict theory?
    a. justice
    b. power
    c. economic determinism
    d. retribution

ANSWER: b

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38. When is a society in a state of "anomie"?
    a. when norms are weak or in conflict with each other
    b. when the major social institutions reinforce the same cultural values
    c. when there are more secondary groups than primary groups
    d. when individuals experience more negative than positive sanctions

ANSWER: a

39. According to the social disorganization view of social problems, where does one of the solutions to social problems lie?
    a. slowing the pace of social change
    b. reducing social inequality
    c. reducing government interface into our lives
    d. increasing educational opportunities

ANSWER: a

40. Building faulty cars that result in injury and death to drivers would be a good example of which of the following?
    a. social disorganization
    b. corporate violence
    c. corporate apathy
    d. social pathology

ANSWER: b

41. Which cause of social conflict do Marxist conflict theories focus on?
    a. weak social norms
    b. economic inequalities
    c. social disorganization
    d. class inequality

ANSWER: d

42. The poorest countries of the world tend to be the most religious. How did Marx characterize religion?
    a. He said it was essential.
    b. He said it was symbolic.
    c. He said it was controlled by the rich and powerful.
    d. He said it was the opiate of the masses.

ANSWER: d

43. According to Marxist conflict theory, which of the following refers to actual harm and/or risk of harm inflicted on consumers, workers, and the general public as a result of decisions by business executives or managers?
    a. anomie
    b. corporate violence
    c. social pathology
    d. hegemony

ANSWER: b

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44. What aspect of people's lives does alienation refer to?
    a. powerlessness and meaninglessness
    b. communication and technology
    c. innovation and advancement
    d. work and education

ANSWER: a

45. Solutions to social problems include increasing the understanding that conflicting groups have of each other's views, resolving differences through negotiation or mediation, or agreeing to disagree. Which view of social problems does the preceding sentence describe?
    a. social pathology
    b. social disorganization
    c. Marxist conflict
    d. non-Marxist conflict

ANSWER: d

46. Doing an analysis of words used in a conversation between two people would be of particular interest to which of the following theories?
    a. looking-glass self
    b. symbolic interactionist
    c. structural functionalist
    d. feminist

ANSWER: b

47. Which of the following might one use in rehearsing for a job interview?
    a. symbols
    b. the looking-glass self
    c. labelling theory
    d. postmodern perspectives

ANSWER: b

48. Which theoretical perspective reflects micro-sociology?
    a. symbolic interactionism
    b. structural-functionalism
    c. Marxist conflict
    d. non-Marxist conflict

ANSWER: a

49. Which theorist developed the concept of "mobilization for action" as a step in addressing social problems?
    a. Cooley
    b. Parsons
    c. Mead
    d. Blumer

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ANSWER: d

50. What do feminist theories seek to understand?
    a. how women's causes are being advanced
    b. how gender is related to social inequalities
    c. how women have challenged the status quo
    d. how women are represented in the political domain

ANSWER: b

51. According to Lyotard, what are "metanarratives"?
    a. grand theories
    b. discourse analysis
    c. logic debates
    d. cyclical theories

ANSWER: a

52. What does queer theory often focus on?
    a. feminist theories
    b. the gay rights movement
    c. the politics of HIV/AIDS
    d. issues surrounding those who do not perform gender in traditional ways

ANSWER: d

53. Which of the following is a good example of the type of social problem that a feminist would be likely to study?
    a. immigration
    b. the economy
    c. workplace harassment
    d. unruly crowd behaviour

ANSWER: c

54. Which of the following statements is central to feminist theory?
    a. Labelling something as a social problem makes it so.
    b. Resolving social problems sometimes involves changing meanings.
    c. The experiences of women's lives are missing in traditional sociology.
    d. It is important to observe how our identity is shaped by social interaction.

ANSWER: c

55. Quantitative research relies heavily on the use of which of the following?
    a. statistics
    b. participant observation
    c. experiments
    d. the analysis of previous research

ANSWER: a

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56. Which theorist is most often identified with queer theory?
    a. Mead
    b. Martineau
    c. Devor
    d. Durkheim

ANSWER: c

57. Which variables do researchers manipulate to explain change in the subject matter that they are most interested in?
    a. dependent variables
    b. intervening variables
    c. spurious variables
    d. independent variables

ANSWER: d

58. What is a hypothesis?
    a. a statement of fact
    b. a conclusion based on research
    c. a subjective opinion
    d. a prediction or educated guess

ANSWER: d

59. Which term refers to a measurable event, characteristic, or property that differs or is subject to change?
    a. hypothesis
    b. strategy
    c. variable
    d. sample

ANSWER: c

60. A researcher wants to explain the relationship between age and crime. What kind of variable is crime?
    a. an independent variable
    b. a dependent variable
    c. a primary variable
    d. a secondary variable

ANSWER: b

61. Sociologists usually start their research using an absolute definition of a social problem.
    a. True
    b. False

ANSWER: False

62. High unemployment rates would be an excellent example of an objective social condition.
    a. True
    b. False

ANSWER: True

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63. In order for a condition to be regarded as social problem a significant number of people would have to regard it as such.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

64. Sociology is incapable of providing a framework with which to study social problems.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

65. A latent function of education would be that it provides a free baby-sitting service to parents.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

66. A latent function is a consequence that is intended and commonly recognized.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

67. Symbolic interactionist theory is concerned with the interconnected parts of society that work together to provide balance and harmony.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

68. The social pathology approach assumes that social problems are derived from some sort of "sickness" in society.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

69. Queer theory has strong ties to feminist work, but also corrects the pervasive assumption that heterosexuality is both natural and ahistorical.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

70. Non-Marxist conflict theory argues that conflicts in society stem from class inequalities and capitalism.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

71. Structural functionalism is considered to be a macro-level theory.

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a. True
b. False
ANSWER: True

72. Labelling theory believes that "labels" can help to further behaviour associated with the label itself.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: True

73. Feminists generally believe that the stories of women's lives are generally missing from traditional sociology.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: True

74. Queer theory generally ignores the concept of "gender" because they believe that it is far too simplistic in nature.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: False

75. The names Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, and Robert Merton are generally associated with symbolic interactionist theory.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: False

76. Conflict theory is primarily derived from the work of Karl Marx.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: True

77. One of the strengths of sociological research is that it is subjected to critical assessment by other researchers.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: True

78. Participant observation would fall under the domain of qualitative research.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: True

79. Qualitative research relies heavily on the use of statistics.
a. True
b. False
ANSWER: False

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CHAPTER 1 - Thinking about Social Problems

80. An operational definition specifies how a variable is to be measured.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

81. A good working hypothesis should not make predictions until the research has been completed.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

82. Researchers always use just one independent variable and several dependent variables.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

83. Deciding which method to use is always the start of the research process.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

84. One of the major criticisms of experiments is that their sample size is often too small to generalize to larger groups of people.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: True

85. A major strength of participant observation is that its findings are always highly generalizable.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

86. The dependent variable is the variable that is expected to explain change in the independent variable.
    a. True
    b. False
ANSWER: False

87. How does the textbook define a social problem? What are the component parts of a social problem?
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

88. What is the difference between an ascribed and an achieved status? Provide two examples from your life to illustrate each of these.
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

89. What is a sanction? What do sanctions tell us about the violation of rules of behaviours such as norms, mores and folkways?

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CHAPTER 1 - Thinking about Social Problems

ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

90. What is the sociological imagination? How do sociologists use it to study society?
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

91. According to Marx, how does alienation evolve?
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

92. Differentiate between the objective and subjective elements of a social problem? Provide an example of each to demonstrate your understanding of these two elements.
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

93. Distinguish between a primary and secondary group. Please provide two examples of these groups as they relate to your life.
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

94. Compare and contrast structural functionalism and conflict theory. How might they each approach a social problem like poverty?
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

95. What is the "social disorganization approach"? How might this approach explain a social problem like alcoholism and drug abuse?
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

96. Differentiate between an independent, a dependent variable? Develop a simple hypothesis and state which variable is which in your hypothesis.
ANSWER: Student responses will vary.

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