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Test Bank

Chapter 2 : Karl Marx

Multiple Choice

1. Who originally developed the dialectical method that Karl Marx adapted for his own work about the contradictions of capitalism?
a. G.W.F. Hegel
b. Vladimir Lenin
c. Aguste Comte
d. Herbert Spencer
Ans: A
Answer Location: Introduction
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. According to Karl Marx, what dialectic contradiction lies at the heart of capitalism?
a. Capitalists need to exploit workers for profit; workers want to profit from their work.
b. Capitalism embraces the greed opposed by the protestant ethic.
c. Capitalism needs stability; but change is inevitable.
d. Capitalism is based on class conflict; but classes are cooperative by nature.
Ans: A
Answer Location: Introduction
Difficulty Level: Difficult

3. In assessing reciprocal relationships and causality among social phenomena, dialectical philosophers like Marx are interested in assessing and explaining which of the following? Select all, but only those that apply.
a. past
b. present
c. future
d. alternative realities
Ans: A, B, C
Answer Location: Past, Present, Future
Difficulty Level: Difficult

4. Marx's concept of _____ refers to the unique potentials and powers humans obtain that set us apart from other animals.
a. alienation
b. labor
c. objectification

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d. species being
Ans: D
Answer Location: Human Potential
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Marx's concept of _____ refers to the human activities undertaken to change material reality.
a. alienation
b. labor
c. objectification
d. species being
Ans: B
Answer Location: Labor
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Marx's concept of _____ refers to the thinking of, and then creating of material objects.
a. alienation
b. labor
c. objectification
d. species being
Ans: C
Answer Location: Labor
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Marx's concept of _____ refers to how capitalism perverts human labor, thereby turning human potential against itself.
a. alienation
b. labor
c. objectification
d. species being
Ans: A
Answer Location: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. According to Marx, how does labor transform the people who do it? Select all, but only those that apply.
a. Labor helps us realize our material purpose.
b. Labor helps meet our material needs.
c. Labor frees us from exploitation.
d. Labor transforms our nature.
Ans: A, B, D
Answer Location: Labor
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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9. Which of the following is a way workers are alienated by industrial production?
a. Workers are alienated when forced to consume what they produce.
b. Workers are alienated when compelled to achieve their full human potential.
c. Workers are alienated when forced to cooperate with each other.
d. Workers are alienated from their productive activity.
Ans: D
Answer Location: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Which of the following is a way workers are alienated by industrial production?
a. Workers are alienated when forced to consume what they produce.
b. Workers are alienated from their human potential.
c. Workers are alienated when forced to cooperate with each other.
d. Workers are alienated when compelled to master a particular craft.
Ans: B
Answer Location: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

11. Which of the following is a way workers are alienated by industrial production?
a. Workers are alienated when compelled to achieve their full human potential.
b. Workers are alienated from each other as they are unable to cooperate with one another.
c. Workers are alienated when forced to master a particular craft.
d. Workers are alienated when forced to consume what they produce.
Ans: B
Answer Location: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Which of the following is a way workers are alienated by industrial production?
a. Workers are alienated when compelled to achieve their full human potential.
b. Workers are alienated from what they produce because it does not belong to them.
c. Workers are alienated when forced to master a particular craft.
d. Workers are alienated when forced to consume what they produce.
Ans: B
Answer Location: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Medium

13. Marx's concept of _____ refers to how capitalism reifies relationships, or forces people primarily to interact with one another through the exchange of goods and services.
a. alienation
b. fetishism of commodities
c. objectification
d. species being
Ans: B
Answer Location: Alienation

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Difficulty Level: Easy

14. According to Karl Marx, which of the following is true of a commodity? Select all, but only those that apply.
a. have use value
b. have exchange value
c. are produced with human labor
d. fill a human need or desire
Ans: A, B, C, D
Answer Location: Commodities
Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Karl Marx thought the ***fetishism of commodities*** _____.
a. occurs when individuals afford objects a power over the humans that make those objects
b. is when human created social structures are afforded a power of their own
c. is the idea that emerges naturally out of daily life
d. refers to how people become unable to interact with one another outside of economic exchanges
Ans: A
Answer Location: Fetishism of Commodities
Difficulty Level: Difficult

16. Karl Marx thought ***ideology*** _____.
a. occurs when individuals afford objects a power over the humans that make those objects
b. is when human created social structures are afforded a power of their own
c. is the idea that emerges naturally out of daily life
d. refers to how people become unable to interact with one another outside of economic exchanges
Ans: C
Answer Location: Ideology
Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Karl Marx thought reification _____.
a. occurs when individuals afford objects a power over the humans that make those objects
b. is when human created social structures are afforded a power of their own
c. is the idea that emerges naturally out of daily life
d. refers to how people become unable to interact with one another outside of economic exchanges
Ans: B
Answer Location: Fetishism of Commodities
Difficulty Level: Medium

18. By definition, Marx's _____ is not aware of its exploitation and conflict with other classes.
a. proletariat_

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b. class-for-itself
c. bourgeoisie
d. class-in-itself
Ans: D
Answer Location: Class Conflict
Difficulty Level: Easy

19. By definition, Marx's _____ is aware of its exploitation and conflict with other classes.
a. proletariat
b. class-for-itself
c. bourgeoisie
d. class-in-itself
Ans: B
Answer Location: Class Conflict
Difficulty Level: Easy

20. According to Marx's ***historical materialism***, the _____ of society refers to the ways people meet, or produce for their material needs and the economic relations that grow out of that production.
a. base
b. superstructure
c. structure
d. institutions
Ans: A
Answer Location: Class Conflict
Difficulty Level: Easy

21. According to Marx's ***historical materialism***, the _____ of society refers to the noneconomic relationships built atop the economic production of material commodities.
a. base
b. superstructure
c. structure
d. institutions
Ans: B
Answer Location: Materialist Conception of History
Difficulty Level: Easy

22. What types of secondary ideologies emerge when a primary ideology is disrupted and the material contradictions of the social order are revealed? Select all, but only those that apply.
a. A thinking system to explain away contradictions.
b. A scapegoating of individuals as responsible for contradictions.
c. Projecting of contradictions as endemic to human nature, not capitalism.
d. A reconciling of contradictions between capitalist and proletariat.
Ans: A, B, C

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Answer Location: Ideology
Difficulty Level: Medium

23. What types of secondary or subsystem of ideologies could the ruling class create when a primary ideology is disrupted and the material contradictions of the social order are revealed? Select all, but only those that apply.
a. a religion
b. a philosophy
c. a literature
d. a legal system
Ans: A, B, C, D
Answer Location: Ideology
Difficulty Level: Medium

24. Which of the following did Marx refer to as "the opium of the people"?
a. Religion
b. Philosophy
c. Literature
d. The legal system
Ans: A
Answer Location: Religion
Difficulty Level: Easy

25. Which of the following best describes Marx's *labor theory of value*?
a. Labor has a use, but not an exchange value.
b. Labor, both in terms of quantity and quality, is at the heart of all value.
c. Labor has an exchange value, but not a use value.
d. Capitalists profit by driving down the use and exchange value of workers' labor.
Ans: B
Answer Location: Marx's Economics: A Case Study
Difficulty Level: Medium

26. Which of the following best describes Marx's *general law of capitalist accumulation*?
a. Labor has a use, but not an exchange value.
b. Labor, both in terms of quantity and quality, is at the heart of all value.
c. Labor has an exchange value, but not a use value.
d. Capitalists profit by driving down the use and exchange value of workers' labor.
Ans: D
Answer Location: Marx's Economics: A Case Study
Difficulty Level: Medium

27. Karl Marx's theory is often criticized _____.
a. because communism did not come about as he predicted
b. because the emancipatory subject was over-emphasized

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c. for focusing too much on gender
d. for ignoring production over consumption
Ans: A
Answer Location: Criticisms
Difficulty Level: Medium

28. Karl Marx's theory is often criticized because _____.
a. he neglected how societies always progress
b. he focused too much on gender and unpaid labor
c. he focused on production while mostly ignoring consumption
d. the emancipatory subjects is over-emphasized
Ans: C
Answer Location: Criticisms
Difficulty Level: Medium

29. Karl Marx's theory is often criticized because _____.
a. the emancipatory subject is over-emphasized
b. he neglected how societies always progress
c. he ignored the importance of gender and unpaid labor
d. he focused on consumption instead of production
Ans: C
Answer Location: Criticisms
Difficulty Level: Medium

30. Karl Marx's theory is often criticized because _____.
a. he neglected how societies always progress
b. there is a missing emancipatory subject that aspires for change
c. he focused too much on gender and unpaid labor
d. he focused on consumption instead of production
Answer Location: Criticisms
Difficulty Level: Medium

True/False

1. Karl Marx's name has become symbolically powerful, even to those who never read his work.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Introduction
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Karl Marx was primarily concerned with explaining society; he was not concerned with social change.
Ans: F

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Answer Location: Introduction
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Karl Marx mostly wanted to explain society because that was the first step toward changing it.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Introduction
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Dialectical philosophy treats contradictions as mistakes that need to be reconciled.
Ans: F
Answer Location: The Dialectic
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Marx thought contradictions were better resolved in society, not in the abstract thoughts of philosophers.
Ans: T
Answer Location: The Dialectic
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Marx believed in objective social science; that philosophers could separate their values from the social facts they uncovered.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Fact and Value
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The dialectical method of analysis does not see a simple, one-way, cause-and-effect relationship among the various parts of the social world.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Reciprocal Relations
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Dialectical philosophers challenge structural-functionalists' emphasis on macro or large-scale social structures.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Actors and Structures
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Dialectical philosophers challenge social psychologists' emphasis of actors and micro-level sociology.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Actors and Structures
Difficulty Level: Easy

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10. Marx thought "human nature" was stable and thus shows little historical variation.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Human Potential
Difficulty Level: Easy

11. Karl Marx thought ***exchange value*** is a quantitative property that relates to the numerical amount a commodity can be traded for another.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Commodities
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Karl Marx thought ***use value*** is a qualitative property that relates to the physical attributes of a commodity.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Commodities
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Marx's concept of capital refers to money that is invested to make more money through the circulation of commodities.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Capital, Capitalists, and the Proletariat
Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Because the concept was so central to his theory, Marx developed an extremely specific and refined definition of social class.
Ans: F
Answer Location: Class Conflict
Difficulty Level: Difficult

15. A class-in-itself is comprised of people who share a similar economic position, but those people are largely unaware they are exploited through that shared economic position.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Class Conflict
Difficulty Level: Difficult

16. Marx saw capitalism as a good thing, at least in relation to the oppressive social systems that preceded it.
Ans: T
Answer Location: Capitalism as a Good Thing
Difficulty Level: Difficult

17. Marx devoted the bulk of his work to explaining how capitalism would transition into communism.
Ans: F

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Answer Location: Communism
Difficulty Level: Difficult

Essay

1. Think for a moment about the best or worst job you ever had. Was this job alienating? That is, did you own what you produced? Could you produce how you pleased or was that controlled? Did your work separate you from others? Was the work dehumanizing?

Ans:

- Most jobs are alienating in that we do not own what we produce, and we have limited control over how we produce. Similarly, many jobs are alienating because so few people work toward what they feel is their calling (especially students). However, since most jobs now require we interact with others, generally today's work does not alienate us in this way—although it can take time away from those we most want to spend time with.

Answer Location: Alienation
Difficulty Level: Difficult

2. Marx himself wrote that our experiences are dependent on our historical context. Thus today, given that Marx wrote during the industrial revolution, are Marx's ideas still applicable to our postindustrial society?

Ans:

- It can be difficult to apply Marx's ideas about producing commodities to our contemporary world because so few people work in industry; however, his ideas about economic determinism and exploitation through our labor are perhaps more relevant today than ever before.

Answer Location: Entire chapter
Difficulty Level: Difficult

3. Grab a newspaper (or more likely visit one online), scan the headlines and look for a current event that interests you. Then, conduct a Marxian analysis to read between the lines, or explain what is unfolding.

Ans:

- Although it sometimes results in somewhat of a "conspiracy theory," there is usually a way to explain almost every and anything social as something that indirectly happens because wealth; powerful people pursue their interests over the interests of the masses.

Answer Location: Entire chapter
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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