

Sociology 205
Exam on Sociological Theory

1. Which of the following is utilized by Functional theory as a means of gathering and understanding sociological data relevant to the study of race and ethnicity?
a. religion
b. magic
c. philosophy
d. survey research
2. Gathering data through scientifically grounded observation and experiments rather than intuition or faith refers to
a. empiricism
b. humanism
c. Scientology
d. Ouija Board
3. During which historic period did a science of society emerge?
a. the stone age
b. the great depression
c. the dark ages
d. the industrial revolution
4. The person generally recognized as the Father of Sociology is
a. August Comte
b. Emile Durkheim
c. Karl Marx
d. Max Weber
5. Marx and Engels' concept of economic conflict processes dominating social interaction is important and useful in the study of race and ethnicity.
a. true
b. false
6. Emile Durkheim's functional concept of a balanced social order being built around acceptance of shared norms might be used to explain conflict between competing ethnic groups
a. true
b. false
7. Beneath all sociological research and inquiry lies which question:
a. How many people gamble each year?
b. Why do we do what we do?
c. How tall is the average human being?
d. How much beer do college students drink each year?
8. As described in class, the **sociological imagination** enables us to
a. free ourselves from our particular circumstances and see our social world in a new light
b. discover new and exciting ways to perform research
c. take better research notes
d. take better advantage of opportunities for getting dates
9. Positivism, which is essential to the application of the scientific method of study, can be used to track economic progress, or the lack of economic progress, among competing racial and ethnic groups.
a. true
d. false
10. The concept that society ultimately seeks equilibrium and cohesiveness between competing groups is a fundamental of _____.
a. conflict theory
b. ethnomethodology
c. symbolic interactionism
d. functionalism

11. A Functionalist believes that social processes that improve upon and provide long terms means of balance in society are likely to survive, even if they temporarily upset the social structure.
 - a. true
 - b. false
12. Critical thinking is an essential part of competent sociological work
 - a. true
 - b. false
13. Functional theorists believe that social disorganization can occur for many reasons, but the most frequent cause is rapid social change
 - a. true
 - b. false
14. From a functionalist perspective, processes leading to immigration could be grounded in social disorganization.
 - a. true
 - b. false
15. Competing cultural values that contribute to conflict between racial and ethnic groups are a product of _____
 - a. intuition
 - b. nature
 - c. nurture
16. As a means of understanding competition between racial and ethnic groups, symbolic interactionists would be most interested in _____
 - a. group power struggles
 - b. survey research
 - c. sexual bondage
 - d. the social meanings applied to objects and events
17. Functionalists believe that problems surrounding differences in race and ethnicity can be resolved through adjustments to the social system that restore it to a state of equilibrium.
 - a. true
 - b. false
18. Which sociological theory describes social interaction as based on never ending economic struggle:
 - a. Conflict Theory
 - b. Symbolic Interactionism
 - c. Functionalism
 - d. none of the above
19. In analyzing racial and ethnic conflict, studying the competing sociological _____ of the groups may lead to understanding of the social conflict between them.
 - a. circumstances
 - b. spontaneous interaction
 - c. variables
 - d. statistical probabilities
20. Sociological theory supports the premise that the same conflicts which drove immigration in the 19th century are responsible for many sociologically based problems with which contemporary racial and ethnic groups are faced.
 - a. true
 - b. false
21. Conflict theorists suggest that much of the conflict between racial and ethnic groups has much to do with maintaining power and controlling resources.
 - a. true
 - b. false
22. Advances in technology and resulting increases in economic production make it unlikely that racial and ethnic conflict will be problems for American or global society in the 21st century.
 - a. true
 - b. false

23. Public opinion polls and the United States Census are examples of _____ research used to study public response to racial and ethnic difference.
- experimental
 - group
 - qualitative
 - survey
24. Functional Theory suggests that utilizing a single language may be beneficial to a society.
- true
 - false
25. Ethnocentrism is the process whereby other cultures and racial and ethnic groups are _____.
- always considered inferior
 - observed and written about
 - required to become like our own
 - judged; using one's own culture as a standard
26. Cultural Universals include all of the following **except**
- language
 - some sort of prohibition against incest
 - an institution of marriage
 - licensing for certain public duties
27. In questioning why discrimination persists in society, conflict theorists would ask: "Who benefits most from the conflict?"
- true
 - false
28. _____, the process by which the world's societies have become increasingly interdependent, is playing an increasingly important role in American society's ethnic mix and is best understood utilizing conflict theory.
- Interaction
 - Economic unification
 - Fraternalization
 - Globalization
29. The historical perspective, as outlined by Max Weber and described in lecture, is a part of symbolic interactionism and is essential to understanding contemporary issues relating to race and ethnicity in American society
- true
 - false
30. George Herbert Mead argued that response to symbols is responsible for much human behavior
- true
 - false
31. Social behaviors that are acceptable to most members of a society are called
- norms
 - bonding
 - brotherhood
 - interaction
32. The norms of the dominant group become essential components in processes through which that group maintains social control over subordinate groups
- true
 - false
33. Group social processes that are acceptable in one culture and unacceptable in another are examples of
- comparative analysis
 - cultural relativism
 - religious tolerance
 - social response
34. Language, values and norms are all parts of
- material culture
 - social modification
 - activism
 - non material culture

35. The process whereby we become self-aware, knowledgeable and skilled in the ways of our culture is
- assimilation
 - socialization
 - correspondence
 - happy hour
36. The “layering” of groups engaged in social interaction is called
- multiple response organization
 - social negotiation
 - stratification
 - inter-group mixing
37. According to Karl Marx, social stratification was very real and was based on
- social status
 - economic class
 - intelligence
 - personal appearance
38. Sociologists are in general agreement that immigration into the United States has always been motivated entirely by a desire for religious freedom.
- true
 - false
39. The concept of power differential is an essential component incorporated into understanding racial and ethnic conflict when utilizing _____ theory
- conflict
 - functional
 - symbolic interaction
40. According to G.H. Mead, role taking is an important part of socialization and is best understood utilizing _____ theory.
- conflict
 - functional
 - symbolic interaction
41. According to Symbolic Interactionists, shared symbols and definitions, as well as shared expectations and understandings, or the absence of those, provide the basis for interpreting life experiences.
- true
 - false
42. According to the comparison of theories chart, conflict theorists and functional theorists interpret society objectively while symbolic interactionists interpret society subjectively.
- true
 - false
43. Symbolic Interactionists believe that people define their own reality through a process known as the “social construction” of reality.
- true
 - false
44. From the Symbolic Interactionist perspective, a lack of shared symbols could be responsible for a significant part of current racial and ethnic conflict.
- true
 - false
45. According to Symbolic Interactionists a social construction of reality becomes internalized, making it seem to those who adopt it as if it were objective fact
- true
 - false
46. Racial prejudice, which is subjective in nature, is best interpreted utilizing _____ theory.
- conflict
 - functional
 - symbolic interaction

47. According to conflict theorists, raising a false consciousness may cause minority groups to engage in actions that actually damage their own best interests.
 - a. true
 - b. false

48. The use of sociological theory should lead to a more _____ study of competing social groups.
 - a. unstructured
 - b. systematic and scientific
 - c. disordered
 - d. personal

49. The functionalist typically suggests that smaller adjustments made to social structure, as opposed to grand sweeping changes, may be more productive in efforts to improve on racial and ethnic relations.
 - a. true
 - b. false

50. Symbolic interaction theory typically assumes that racial and ethnic minority groups are passive rather than responsive and creative.
 - a. true
 - b. false