An Introduction to the Study of Society

1. What is sociology?

2. What does it mean to be skeptical?

3. What is critical thinking?

4. What is meant by "debunking"?

5. Discuss whether a social scientists should be value free or whether he or she should "get involved."

6. What is the sociological imagination?

7. What is meant by personal troubles and public issues?

8. What is meant by the term diversity? Why is diversity desirable?

9. What does it mean to look at the world critically?

10. What is applied Sociology?

11. What is an Operational Definition?

12. Discuss the debate between C. Wright Mills and Talcott Parsons.

13. What is Social Darwinism?

Theoretical Perspectives

1. Know the characteristics of functionalist perspective.
   - What is the difference between manifest and latent functions?
   - What is a critique of functionalism?

2. Know the characteristics of conflict perspective.
   - Conflict theory asks the question "Who Benefits?" Why?

3. Know the characteristics of symbolic interactionist perspective.
   - What is the W. I. Thomas Theorem?

Sociology as Science

1. What makes sociology a science?

2. Discuss four alternatives to science.
• What is common sense?
• What are two problems with common sense?

3. What is the scientific method?
• What is a theory?
• What is a hypothesis?

4. Statistics
• What is a random sample?
• What is the difference between a correlation and a cause and effect relationship? [Give the three requirements to prove cause and effect.]
• What is the difference between validity and reliability?

5. Methods
• What are advantages and disadvantages of survey research?
• What are the advantages and disadvantages of a case study?
• What are the advantages and disadvantages of an experiment study?
• What are advantages and disadvantages of existing data in research?

6. Problems with Science
• What is the Hawthorne Effect?
• Do statistics lie? Explain.

Culture

1. What is culture?
2. What is ethnocentrism?
3. What is cultural relativism?
4. What are cultural universals?
5. What is innovation?
6. What is diffusion?
7. What is cultural Leveling?
8. What is culture lag?
9. What is culture shock?
10. What is the difference between ideal culture and real culture?
11. What is the difference between norms and values.
12. Discuss the different types of norms.
13. What is the difference between sub cultures and counter cultures?
14. Who are the Amish?
15. Discuss Language.
16. Discuss the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.

Socialization
1. Discuss nature vs. nurture.
2. Describe the Harlow Study.
3. What is gender socialization?
4. What is anticipatory socialization?
5. What is a total institution?
6. What are agents of socialization? Discuss the family, peers, and school as agents of socialization.
7. What is the looking-glass self?

Social Structure: The Power of Roles
1. What is social structure?
   - What is the difference between micro-level and macro-level studies or social relations?
2. What is the difference between roles and statuses?
3. What are ascribed status vs. achieved status?
4. What is role-conflict?

5. Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

6. Social Interaction in Everyday Life
   - Ethnomethodology
   - Impression Management
   - Dramaturgy Model

7. What was the Zimbardo Study?

8. What was the Rosenhan Study?
   - Master Status

9. What are institutions?

10. Essentialism. What are "structures below the surface?"

Organizations

1. General Characteristics of Groups

Asch Line Experiment

Group Think

The Milgram Study

2. What is the difference between a primary group and a secondary group? List four characteristics of each.

3. How can a gang be a primary group?

4. What is the difference between cliques, networks, and networking?

5. What is the difference between Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft?
Distinguish between mechanical and organic solidarity.

6. Three types of organizations were discussed in the notes and in the text. Describe coercive, utilitarian, and normative organizations.

7. What is the Iron Law of Oligarchy?

8. What is rationalism?

Discuss the McDonaldization of society.

9. List four characteristics of a bureaucracy.

Ideal Types

10. Discuss the informal structure of bureaucracy.

11. Know the problems with bureaucracy:

   What is goal displacement?
   What is alienation?
   What is red tape?
   What is the Peter Principle?

12. List four characteristics of a community.

13. What is a society? What are some problems with the concept of society?
Deviance

1. What is deviance?

2. Discuss demonic possession as an explanation for deviance.

   Why is demonic possession discussed as a theory of deviance?
   How does one control deviance when possessed by demons?

3. What is the source of deviance according to the positivist school?

   Discuss Cesare Lombroso’s study of crime.

4. Discuss deviance from a functionalist perspective.

   What is a degradation ceremony?
   What is control theory?
   Anomie Or Strain Theory: Robert Merton’s Typology of Deviance

5. What is the relationship between deviance and the level of organization in one's neighborhood? How do we determine what is organized?

6. Explain deviance from the point of view of differential association theory.

   In differential association, what is the difference between priority and intensity?
   What is an illegitimate opportunity structure?
7. What is deviance from a labeling theory perspective?

Use the concepts primary and secondary deviance in your answer.

Discuss the Saints and the Roughnecks.

8. Discuss deviance from the point of view of a conflict theorist.

Crime

1. What is the UCR and what are some problems with it?

2. What are some problems with the term “victimless crime”?

3. According to the FBI, who are the criminals? Give four characteristics.

4. Under the topic 'selecting the criminal,' discuss selecting in the political process.

5. Under the topic 'selecting the criminal,' discuss selecting by the victim. What two criteria decide whether a victim will report a crime to the police?

6. Under the topic 'selecting the criminal,' discuss selecting by judges.

7. Under the topic 'selecting the criminal,' discuss selecting by the attorneys.
8. How can crime rates decline while numbers of crimes increase?

9. From Data Project #1:

What three states have the highest crime rates?
What three states have the lowest crime rates?
Students were asked to explore the 100 cities with the highest crime rates. What region of the country has the greatest concentration of these cities?

12. What are three structural components of crime?

13. Corrections:

What is recidivism?
Is there a relationship between murder rates and the use of the death penalty?
Retribution?
What is deterrence theory. What are it's three components of deterrence theory?
Incapacitation
Rehabilitation

White Collar Crime

1. What is the difference between organizational crime and occupational crime?
2. What are two goals of white collar crime?

3. Provide at least three examples of murder by neglect.

4. Compare penalties for white collar crime and street crime.

5. Why don't white-collar criminals go to jail? List three reasons

Social Class

1. What are Life Chances?

1. What is social stratification?

2. What is a social class? What is a classless society?

3. What is a caste system?

Endogamy

Ritual pollution.

4. Describe stratification from a functionalist view. Give three points.

5. Describe Stratification from a conflict perspective.

How is the poverty line determined?
6. Describe the syntheses between the functionalist and conflict perspectives on class.

7. Discuss the three kinds of social mobility.

Intergenerational
Exchange
Structural

8. What is a social class from the perspective of Karl Marx?

What are the two primary classes according to Marx?
What are contradictory class locations.

9. Distinguish between three methods for determining social class:

Objective
Subjective
Reputational

10. Discuss the assets that are controlled by the rich.

11. Describe the two components of wealth: Income and Assets.

12. What is power?

13. What is prestige?

14. What is false consciousness?
15. What is class consciousness?

16. From Data Project #2:

What is meant by standardized dollars?
Which border County had the lowest per capita income in year = 2000?
Which border County had the highest unemployment rate in year = 2000?
Which border County had the poverty rate in year = 2000?

17. The notes provide a six-tiered system of stratification of American culture.

Discuss the upper class (top 1%) in terms of how they earn their wealth and the kind of work they perform.
Discuss the upper middle class (10%) in terms of how they earn their wealth and the kind of work they perform.
Discuss the middle class (30%) in terms of how they earn their wealth and the kind of work they perform.
Discuss the working class (40%) in terms of how they earn their wealth and the kind of work they perform.
Discuss the lower class (20%) in terms of how they earn their wealth and the kind of work they perform.

Majority / Minority Relations

1. What is a race?
2. Discuss race as a social creation.

3. What is an ethnic group?

4. What is a minority group?

5. What is racism?

6. Discuss colonialism as the primary cause of racism.

7. Why do minorities continue in society? (List four reasons)

8. What is amalgamation

9. What is assimilation

10. What is pluralism (salad-bowl theory)

11. What is the relationship between prejudice and discrimination? There are four possible combinations. List them and explain them.

12. What is an authoritarian personality and how does it develop?

13. What is a scapegoat?
14. How are women like other minorities? (Provide three points)

15. How are women different than other minorities? (Provide three points)

Gender Stratification

1. What is institutional discrimination?

2. What is comparable worth?

3. Three topics were discussed under the topic of differential access. List them.

4. What is the second shift?

5. What is the split-labor market? What are the characteristics of the two segments?

6. What is the glass ceiling?

7. What is pink collar work?

8. What are blocked opportunities?
9. What are old boy networks?

10. The last section of the material on gender stratification discusses inequality within the family. Provide a few basic points from this section.

11. What is patriarchy?

12. What is the difference between sex and gender?

13. What is feminism?

Political Sociology -- The State

1. What is traditional authority?

2. What is rational-legal authority?

3. What is charismatic authority?

4. What is the difference between state and government?

5. How do you measure the power of the state?
6. List four reasons why the state is necessary from a functionalist perspective.

7. What is Karl Marx's opinion of the state?

8. What separates traditional conflict theories (e.g., Marx) from neo-conflict theories?

9. What is state autonomy?

10. List four prerequisite for democracy to be successful.

11. What are political parties?

12. Interest groups use two methods to gain influence from politicians. List them and describe them.

13. What are positive and negative points with interests groups?

14. Under the topic of political sociology, what are pluralist models?

15. What is the power elite model?

16. What are interlocking directorates?