

University of Toronto (UofT) SOC100H1 Introduction to Sociology I - Sociological Perspectives Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. Which of the following best defines non-material culture?**
 - A. Physical items and artifacts of a society**
 - B. Tangible objects that are exchanged in a culture**
 - C. Ideas, beliefs, and behaviors that define a culture**
 - D. Formal laws and regulations of a society**
- 2. What is meant by immigration in a sociological context?**
 - A. The permanent settlement of people in urban areas**
 - B. The movement of people into a country from another**
 - C. The voluntary return of individuals to their home countries**
 - D. The process of cultural assimilation within a society**
- 3. What is a key feature of free trade agreements?**
 - A. Increases tariffs on imported goods**
 - B. Restricts trade between countries**
 - C. Promotes easier trade by reducing restrictions**
 - D. Imposes quotas on exported goods**
- 4. What best defines passive income?**
 - A. Income earned through active labor**
 - B. Income not tied to active labor**
 - C. Income derived from investments only**
 - D. Income generated through government assistance**
- 5. What does the ubiquity of culture imply?**
 - A. Culture is only important in certain communities**
 - B. Culture impacts everyone and is influenced by collective actions**
 - C. Culture is static and does not evolve**
 - D. Culture is primarily shaped by elite groups**
- 6. What is the primary characteristic of externalities in economics?**
 - A. They directly affect the producers**
 - B. They are unaccounted costs or benefits for third parties**
 - C. They always lead to positive outcomes**
 - D. They are governed by market forces**

- 7. What is the most common type of crime reported across countries?**
- A. Violent crimes**
 - B. Robbery**
 - C. Theft**
 - D. Fraud**
- 8. What is a negative consequence of ethnocentrism?**
- A. Promotes understanding among cultures**
 - B. Encourages the appreciation of diversity**
 - C. Leads to cultural misunderstandings and biases**
 - D. Facilitates cultural exchange**
- 9. What are trade sanctions?**
- A. Laws that promote free trade**
 - B. Policies that add tariffs to exported goods**
 - C. Measures that restrict trade with certain countries**
 - D. Agreements to eliminate trade barriers**
- 10. What type of survey might exhibit sampling bias?**
- A. A survey including all demographic groups**
 - B. A survey focused on a homogenous group**
 - C. A survey conducted online only**
 - D. A survey with randomized selection**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following best defines non-material culture?

- A. Physical items and artifacts of a society**
- B. Tangible objects that are exchanged in a culture**
- C. Ideas, beliefs, and behaviors that define a culture**
- D. Formal laws and regulations of a society**

Non-material culture is best defined as the ideas, beliefs, and behaviors that shape a society. This encompasses the intangible aspects of a culture, such as social norms, values, customs, languages, religious beliefs, and artistic expressions. These elements influence how individuals within a culture interact with one another and understand their world, forming the underlying framework of social life. This understanding is crucial because while tangible elements—like physical artifacts or laws—represent a culture, they do not fully encapsulate the shared meanings and practices that guide people's actions, which are foundational to cultural identity. Non-material culture also helps individuals navigate their social environment, allowing them to establish connections and cohesiveness within their communities.

2. What is meant by immigration in a sociological context?

- A. The permanent settlement of people in urban areas**
- B. The movement of people into a country from another**
- C. The voluntary return of individuals to their home countries**
- D. The process of cultural assimilation within a society**

In a sociological context, immigration refers to the movement of people into a country from another. This definition encapsulates the core aspect of immigration, which involves individuals relocating across national borders, typically in search of better economic opportunities, safety, or improved living conditions. Immigration impacts various sociological dimensions, including demographics, cultural diversity, and social integration, as it introduces new populations into a host society. Understanding immigration through this lens allows for a broader examination of how societies adapt to and interact with new populations, considering factors such as social policies, labor market dynamics, and cultural exchanges. This perspective is crucial for studying the implications of immigration on both the individuals who migrate and the communities they join. The other options do not accurately capture the full essence of immigration. The permanent settlement of people in urban areas focuses solely on a specific outcome of immigration rather than the process itself, while the voluntary return of individuals to their home countries describes a potential consequence of migration instead of the act of immigrating. The process of cultural assimilation within a society pertains more to the integration and adaptation of immigrants once they have moved, rather than the initial act of immigration. Thus, the correct answer encapsulates the broader and key component of immigration as understood in sociological studies.

3. What is a key feature of free trade agreements?

- A. Increases tariffs on imported goods
- B. Restricts trade between countries
- C. Promotes easier trade by reducing restrictions**
- D. Imposes quotas on exported goods

Free trade agreements are designed to promote smoother and more efficient trade between countries by reducing or eliminating barriers such as tariffs and quotas on imported goods. This key feature facilitates greater access to markets, allowing for an increase in the volume of trade by making it cheaper and easier for countries to exchange goods and services. By lowering or removing trade restrictions, these agreements aim to encourage economic growth, enhance competition, and create more opportunities for businesses and consumers in the participating nations. In contrast, increasing tariffs, restricting trade, or imposing quotas typically work against the principles of free trade by creating obstacles in the flow of goods and services across borders. Each of these alternatives contradicts the main purpose of free trade agreements, which is to foster an open trading environment.

4. What best defines passive income?

- A. Income earned through active labor
- B. Income not tied to active labor**
- C. Income derived from investments only
- D. Income generated through government assistance

Passive income is best defined as income not tied to active labor. This type of income typically requires little to no effort to maintain and often flows in from investments or assets already in place. For instance, rental income from property, dividends from stocks, or earnings from a business where someone is not actively involved all exemplify passive income. The concept centers around the idea that individuals can earn money without actively working for each dollar earned, allowing for financial freedom and potentially the ability to pursue other interests or endeavors. This definition highlights the distinction between income generated from work versus income derived from existing assets that continue to produce monetary returns over time. In contrast, other options emphasize active engagement or specific sources of income that do not encompass the broader definition of passive income. For example, income earned through active labor requires continuous effort and involvement, whereas passive income allows individuals to benefit from prior investments without ongoing contribution.

5. What does the ubiquity of culture imply?

- A. Culture is only important in certain communities
- B. Culture impacts everyone and is influenced by collective actions**
- C. Culture is static and does not evolve
- D. Culture is primarily shaped by elite groups

The choice that culture impacts everyone and is influenced by collective actions captures the essence of what the ubiquity of culture implies. Ubiquity refers to something that is present everywhere, and in the context of culture, it signifies that culture is not confined to a specific group or community; rather, it permeates all aspects of society and affects every individual, regardless of their background. This perspective recognizes that culture is dynamic and shaped by the interactions and contributions of various groups, including everyday people who participate in cultural practices and discourses. Collective actions—such as social movements, community events, and shared traditions—play a vital role in the development, transformation, and sustenance of cultural norms and values in society. Thus, culture is both a product and a process; individuals simultaneously shape it while being influenced by it. In contrast, the other options propose limited or static views of culture that do not align with the concept of its omnipresence and influence. As such, the correct answer reflects a comprehensive understanding of culture as a pervasive force that is continually affected by the collective actions of individuals and groups within the society.

6. What is the primary characteristic of externalities in economics?

- A. They directly affect the producers
- B. They are unaccounted costs or benefits for third parties**
- C. They always lead to positive outcomes
- D. They are governed by market forces

The primary characteristic of externalities in economics is that they represent unaccounted costs or benefits for third parties. This means that externalities occur when the actions of individuals or businesses have an indirect impact on others who are not directly involved in the transaction. For example, pollution from a factory may harm the health of nearby residents, creating a negative externality. Conversely, a well-maintained garden in a neighborhood can increase property values for other homeowners, creating a positive externality. This characteristic highlights how externalities can distort the true costs and benefits of economic activities, leading to market failures. Since the parties involved in the primary transaction do not bear the full costs or receive the full benefits, there is often a discrepancy between private and social costs or benefits, which can result in overproduction or underproduction of goods or services. The other aspects mentioned do not capture the essence of externalities as effectively. For example, while externalities can impact producers, it is the effects on third parties that are vital to their definition. Additionally, not all externalities lead to positive outcomes; negative consequences are equally valid. Lastly, while market forces can play a role in externalities, they do not govern them, as externalities arise precisely because these costs or

7. What is the most common type of crime reported across countries?

- A. Violent crimes**
- B. Robbery**
- C. Theft**
- D. Fraud**

The choice of theft as the most common type of crime reported across countries is supported by a variety of social and economic factors. Theft, which encompasses a range of offenses such as burglary, shoplifting, and petty larceny, often occurs in various forms that can be prevalent in many communities. One reason theft is widespread is that it often stems from economic necessity; individuals may resort to stealing due to poverty or lack of access to resources. Additionally, theft-related crimes are relatively easier to commit compared to violent crimes, which often involve a higher degree of risk for offenders. As a result, theft tends to be reported more frequently, as it can happen in a wide array of settings, from urban areas to rural communities. In contrast, violent crimes, while serious, occur less frequently in comparison to theft. Robbery, though it involves theft, also includes elements of force or intimidation, which makes it less common than simple theft. Fraud often requires a level of sophistication and can be more complex to perpetrate, which may limit its occurrence compared to more straightforward acts of theft. Overall, the broader scope and varying contexts in which theft can occur contribute to its status as the most commonly reported crime globally.

8. What is a negative consequence of ethnocentrism?

- A. Promotes understanding among cultures**
- B. Encourages the appreciation of diversity**
- C. Leads to cultural misunderstandings and biases**
- D. Facilitates cultural exchange**

Ethnocentrism is the tendency to view one's own culture as superior and to evaluate other cultures through the lens of one's own cultural norms and values. This perspective can lead to cultural misunderstandings and biases against those who are perceived as different. When individuals or groups see their own culture as the "norm," they may misinterpret or dismiss the practices and beliefs of others, leading to conflict, intolerance, or discrimination. In social interactions and in broader societal contexts, this negative consequence can aggravate prejudice and stereotypes, causing barriers that prevent effective communication and mutual respect among diverse cultural groups. By fostering a viewpoint that prioritizes one's own cultural framework, ethnocentrism diminishes the opportunity for genuine understanding and acceptance of different cultural perspectives, which can hinder social cohesion and integration within multicultural societies.

9. What are trade sanctions?

- A. Laws that promote free trade
- B. Policies that add tariffs to exported goods
- C. Measures that restrict trade with certain countries**
- D. Agreements to eliminate trade barriers

Trade sanctions are measures intended to restrict or regulate trade between countries, typically imposed by one country or a group of countries against another. These sanctions can take various forms, such as import or export bans, restrictions on specific goods, or other limitations aimed at influencing political or economic behavior. The focus of these sanctions is to apply economic pressure on the targeted nation to achieve specific objectives, such as promoting human rights, addressing security concerns, or discouraging aggressive actions. This understanding highlights the purpose and utility of trade sanctions in international relations, especially in contexts where diplomatic efforts have failed. The other options, while they pertain to trade in some way, do not accurately describe what trade sanctions are. Laws that promote free trade or agreements to eliminate trade barriers, for instance, facilitate trade rather than restrict it. Policies that add tariffs to exported goods may describe a form of trade regulation but do not capture the broader intent of sanctioning a country for particular behaviors.

10. What type of survey might exhibit sampling bias?

- A. A survey including all demographic groups
- B. A survey focused on a homogenous group**
- C. A survey conducted online only
- D. A survey with randomized selection

A survey focused on a homogenous group exemplifies a situation where sampling bias is likely to occur. This type of survey limits the diversity of perspectives and experiences by concentrating on a specific subgroup of the population. When the surveyed group lacks variety, the results may not accurately reflect the broader population's views, experiences, or behaviors. For instance, if a survey only includes individuals from a single ethnic background, the findings could only represent that subgroup's opinions rather than capturing the full spectrum of insights from other demographics. This homogeneity can skew the results and undermine the validity of conclusions drawn from the survey. In contrast, a survey that includes all demographic groups aims for representation across a spectrum, reducing the risk of bias. Conducting a survey online poses risks of selection bias based on access to technology, but it does not inherently create a homogenous sample. Randomized selection is explicitly designed to mitigate bias by ensuring that every individual in the population has an equal chance of being included, further supporting the accuracy and validity of the survey findings.