

University of Central Florida (UCF) SYG2000 Introduction to Sociology Practice Exam 2 (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. What term describes the phenomenon where white residents leave neighborhoods as minorities move in?
 - A. White flight
 - B. Urban renewal
 - C. Neighborhood revitalization
 - D. Gentrification
2. Which of the following factors most impacts one's life chances?
 - A. Geographic location
 - B. Social class
 - C. Personal ambition
 - D. Cultural background
3. What aspect of control theory refers to the connections and attachments one has with family and peers?
 - A. Commitment
 - B. Involvement
 - C. Attachment
 - D. Belief
4. Which definition fits the term "discrimination" as it relates to unequal treatment?
 - A. Prejudice
 - B. Symbolic interaction
 - C. Institutional norms
 - D. Unjust treatment
5. Which law significantly increases prison sentences for repeat offenders?
 - A. Common law
 - B. Minimum mandatory sentencing
 - C. Three strikes law
 - D. Federal sentencing guidelines

6. Disparities in law enforcement focus on which demographic factor?
- A. Age
 - B. Income
 - C. Race and ethnicity
 - D. Gender
7. How do 'wealth' and 'income' differ?
- A. Wealth is total assets owned; income is money received
 - B. Wealth is financial savings; income is total costs
 - C. Wealth is temporary assets; income is long-term earnings
 - D. Wealth is labor income; income is passive income
8. What is the main focus of symbolic interactionism in relation to minority groups?
- A. Economic power
 - B. Social structures
 - C. Interactions and meanings
 - D. Cultural assimilation
9. The term "achieved status" is indicative of what?
- A. Status as a result of birth
 - B. Status derived from economic background
 - C. Status tied to personal accomplishments
 - D. Status based on inherited wealth
10. Which group came to the US mainly after World War II and includes individuals from countries like Syria and Lebanon?
- A. African Americans
 - B. Arab Americans
 - C. Latinos
 - D. Asian Americans

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. C
7. A
8. C
9. C
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What term describes the phenomenon where white residents leave neighborhoods as minorities move in?

- A. White flight
- B. Urban renewal
- C. Neighborhood revitalization
- D. Gentrification

The term that accurately describes the phenomenon where white residents leave neighborhoods as minorities move in is "white flight." This concept reflects a societal reaction where white populations exit an area in response to the racial or ethnic diversification of that neighborhood. Historically, this movement can stem from various factors, including perceived threats to property values, social cohesion, or cultural differences. White flight is often associated with broader issues of segregation and systemic inequality, reflecting how societal anxieties around race and identity can influence residential patterns. The spaces that are vacated often experience a range of social and economic transformations tied to these demographic shifts. In contrast, the other terms include different phenomena: urban renewal refers to the redevelopment of urban areas, which often can lead to displacement; neighborhood revitalization involves efforts to improve and beautify communities, usually focusing on bringing in investment and resources; and gentrification refers to the influx of more affluent residents to a neighborhood, which can sometimes lead to the displacement of existing communities but is not exclusively about the movement away of the original residents. Each term highlights distinct processes affecting urban living and demographics, but "white flight" specifically captures the essence of the initial exodus in reaction to changing racial or ethnic compositions in neighborhoods.

2. Which of the following factors most impacts one's life chances?

- A. Geographic location
- B. Social class
- C. Personal ambition
- D. Cultural background

Social class is a crucial factor that significantly impacts an individual's life chances, which refers to the opportunities and possibilities for achieving economic success, education, health, and overall well-being. One's social class often determines access to resources, social networks, and educational opportunities, all of which are essential for social mobility and achieving a higher standard of living. Social class shapes experiences from an early age, influencing the quality of education received, neighborhood safety, healthcare access, and even job opportunities later in life. People from higher social classes typically have better access to high-quality schools, healthcare, and professional networks, which further enhance their life chances. Conversely, those from lower social classes may face systemic barriers that limit their opportunities and reinforce cycles of disadvantage. While factors like geographic location, personal ambition, and cultural background can also influence life chances, they often intersect with social class. For example, a person may have ambition but face limitations based on their social class, or someone from a privileged cultural background might still encounter barriers associated with lower social class status. Therefore, social class remains a fundamental determinant in shaping the trajectory of an individual's life chances.

3. What aspect of control theory refers to the connections and attachments one has with family and peers?

- A. Commitment
- B. Involvement
- C. Attachment
- D. Belief

The concept encapsulated by the correct choice revolves around the idea of how social bonds influence behavior. In control theory, "attachment" specifically refers to the emotional and social ties individuals have with family and peers. These connections are pivotal because they foster a sense of belonging and responsibility, making individuals less likely to engage in deviant behaviors. When people feel connected to family and peers, they are more likely to internalize societal norms and values, which act as informal controls over their actions. The strength of these attachments can greatly affect a person's choices and behaviors, suggesting that positive relationships can serve as a protective factor against engaging in delinquency or criminal activity. In contrast, the other aspects mentioned, like commitment, involvement, and belief, pertain to different dimensions of how external factors can control behavior. Commitment relates to the stakes individuals have in conforming to societal norms, involvement pertains to how participation in conventional activities can limit opportunities for deviance, and belief encompasses the acceptance of societal rules and values. However, it is the personal connections highlighted by attachment that specifically speak to the influence of one's close relationships on behavior.

4. Which definition fits the term "discrimination" as it relates to unequal treatment?

- A. Prejudice
- B. Symbolic interaction
- C. Institutional norms
- D. Unjust treatment

The term "discrimination" refers to the unjust treatment of individuals based on characteristics such as race, gender, age, or other attributes rather than their abilities or merits. It specifically involves actions taken to disadvantage certain groups, which can manifest in various settings such as workplaces, schools, or social situations. The correct definition emphasizes that discrimination is not just an idea or attitude, as seen in prejudice, but rather involves tangible actions that result in unequal treatment of individuals or groups. While the concepts of prejudice and symbolic interaction might describe related social dynamics, they do not encapsulate the specific act of treating someone unfairly based on their identity or status. Institutional norms can also contribute to discrimination but do not define it outright. Therefore, the most accurate description highlighting the active nature of discrimination is "unjust treatment."

5. Which law significantly increases prison sentences for repeat offenders?

- A. Common law
- B. Minimum mandatory sentencing
- C. Three strikes law
- D. Federal sentencing guidelines

The Three Strikes Law is significant because it mandates harsher sentences for individuals who are convicted of multiple felony offenses. Under this law, once a person has been convicted of three serious crimes, typically violent felonies, they may face life sentences or significantly increased prison terms for subsequent offenses. This approach is intended to deter repeat offenders by imposing severe legal repercussions and reflects a belief in the necessity of strict measures to ensure public safety. The law's emphasis on recidivism underscores a societal response to crime that prioritizes punitive measures over rehabilitation. In contrast, common law refers to legal precedents established through court decisions rather than statutes, and while minimum mandatory sentencing and federal sentencing guidelines do influence prison sentences, they do not specifically focus on the recidivism aspect as the Three Strikes Law does. Thus, the Three Strikes Law distinctly stands out as the correct answer here, as it specifically targets those who repeatedly commit serious offenses.

6. Disparities in law enforcement focus on which demographic factor?

- A. Age
- B. Income
- C. Race and ethnicity
- D. Gender

Disparities in law enforcement often center around race and ethnicity due to a variety of systemic issues and societal attitudes that affect how different groups are treated by police and the legal system. Research shows that certain racial and ethnic minorities frequently experience disproportionate levels of policing, harsher treatment, and greater rates of incarceration compared to their white counterparts. This focus on race and ethnicity is rooted in historical contexts, including patterns of discrimination, racial profiling, and stereotypes that lead to heightened surveillance and enforcement against specific groups. Furthermore, it encompasses both overt actions, such as racial profiling during traffic stops, and more subtle forms of bias that can influence law enforcement decisions at all levels. Understanding these disparities is crucial for recognizing the broader societal implications and the need for reforms aimed at achieving justice and equity within the legal system. While age, income, and gender can also play roles in law enforcement dynamics, the persistent and visible nature of racial and ethnic disparities has made them a focal point in discussions and analyses surrounding criminal justice reform and social equity.

7. How do 'wealth' and 'income' differ?

- A. Wealth is total assets owned; income is money received
- B. Wealth is financial savings; income is total costs
- C. Wealth is temporary assets; income is long-term earnings
- D. Wealth is labor income; income is passive income

Wealth and income represent two distinct but related concepts in understanding economic status. Wealth is defined as the total value of assets owned by an individual or entity, encompassing various forms such as real estate, stocks, bonds, and other investments. This total value reflects accumulated resources and financial security over time. On the other hand, income refers to the flow of money received, typically on a regular basis, such as wages from employment, rental income, or dividends from investments. The distinction is important because wealth can provide a cushion in financial emergencies and can generate additional income through investments, while income represents the immediate resources available for daily expenses. Understanding this difference helps clarify discussions about social class, economic disparity, and financial planning.

8. What is the main focus of symbolic interactionism in relation to minority groups?

- A. Economic power
- B. Social structures
- C. Interactions and meanings
- D. Cultural assimilation

Symbolic interactionism centers on the ways individuals and small groups interact and create meaning through their social interactions. When it comes to minority groups, this framework highlights how these groups construct their identities, relationships, and societal roles through everyday interactions. It emphasizes the significance of symbols, language, and gestures in communication, all of which shape the experiences and perceptions of minority group members. In this context, symbolic interactionism encourages understanding how societal labels and stereotypes impact the dynamics between majority and minority groups and influence individual behavior and self-perception. This perspective allows for a nuanced examination of the lived experiences of minority groups, focusing on the subjective meanings they assign to their interactions and the social context in which they occur. Other approaches, such as the focus on economic power or social structures, may overlook these intimate interactions and the individual perspectives that shape broader social phenomena. The emphasis on cultural assimilation, while relevant, does not capture the intricacies of daily interactions and the meanings derived from them, which are central to symbolic interactionism.

9. The term "achieved status" is indicative of what?

- A. Status as a result of birth
- B. Status derived from economic background
- C. Status tied to personal accomplishments
- D. Status based on inherited wealth

Achieved status refers to a social position that an individual attains as a result of their own actions, choices, and accomplishments. This showcases the idea that individuals can attain different statuses through personal efforts, skills, education, and other forms of achievement. Achieved statuses contrast with ascribed statuses, which are assigned at birth and based on traits individuals possess involuntarily, such as race or family background. In the context of the concept, personal accomplishments like education, career success, and other forms of individual merit play a crucial role in defining one's achieved status. This understanding underscores the importance of meritocracy in many societies, where individuals are rewarded based on what they achieve rather than their origins. The other options reflect aspects of status that are typically not influenced by personal effort but rather by external circumstances such as birth or economic background. These options portray aspects of ascribed status or social inheritance, emphasizing that some statuses are determined by factors outside an individual's control.

10. Which group came to the US mainly after World War II and includes individuals from countries like Syria and Lebanon?

- A. African Americans
- B. Arab Americans
- C. Latinos
- D. Asian Americans

The correct answer is Arab Americans, as this group experienced significant immigration to the United States primarily after World War II, influenced by both geopolitical events and economic opportunities. Many individuals from countries such as Syria, Lebanon, and other parts of the Middle East began to arrive in the U.S. during this time, escaping conflict, seeking better livelihoods, and reuniting with family members. The post-war era saw changes in immigration laws and a growing recognition of the contributions of Arab immigrants to American society. The demographics of Arab Americans shifted significantly as a result, leading to a vibrant community that has had a profound influence on various aspects of American culture, including cuisine, art, and social movements. Understanding this historical context helps illuminate the specific waves of immigration that shaped the Arab American experience in the U.S., differentiating it from the experiences of other groups such as African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans, who have their unique historical backgrounds and immigration patterns.