

Western Governors University (WGU) SOCG1010 C273 Introduction to Sociology Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. What does Labeling Theory suggest about deviance?
 - A. All acts are inherently deviant
 - B. Being labeled as deviant can influence behavior
 - C. Deviance is purely a biological factor
 - D. Deviance is only determined by punishment
2. Which sociologist promoted the idea of using sociology as a means to encourage social reform?
 - A. C. Wright Mills
 - B. Harriet Martineau
 - C. Jane Adams
 - D. W.E.B. DuBois
3. Which leadership style is preferred in situations requiring team input and cooperation?
 - A. Authoritarian leader
 - B. Transactional leader
 - C. Democratic leader
 - D. Laissez-faire leader
4. What does the term "biomedicalization" imply about deviance?
 - A. It suggests that all deviant behavior is criminal
 - B. It implies a focus on mental illness as a root cause
 - C. It denies the existence of social constructs
 - D. It emphasizes personal responsibility for behavior
5. Which of the following is NOT a sociologist associated with functional analysis theories?
 - A. Robert Melton
 - B. Auguste Comte
 - C. Herbert Spencer
 - D. Sigmund Freud

6. What term describes the influences individuals have within a group and how groups affect individuals?
- A. Social facilitation
 - B. Groupthink
 - C. Group dynamics
 - D. Peer pressure
7. What are the stages of a social movement?
- A. Development, decline, assessment, and implementation
 - B. Emergence, coalescence, institutionalization, and decline
 - C. Formation, execution, evaluation, and sustainability
 - D. Organization, collaboration, recognition, and dissolution
8. Which term describes informal norms that guide everyday behavior?
- A. Mores
 - B. Folkways
 - C. Taboos
 - D. Customs
9. Who is known as the founder of conflict theory?
- A. Max Weber
 - B. Herbert Spencer
 - C. Karl Marx
 - D. Emile Durkheim
10. Who are the Bourgeoisie in Marxian theory?
- A. The working class
 - B. The capitalists
 - C. The landowners
 - D. The intellectuals

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does Labeling Theory suggest about deviance?

- A. All acts are inherently deviant
- B. Being labeled as deviant can influence behavior
- C. Deviance is purely a biological factor
- D. Deviance is only determined by punishment

Labeling Theory posits that deviance is not just an inherent quality of certain behaviors or individuals, but rather arises from societal reactions and labels imposed on those behaviors and individuals. When a person is labeled as deviant, society's response to this label can significantly influence their future behavior. This theory suggests that once an individual is tagged as deviant, they may internalize this label, leading to a self-fulfilling prophecy where they adopt behaviors that align with the label of deviance. For example, if a teenager is labeled as a troublemaker, they may start to act in ways that confirm this negative identity, possibly engaging in more deviant behavior because they believe that is what is expected of them. Thus, Labeling Theory highlights the powerful role of social context and perception in shaping individual actions and identities. In contrast, the other choices do not capture the essence of Labeling Theory. The idea that all acts are inherently deviant suggests a fixed definition of deviance rather than one that is socially constructed. Claiming that deviance is purely a biological factor ignores the societal and contextual influences that Labeling Theory emphasizes. Lastly, the notion that deviance is only determined by punishment overlooks the importance of societal reactions in labeling individuals as

2. Which sociologist promoted the idea of using sociology as a means to encourage social reform?

- A. C. Wright Mills
- B. Harriet Martineau
- C. Jane Adams
- D. W.E.B. DuBois

The idea of using sociology as a means to encourage social reform is closely associated with Harriet Martineau. She is known for her pioneering work in sociology, particularly her emphasis on the importance of studying society to understand social issues and promote change. Martineau advocated for social reform through her writings, which highlighted the struggles of marginalized groups and critiqued social injustices. C. Wright Mills is more known for his concept of the sociological imagination, which helps individuals understand the connection between personal experiences and broader social forces. Mills did advocate for social change, but his approach focused more on understanding and interpreting society rather than directly promoting reform as Martineau did. In summary, the emphasis on sociology as a tool for social reform aligns closely with the work and perspectives of Harriet Martineau, making her the sociologist most representative of that idea.

3. Which leadership style is preferred in situations requiring team input and cooperation?

- A. Authoritarian leader
- B. Transactional leader
- C. Democratic leader
- D. Laissez-faire leader

The leadership style that is preferred in situations requiring team input and cooperation is the democratic leader. This style encourages participation from team members in decision-making processes, fostering an environment where everyone feels their opinions and contributions are valued. Democratic leaders prioritize collaboration, seeking input from the group to build consensus and enhance teamwork. This approach not only leads to more buy-in and commitment from team members but also taps into the diverse perspectives and ideas present within the group, ultimately resulting in better outcomes and innovation. In contrast, authoritarian leaders tend to make decisions unilaterally, which can stifle team input and cooperation, while transactional leaders typically focus on structured tasks and reward-based performance rather than facilitating collaborative dialogues. Laissez-faire leaders adopt a hands-off approach, which may lead to a lack of direction or involvement, further reducing the opportunity for teamwork and cooperative input. Hence, the democratic leadership style is particularly effective in environments where collaboration is essential.

4. What does the term "biomedicalization" imply about deviance?

- A. It suggests that all deviant behavior is criminal
- B. It implies a focus on mental illness as a root cause
- C. It denies the existence of social constructs
- D. It emphasizes personal responsibility for behavior

The term "biomedicalization" primarily refers to the process through which health and illness are increasingly defined through medical and biological frameworks, especially in relation to deviance. This concept suggests that deviant behaviors, particularly those associated with mental health, are often viewed through a medical lens. By focusing on mental illness as a root cause of certain deviant behaviors, biomedicalization emphasizes the role of psychological and biological factors in understanding why individuals may deviate from social norms. This perspective suggests that rather than merely labeling these behaviors as immoral or criminal, it is essential to investigate the underlying mental health issues that may drive such actions. In this context, the emphasis on mental illness encourages a more nuanced understanding of deviance, shifting the conversation from purely social judgments to discussions about treatment and health care interventions. This aligns with broader trends in society that seek to address deviance not just as an issue of morality or character, but as a complex interplay of biological, psychological, and social factors.

5. Which of the following is NOT a sociologist associated with functional analysis theories?

- A. Robert Melton
- B. Auguste Comte
- C. Herbert Spencer
- D. Sigmund Freud

The choice of Sigmund Freud as the answer is appropriate because he is primarily known as the founding figure of psychoanalysis, a psychological perspective that focuses on individual behavior, mental processes, and the subconscious mind. Freud's work is centered on the internal drives and conflicts within individuals, rather than social structures or functions, which are the main focus of functional analysis. In contrast, the other individuals listed are closely associated with functionalist theories within sociology. Robert Merton, for instance, expanded on functionalism with concepts like manifest and latent functions, which underlined the ways social structures contribute to societal stability. Auguste Comte is often credited as a pioneer in sociology and introduced the idea of positivism, which laid the groundwork for examining society through a functionalist lens. Herbert Spencer applied the principles of evolution to social theory, viewing society as a complex organism where different parts work together to promote stability and progress. Thus, while functional analysis theories consider how various aspects of society work together to maintain balance and order, Freud's emphasis on the individual psyche separates his work from functionalist perspectives in sociology.

6. What term describes the influences individuals have within a group and how groups affect individuals?

- A. Social facilitation
- B. Groupthink
- C. Group dynamics
- D. Peer pressure

The correct answer is "Group dynamics," which refers to the study of how individuals behave, interact, and influence one another within a group setting. This term encompasses the various forces and psychological processes that occur during group interactions, including how individuals can be affected by the norms, values, and behaviors of the group as a whole. It looks at the relationships and influences that emerge among group members and how these dynamics can shape decisions, behaviors, and social structures. Understanding group dynamics is essential because it helps explain phenomena like conformity, leadership roles, and the development of group identity. This concept is fundamental in sociology as it provides insights into social organization and collective behavior, emphasizing that the interaction between individual agency and group influence is a complex interplay. The other choices, while related to groups in a social context, do not capture the breadth of interactions defined by group dynamics. For example, social facilitation specifically refers to the tendency for individuals to perform differently in the presence of others, often improving on simple tasks while feeling pressured on complex ones. Groupthink addresses a specific phenomenon within groups where the desire for harmony leads to poor decision-making. Peer pressure involves the direct influence exerted by peers to encourage certain behaviors but does not account for the full spectrum of group influences encapsulated by group dynamics.

7. What are the stages of a social movement?

- A. Development, decline, assessment, and implementation
- B. Emergence, coalescence, institutionalization, and decline
- C. Formation, execution, evaluation, and sustainability
- D. Organization, collaboration, recognition, and dissolution

The stages of a social movement are accurately captured by the sequence of emergence, coalescence, institutionalization, and decline. This model provides a framework for understanding how social movements develop over time. Initially, in the emergence stage, social movements begin with widespread discontent or awareness of a social issue that motivates individuals to take action. This can involve people sharing ideas and forming an initial consciousness around the cause but without a formal organization or structure. Next is the coalescence stage, where the movement gathers strength and structure. Activists come together to define their goals more clearly, strategize, and mobilize resources. At this point, they may establish leadership, recruit members, and organize protests or awareness campaigns. This is crucial for the movement to gain momentum and visibility. The third stage, institutionalization, occurs when the movement becomes more formal and established. It may develop into a recognized organization, possibly gaining legal status or institutional support. During this phase, the movement works within the established systems to achieve long-term goals, often resulting in a more bureaucratic structure. Finally, the decline stage refers to the potential waning of the movement. This can happen for several reasons, such as achieving its goals, losing momentum, facing repression, or internal conflicts.

8. Which term describes informal norms that guide everyday behavior?

- A. Mores
- B. Folkways
- C. Taboos
- D. Customs

The term that describes informal norms guiding everyday behavior is folkways. Folkways are the established norms that dictate the routine and casual interactions in society. They encompass behaviors and practices that are considered acceptable and are often based on social customs. For example, simple actions like greeting someone with a handshake or saying "thank you" after receiving a service are guided by folkways. These norms are not strictly enforced; rather, they are expected behaviors within a culture that contribute to social order and cohesiveness. Violation of folkways might result in mild social sanctions, such as disapproval or embarrassment, but usually not in severe consequences. In contrast, mores refer to more significant societal norms that are fundamental to the group's ethics, while taboos pertain to practices that are forbidden or strongly frowned upon. Customs, while similar to folkways, generally refer to practices that might be more formalized and recognized within a specific cultural context, but folkways are specifically about everyday social behavior.

9. Who is known as the founder of conflict theory?

- A. Max Weber
- B. Herbert Spencer
- C. Karl Marx
- D. Emile Durkheim

Karl Marx is widely recognized as the founder of conflict theory, which emphasizes the role of conflict in social structures and relationships. This theoretical framework suggests that society is in a state of perpetual conflict due to competition for limited resources. Marx's analysis focused on the struggles between the bourgeoisie (the capitalists who own the means of production) and the proletariat (the working class who sell their labor). He argued that this conflict is inherent within capitalist societies, where economic inequalities create tension and foster class struggle. Marx's work laid the foundation for later social theorists who would further develop and refine conflict theory, examining various forms of social inequality, including those based on race, gender, and ethnicity. While other sociologists like Max Weber and Emile Durkheim contributed significantly to the discipline, their focus was more on other aspects of social organization and social cohesion rather than the conflict inherent in social structures.

10. Who are the Bourgeoisie in Marxian theory?

- A. The working class
- B. The capitalists
- C. The landowners
- D. The intellectuals

In Marxian theory, the Bourgeoisie refers to the capitalists, who are the owners of the means of production and are responsible for generating profit through the exploitation of labor. According to Karl Marx, society is divided into two main classes: the Bourgeoisie, who own and control productive resources like factories and businesses, and the Proletariat, or working class, who sell their labor to the Bourgeoisie for wages. The significance of the Bourgeoisie in Marx's analysis lies in their role in capitalist society, where they are seen as the driving force behind economic growth and social inequality. Marx argued that the relationship between the Bourgeoisie and Proletariat is inherently exploitative, as the capitalists seek to maximize their profits by minimizing labor costs, often leading to worker alienation and social conflict. This concept is central to understanding class struggle, a key element of Marxian theory, which posits that societal change arises from conflicts between these two classes. The other groups listed do not align with the definition of the Bourgeoisie. The working class refers to the Proletariat, landowners may belong to a separate class or system within feudal structures, and intellectuals can vary in their social class standing and do not specifically