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Chapter 2: A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Later Years

Multiple Choice

1. Which of these theorists was an "extreme" social Darwinist who argued people evolve given their success in a "survival of the fittest" social reality?
a. William Graham Sumner
b. Lester F. Ward
c. Thorstein Veblen
d. Joseph Schumpeter
Ans: A
Answer Location: William Graham Sumner (1840–1910)
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Which of these theorists cautiously embraced social Darwinism by arguing society evolves or becomes more complex by shedding moral poverty?
a. William Graham Sumner
b. Lester F. Ward
c. Thorstein Veblen
d. Joseph Schumpeter
Ans: B
Answer Location: Lester F. Ward (1841–1913)
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Which of these theorists argued society continues to devolve and become increasingly unproductive as more and more people waste their time and money in the pursuit of leisure?
a. William Graham Sumner
b. Lester F. Ward
c. Thorstein Veblen
d. Joseph Schumpeter
Ans: C
Answer Location: Lester F. Ward (1841–1913)
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Which of these theorists argued capitalist society can only progress or evolve by destroying outdated elements?
a. William Graham Sumner
b. Lester F. Ward

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c. Thorstein Veblen
d. Joseph Schumpeter
Ans: D
Answer Location: Joseph Schumpeter (1883–1950)
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. More so than other members of the Chicago School, _____ believed that sociology should emphasize research on data collected from a variety of sources.
a. W. I. Thomas
b. Robert Park
c. Charles Horton Cooley
d. George Herbert Mead
Ans: A
Answer Location: W. I. Thomas (1863–1947)
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. More so than other members of the Chicago School, _____ emphasized race relations in his research conducted via personal observations.
a. W. I. Thomas
b. Robert Park
c. Charles Horton Cooley
d. George Herbert Mead
Ans: B
Answer Location: Robert Park (1864–1944)
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. More so than other members of the Chicago School, _____ was the most adamant that consciousness cannot be separated from the social context.
a. W. I. Thomas
b. Robert Park
c. Charles Horton Cooley
d. George Herbert Mead
Ans: C
Answer Location: Charles Horton Cooley (1864–1929)
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. More so than other members of the Chicago School, _____ incorporated psychological behaviorism that challenged classic European sociological theories.
a. W. I. Thomas
b. Robert Park
c. Charles Horton Cooley
d. George Herbert Mead
Ans: D
Answer Location: George Herbert Mead (1863–1931)

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Difficulty Level: Easy

9. W. E. B. DuBois' concept of _____ metaphorically captures the ways race serves as a symbolic boundary between Whites and Blacks that is both seen by others, and seen through the wearer.
a. the veil
b. double-consciousness
c. primary group
d. looking glass self
Ans: A
Answer Location: The Du Bois-Atlanta School
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. W. E. B. DuBois' concept of _____ captures how African Americans develop a dual sense of self in seeing themselves through both White eyes, and their own Black eyes.
a. the veil
b. double-consciousness
c. primary group
d. looking glass self
Ans: B
Answer Location: The Du Bois-Atlanta School
Difficulty Level: Easy

11. Which of the following WAS NOT a hallmark of early feminist theory?
a. Emphasis on women's lives and experiences
b. Promotion of gender equality
c. Embracement of women's perspectives
d. Social Darwinism that explains gender differences biologically
Ans: D
Answer Location: Women in Early American Sociology
Difficulty Level: Medium

12. In developing their critical theory, the founding scholars of *The Institute of Social Research* or "The Frankfurt School" _____.
a. rejected the ideas of Max Weber because they conflicted with Marxism
b. critiqued the economic effects on culture
c. rejected the psychological ideas of Sigmund Freud because they conflicted sociology
d. theorized without conducting empirical research
Ans: B
Answer Location: Developments in Marxian Theory
Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Which Jewish scholar founded *The Institute of Social Research* in Frankfurt, Germany right before the rise of Hitler and the Nazi regime?

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a. Georg Lukács
b. Felix J. Weil
c. Max Horkheimer
d. Karl Mannheim
Ans: B
Answer Location: Developments in Marxian Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Which Jewish scholar moved the *Institute of Social Research* in Frankfurt from Germany to the United States after the rise of Hitler and the Nazi regime?
a. Georg Lukács
b. Felix J. Weil
c. Max Horkheimer
d. Karl Mannheim
Ans: C
Answer Location: Developments in Marxian Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Who founded a theoretical tradition known as *The Sociology of Knowledge*?
a. Georg Lukács
b. Felix J. Weil
c. Max Horkheimer
d. Karl Mannheim
Ans: D
Answer Location: Karl Mannheim and the Sociology of Knowledge
Difficulty Level: Medium

16. While structural functionalists always had critics, when did it become apparent that the dominance of this theory was in jeopardy?
a. 1940s
b. 1950s
c. 1960s
d. 1970s
Ans: C
Answer Location: Structural Functionalism: Peak and Decline
Difficulty Level: Easy

17. George Homans, founder of *exchange theory*, was interested in _____.
a. large scale social structures
b. cost-benefit behaviorism
c. consciousness
d. social institutions
Ans: B
Answer Location: The Birth of Exchange Theory

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Difficulty Level: Easy

18. According to Erving Goffman, where do we put on acts for others?
a. Front region
b. Back region
c. Lifeworld
d. Stage
Ans: A
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Analysis: The Work of Erving Goffman
Difficulty Level: Easy

19. According to Alfred Shutz, where do we spend everyday life?
a. Front region
b. Back region
c. Life-world
d. Stage
Ans: C
Answer Location: Phenomenological Sociology and the Work of Alfred Schutz (1899–1959)
Difficulty Level: Easy

20. Which of the following is the primary focus of queer theory?
a. Large-scale social structures
b. Individual's consciousness
c. Identity
d. Behaviorism
Ans: C
Answer Location: The Challenge of Feminist Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

21. Contemporary theorists claim race _____.
a. is a biological category
b. is a social construction
c. is less important in society now that the era of colonialism is coming to an end
d. has not changed much since the time of colonialism
Ans: B
Answer Location: Theories of Race and Colonialism
Difficulty Level: Easy

22. What does the *micro-macro integration* movement in sociological theory hope to link together?
a. Individual people with large-scale social phenomena
b. Small groups and organizations with large-scale social phenomena
c. Fragmented sociological theories
d. Poststructuralism and postmodernism

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Ans: A
Answer Location: Micro-Macro Integration
Difficulty Level: Medium

23. What does the *agency-structure integration* movement in sociological theory hope to link together?
a. Individual people with large-scale social phenomena
b. Small groups and organizations with large-scale social phenomena
c. Fragmented sociological theories
d. Poststructuralism and postmodernism
Ans: B
Answer Location: Agency-Structure Integration
Difficulty Level: Medium

24. What does the *theoretical syntheses* movement in sociological theory hope to link together?
a. Individual people with large-scale social phenomena
b. Small groups and organizations with large-scale social phenomena
c. Fragmented sociological theories
d. Poststructuralism and postmodernism
Ans: C
Answer Location: Theoretical Syntheses
Difficulty Level: Medium

25. Which theoretical area focuses on the recent and widespread changes that transformed almost everything about the modern world throughout the last half century?
a. Theories of Consumption
b. Theories of Globalization
c. Theories of Science, Technology, and Society
d. Postmodern Social Theory
Ans: D
Answer Location: Theories of Science, Technology, and Society
Difficulty Level: Medium

26. Which theoretical area tries to overcome sociology's historical emphasis on production by focusing on the use of goods and services?
a. Theories of Consumption
b. Theories of Globalization
c. Theories of Science, Technology, and Society
d. Postmodern Social Theory
Ans: A
Answer Location: Theories of Consumption
Difficulty Level: Medium

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27. Which theoretical area focuses on the economic, political, and cultural transformation happening across and between different societies?
a. Theories of Consumption
b. Theories of Globalization
c. Theories of Science, Technology, and Society
d. Postmodern Social Theory
Ans: B
Answer Location: Theories of Globalization
Difficulty Level: Medium

28. Which theoretical area focuses on how modern knowledge, machinery, tools, etc. are more generally transforming both daily life and society?
a. Theories of Consumption
b. Theories of Globalization
c. Theories of Science, Technology, and Society
d. Postmodern Social Theory
Ans: C
Answer Location: Theories of Science, Technology, and Society
Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. Herbert Spencer was more influential to early sociology in the Americas than in Europe.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Ethnomethodology
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Because of the rampant sexism present during the early twentieth century, women were completely excluded from sociology and were not even able to work as a marginalized group of gender scholars.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Women in Early American Sociology
Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Of all the women in early American sociology, Charlotte Perkins Gilman provided the most comprehensive theories of gender inequality.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Women in Early American Sociology
Difficulty Level: Easy

4.W. E. B. DuBois was a founding member of the Chicago School.
Ans: F

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Answer Location: Women in Early American Sociology
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. *Ethnomethodology* was developed as a critique of *phenomenology*.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Ethnomethodology
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. While both are sociologies of everyday life, *ethnomethodology* focuses on what people do while *phenomenology* emphasizes what people think.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Ethnomethodology
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Talcott Parsons became the dominant sociological figure in the United States by developing theories outside the European tradition.
Ans: F
Answer Location: The Rise of Harvard, the Ivy League, and Structural Functionalism
Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Talcott Parsons is best described as a *structural functionalist* because he theorized about both *social structures* and *action systems*.
Ans: T
Answer Location: The Rise of Harvard, the Ivy League, and Structural Functionalism
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Both Talcott Parsons and George Homans thought theory should be constructed inductively, or from the ground up.
Ans: F
Answer Location: George Homans (1910–1989)
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Because they were committed to the Marxist tradition, the founding scholars of *The Institute of Social Research* (also known as "The Frankfurt School") rejected the work of both Max Weber and Sigmund Freud.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Developments in Marxian Theory
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Throughout the twentieth century, the rise and fall of structural functionalism as a dominant theoretical paradigm mirrors the rise and fall of the United States as the dominant power on the globe.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Structural Functionalism: Peak and Decline

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Difficulty Level: Easy

12. In his lifetime, C. Wright Mills was a central figure in mainstream sociology.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Radical Sociology in America: C. Wright Mills
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Conflict theory was developed out of a critique of structural functionalism.
Ans: T
Answer Location: The Development of Conflict Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Erving Goffman's *dramaturgical analysis* is incompatible with symbolic interactionism.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Dramaturgical Analysis: The Work of Erving Goffman
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. While Marxism has undergone revivals both during the 1960s and with the recent acceleration of globalization and global inequality, the theory has largely been marginalized in the United States throughout the 20th century.
Ans: T
Answer Location: The Rise and Fall (?) of Marxian Sociology
Difficulty Level: Easy

16. A conservative political and cultural climate in the 1920s stalled most progressive social efforts and social movements, including feminism and feminist theory.
Ans: F
Answer Location: The Challenge of Feminist Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

17. Compared to previous times, currently feminist theories are more focused on categories of gender and sexuality.
Ans: T
Answer Location: The Challenge of Feminist Theory
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Poststructuralism grew out of postmodernism.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Structuralism and Poststructuralism
Difficulty Level: Easy

19. The modernist versus postmodernist debate was never settled.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Social Theory in the Twenty-First Century

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Difficulty Level: Easy

Essay

1. Compare and contrast the sociological theories developed in the United States during the 20th century with the sociological work of scholars in Europe.
Ans:

- The importance of urbanization and industrialization was recognized by theorists in both the United States and Europe; although scholars in the United States were more weary of these processes
- Fundamental Christianity was more prevalent and therefore more important in the United States than in Europe
- Social problems were more of a concern in the United States than in Europe
- In being a newer world, scholars in the United States were less likely to incorporate a historical analysis into their work and were more likely to look toward the future

Answer Location: Social Change and Intellectual Currents
Difficulty Level: Difficult

2. How did sociologist in the United States incorporate race, gender, class, and sexual identity into their ideas throughout the twentieth century?
Ans:

- The progressive politics of early American theorists compelled many to ask questions about class and social inequality; Thorstein Veblen addressed the social aspects of inequality and consumption
- Robert Park founded The Chicago School with a mission to explore issues of race and racial inequalities
- The Du Bois-Atlanta School was founded to study race
- Feminists and critics of colonialization incorporated discussion of Race, Class and Gender into sociology

Answer Location: Politics, Thorstein Veblen (1857–1929), The Chicago School, Women in Early American Sociology, The Challenge of Feminist Theory, Theories of Race and Colonialism
Difficulty Level: Difficult

3. Explain how the social context at different times during the twentieth century influenced the theories sociologists developed and utilized.
Ans:

- Given the transformational power of industrialization and urbanization, both processes were a focus of theory and many theorists utilized the scientific rationality of The Enlightenment to study these processes
- World War I inspired many social theorists to turn their attention to social problems, including colonialism

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- Activism during the progressive era compelled many to incorporate race, class and gender into their analysis of social problems
- The Great Depression revitalized Marxist thinking which had been largely suppressed by "red scares"
- The uncertainty of World War II's outcome compelled many theorists to question progress
- After a Great Depression and Great Wars, people (including social theorists) turned their attention to achieving order and rationality
- Social theory was not immune to the radical 1960s and started to question "the order" of the post war world which culminated in a questioning of modernity in general
- Today, questions of consumption and globalization dominate both our world and the social theories being developed to explain that world

Answer Location: A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Later Years
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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