Test Bank

Chapter 1: Understanding and Solving Social Problems

## Multiple Choice

1. Which entity determines what constitutes a social problem?

a. members of society

b. legislation

c. judges

d. sociologists

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Problems Are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Early in 2019, New York passed the “Reproductive Health Act,” which reduced restrictions on abortion in the state. A few short months later, Georgia became the first of several states to pass laws imposing strict restrictions on abortion, including in the cases of rape and incest. What sociological concept demonstrates why two states passed such dramatically different laws to address a social problem at roughly the same time?

a. Northern states are more politically conservative than southern states.

b. Social constructions of what is—and is not—a social problem vary from state to state.

c. Abortion is a much more detrimental to society in Georgia than in New York.

d. The social structures in Georgia are more concerned about public opinion than in New York.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Problems Are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. In 1960, Lois Rabinowitz was ejected from a New York traffic court for wearing pants, which was considered indecent. In 2019, a federal judge struck down a dress code at a charter school in North Carolina that required girls to wear skirts, claiming that it was unconstitutional and discriminatory toward females. What conclusion can be inferred from this change?

a. The institution of the judiciary is becoming more responsive to public opinion.

b. Federal judges are more likely to be politically liberal than in the past.

c. Perceptions of social problems change over time.

d. The constitution has changed since 1960, and now ensures equal protections under the law.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Problems Are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Which term describes the rules, values, beliefs, and material goods of a society?

a. social structure

b. social constructionism

c. social problems

d. culture

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Constructionism Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is an example of a social institution.

a. The government

b. A home

c. An apartment building

d. A car

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Constructionism Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. What movement’s ideas, values, and beliefs emphasized reason and rationality?

a. Renaissance

b. Enlightenment

c. Industrial Revolution

d. French Revolution

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Which sociologist of the early twentieth century used data to advocate for policies to address social problems?

a. Daniel Engber

b. Auguste Comte

c. Jane Addams

d. C. Wright Mills

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. The Enlightenment and \_\_\_\_\_\_ were catalysts for the formation of sociology as an academic discipline.

a. religion

b. monarchy

c. Renaissance

d. Industrial Revolution

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Jane Addams established one of the first settlement houses in the United States, Hull House, in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. educate women

b. house juvenile offenders

c. promote Pan-African organizing efforts

d. provide social services for low income immigrants

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Based on their life’s work, which sociologist can be described as a sociologist *in action*—using their sociological skills to convince people that social injustices are social problems to be addressed*?*

a. Auguste Comte

b. W.E.B. Du Bois

c. Daniel Engber

d. Virginia Wesleyan

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963)

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. \_\_\_\_\_\_ was one of the first to argue that sociology could make sense of the social changes resulting from the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution.

a. Harriet Martineau

b. W.E.B. Du Bois

c. Auguste Comte

d. Jane Addams

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. What did Jane Addams do with the research she conducted?

a. She used the data to further her scientific career.

b. She helped the military improve basic training programs.

c. She advocated for policies to end racism in the United States.

d. She convinced policy makers to address social problems.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. What researcher inspired W.E.B. Du Bois’ data collection methods?

a. Jane Addams

b. August Comte

c. Harriet Martineau

d. Emile Durkheim

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963)

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. What is an example of sociology in action?

a. Collecting data on terrorist events and building a large dataset to study.

b. Utilizing research to encourage universities to improve their response to sexual assault.

c. Presenting a paper on social inequality at a conference.

d. Publishing peer-reviewed research identifying the negative impact of social inequality.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963)

Difficulty Level: Hard

15. Prior to the 2000s, portrayals of LGBTQ individuals in the media were overwhelmingly negative and hyperbolic. In a 2006 study, Edward Schiappa, Peter Gregg and Dean Hewes found that the TV show *Will and Grace*, which included more positive and “normal” portrayals of LGBTQ individuals than seen in years past, was successful in reducing homophobia. What does this study illustrate?

a. Society became less homophobic, which led to more positive portrayals in media.

b. LGBTQ individuals changed the way they were portrayal by gaining power in the media.

c. Social problems are constructed and deconstructed by societies.

d. Homophobia has only recently impacted enough people to be considered a social problem.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: What Sparked the Quicksand Fear?

Difficulty Level: Hard

16. Which statement about social problems is true?

a. Once social problems have been constructed, they cannot be deconstructed by culture or social institutions.

b. Social problems are rational fears experienced by large segments of society.

c. In order to determine if something is a social problem, one must first ensure that many people are negatively impacted.

d. Powerful individuals and groups can influence what society believes to be a social problem.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Based on what you know about how social problems are constructed, which social issue is most likely to be considered a social problem?

a. Several gang-related burglaries occur in a gated community.

b. Lead is discovered in the drinking water of the poor section of town.

c. A large corporation’s most popular product is found to cause cancer.

d. Millions of people go bankrupt each year because they cannot afford healthcare.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Hard

18. In 2006, a poll conducted by Langer Research Associates for ABC News found that 85% of people believed that climate change was caused by human activity. In 2018, the same poll found that the number had decreased to 81%. Based on what you know about how social problems are constructed, which explanation is the most likely cause for the decrease?

a. Scientists have become less successful in communicating the causes of climate change to the public.

b. In recent years, powerful corporations have worked harder to influence public opinion on climate change in a way that benefits the corporations.

c. There has been a decrease in the number of organized social movements related to climate change.

d. The media has reported on new scientific discoveries of other causes for climate change.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Hard

19. People with the \_\_\_\_\_\_ have the most influence over what a society believes to be a social problem.

a. most intelligence

b. greatest passion

c. most power

d. most political connections

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. Juanita is troubled by the rising number of shootings in her community. She lacks money and power, but desperately wants to make a lasting structural difference. If she is to be successful, what is the next thing she should do?

a. Stage a boycott of gun shops in town.

b. March through town with a sign to raise awareness.

c. Begin patrolling high-crime neighborhoods in her car to deter crime.

d. Form an organized group of like-minded people.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Hard

21. What is a goal shared by all organized social movements?

a. change society

b. ensuring that people recognize social inequality

c. furthering scientific research

d. counteracting the influence of large corporations on public policy

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. Why did the same sex marriage movement become successful?

a. People generally become more accepting as time goes on.

b. Legislation negated the tyranny of the majority.

c. Fewer and fewer heterosexual people were marrying.

d. Organizing efforts paired with media campaigns and legal strategies.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Same-Sex Marriage Movement

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. Successful social movements will research the social problem and possible solutions to the problem, as well as identify individuals and groups who can help support their cause. What is the next step?

a. Identify a goal that others can rally around.

b. Form an organized group.

c. Mobilize resources.

d. Organize effective actions.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Hard

24. If a social movement successfully garnered public support for their cause, then this suggests that the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. cause involves a social issue impacting many individuals

b. public will begin to join the movement

c. movement is made up of high-status individuals

d. public will be ready for society to address the social problem

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Same-Sex Marriage Movement

Difficulty Level: Medium

25. It is important for a social movement to form an organized group before planning a rally because \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. political parties are typically associated with rallies

b. rallies are difficult to plan and require specialized resources

c. effective action comes after people organize and come together

d. rallies are not allowed in some cities unless an organized group is involved.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Medium

26. Which statement is true of ordinary individuals without high status who wish to change society?

a. They are unlikely to be involved with successful social movements.

b. They can gain power to cause change if they organize with others.

c. They can achieve change if they create an organized group along with high-status individuals.

d. They can reach their goals if they hold boycotts.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Medium

27. If you are able to connect your personal experiences with public issues, and recognize the historical context in which individuals make choices about their lives, what ability have you gained?

a. sociological perspective

b. sociological eye

c. sociological imagination

d. two core commitments

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Easy

28. Bianca has developed her sociological imagination, and has begun to recognize all kinds of social patterns that she never realized existed in society. This skill is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. the second core commitment

b. political ideology

c. the sociological perspective

d. the sociological eye

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Medium

29. Dwayne plans on becoming a social scientist after graduating from a PhD program. As a black man, he recognizes that his academic choices would not have been available to him if he had been born in his great-grandparents’ generation. What sociological skill is he using when he draws this conclusion?

a. sociological imagination

b. sociological eye

c. sociological perspective

d. sociological constructionism

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Hard

30. In the early years of the opioid crisis, individuals struggling with addiction were perceived as lacking willpower, and their struggles were criminalized. In recent years, several states sued pharmaceutical companies for misleading doctors about the addictive potential of the opioids they manufactured. Being able to identify the opioid crisis as a “public health problem” with structural causes is an example of what sociological concept?

a. sociological imagination

b. sociological eye

c. sociological perspective

d. sociological constructionism

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Hard

31. The two obligations, or core commitments of sociology, include the ability to use a “sociological eye,” and \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. sociological perspective

b. sociological imagination

c. social activism

d. social constructionism

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Easy

32. You have identified a social problem you are interested in studying. According to the social scientific research process, what is your next step?

a. plan to collect data

b. collect and analyze data

c. decide on the type of data to collect

d. conduct a literature review

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Hard

33. According to the social scientific research process, once you have collected and analyzed data relating to your social problem, what should you do next?

a. describe the findings and propose how to solve it

b. determine how to implement solutions

c. publicize the findings

d. conduct a literature review

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

34. After conducting a literature review, what is the next step in the social scientific research process?

a. collect and analyze data

b. decide what new data is needed

c. propose a solution

d. describe your findings

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

35. What is one characteristic of a bad source of information to look out for when conducting a literature review?

a. The organization publicizing the information has a slight political bias.

b. The research was funded by a corporation.

c. The researcher omits explaining data collection.

d. The information is published on a.edu website.

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

36. What is one characteristic of a good source of information for a literature review?

a. The research is published on a.com website.

b. The research is conducted by a right-leaning political organization.

c. The research is funded by a for-profit organization.

d. The researcher explains in detail how data was collected.

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

37. What must you include in your research report in order to ensure that your research can be replicated?

a. description of sample and methodology

b. bibliography

c. qualitative research

d. literature review

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

38. Which factor indicates that a source is trustworthy?

a. It is published on a.edu or.gov website.

b. It includes information about who funded the research.

c. It was funded by an organization with a left-leaning political bias.

d. It was highly shared on social media.

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

39. By following the steps of the social science research process, researchers can protect against \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. objectivity

b. generalizability

c. bias

d. replication

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Easy

40. Which type of information is evaluated by experts in the relevant subject matter and is revised by the author based on those comments, prior to publication?

a. think-tank articles

b. news articles

c. political dissertations

d. peer-reviewed articles

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Easy

## True/False

1. The issues defined as social problems differ from society to society, and may change over time.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Problems are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Most people are capable of forming perceptions without being influenced by society or culture.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Problems are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Social problems are social conditions that are objectively problematic to large numbers of people.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Problems are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Social constructionists believe that what we perceive as a social problem is influenced by our culture.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Constructionism Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Jane Addams collected data on issues of social inequality for the purposes of lobbying policymakers to make structural changes to improve the lives of people in the community.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. The American Revolution, and the dramatic social changes that followed, inspired intellectuals like August Comte to develop the science of sociology.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Sociology emerged because of the need to understand and explain the dramatic cultural, political, and social changes resulting from the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. The Industrial Revolution led to a dramatic transformation in global economies.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Jane Addams was known for applying her research to advocate for black Americans who were victims of racism and institutional discrimination.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Hull House was inspired by settlement houses Addams observed in Europe.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. W.E.B. Du Bois was among the first sociologists to suggest that the science could be used to understand the dramatic social changes that took place after the Industrial Revolution.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Social problems usually reflect the greatest threats to society.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Why Are Some, but Not Other, Social Conditions Considered Social Problems?

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Social conditions that harm millions of people are the most likely to be considered social problems by a society.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. One factor that explains why some social conditions harm many people, yet are not considered to be social problems, is that they do not impact higher-status individuals in society.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. The reason the same sex marriage movement was successful was due to the support and influential power of high-status individuals within society.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Same-Sex Marriage Movement

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. One example of how a social movement successfully mobilized resources is illustrated by the fact that the American Sociological Association submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in favor of same sex marriage.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Same-Sex Marriage Movement

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. All successful social movements identify goals, form organized groups, and create effective strategies.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Successful social movements change public perception about social conditions so that these conditions are viewed as problematic *and* that society needs structural change to address those problems.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. An example of an effective strategy employed by the same sex marriage movement is their focus on changing the law through the court system.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Same-Sex Marriage Movement

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. The same sex marriage movement was successful because it utilized the power of organized groups working together.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Same-Sex Marriage Movement

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. The two core commitments of sociology are using your sociological imagination and recognizing social patterns.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Easy

22. If you recognize that people often live in poverty due to societal factors outside of an individuals’ control, then you have learned to apply your sociological imagination.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. Learning to address problems from a societal perspective is a key component of developing your sociological imagination.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. The second obligation or core commitment that comes from gaining a sociological perspective is to learn to recognize social patterns.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Medium

25. The first step in the social scientific research process is to conduct a literature review.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

26. If you want to ensure that others can replicate your research, you must include a detailed description of your sample and methodology when you publish your research.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

27. Untrustworthy sources lack information about how data were collected and who funded the research.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Easy

28. Sources published on “.edu” websites are not trustworthy.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

29. If research data was collected properly, then the sample should be similar in demographics to the population that the researcher is studying.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

30. Knowing how the research was conducted is the most important factor in determining whether the research is credible.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

## Short Answer

1. Why are social problems considered to be social constructions?

Ans: Because they are based on the social perceptions within a society, and those perceptions change over time and place. This is due to the process of construction, and reconstruction, of society that members of that society engage in every day.

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Social Problems are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. What major historical development inspired scientists to examine social life, ultimately leading to the creation of the academic discipline of sociology?

Ans: The industrial revolution, which dramatically changed the economic structure of industrializing countries, led to rapid social change which created social upheaval. Researchers sought to understand this social change, which led people like Auguste Comte to develop the science of sociology.

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. What innovative approach did Jane Addams utilize in applying the science of sociology?

Ans: Addams did not simply conduct research to collect data, but used that data to define social problems and advocate for social change to address those problems. She was a sociologist in action.

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Inaccurate media portrayals of the threat of quicksand led to widespread irrational fear among members of American society. Provide another example of irrational social panic masquerading as a social problem.

Ans: Social problems are pervasive and measurable. Social problems can also be treated with social policies. Social problems are shared problems from the structure, rather than individual idiosyncrasy or sensational topic. Answers may include examples like the “summer of the shark,” when media over-hyped the danger of people dying or being injured by a shark attack.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: What Sparked the Quicksand Fear?

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Describe the steps carried out by successful social movements.

Ans: They identify a goal, form an organized group, create an effective strategy, mobilize enough resources, organize affective actions, and build power to reach their goals. The point is that by coming together people can accomplish change. The Civil Rights Movement did not happen overnight. It took decades of activism and organization to change society.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Power of Organized People

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. It is possible for social conditions that harm millions of people to not be considered a social problem. Explain why this is the case.

Ans: Social problems are social constructions. Because social problems are about perception, not all harmful social conditions are seen as being problematic. This is the result of the influence that high-status people and groups have over what people believe, due to their greater amount of power.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. How do the core commitments of sociology lead to social change?

Ans: Sociologists must use their sociological eye to identify social patterns. Once they have achieved this, they must use their sociological training to engage in social activism in an attempt to cause social change. The sociological imagination, linking the personal to the political, may lead to developing a sociological eye.

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. A core commitment of gaining a sociological perspective involves the development of a sociological eye by applying your sociological imagination. Identify a social problem and briefly discuss how you would use your sociological imagination to understand the causes and solutions of that problem.

Ans: After identifying an example of a social problem, students should briefly discuss the connection between personal troubles and public issues. They should analyze the problem from a societal perspective.

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Hard

9. Chronologically list the steps sociologists follow when conducting social scientific research.

Ans: (1) Pick a social problem; (2) Conduct a literature review; (3) Decide what new data would help you to better understand the social problem and how to address it; (4) Determine how to collect data; (5) Collect and analyze the data; (6) Describe your findings; (7) Determine how to implement your proposal; (8) Publicize your findings and carry out your planned solution.

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Compare and contrast the characteristics of good and untrustworthy sources.

Ans: Good sources should include information about who funded the research, should indicate if there are political biases in the organization publicizing the research, and should describe how the research collected their data. Unreliable sources lack this information or involve non-representative samples.

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Finding and Collecting Good Information

Difficulty Level: Medium

## Essay

1. How does social constructionism help us understand how social problems can change over time and place? Give an example.

Ans: Answers will vary. Students should define and describe the meaning of social problems (social conditions perceived to be problematic by groups of people) and of the social constructionist perspective (individuals assign meaning to the world around them, and that meaning is influenced by society and culture). They should explain that social problems are defined based on *perception*, and that perception is shaped by culture and social structures within a given society. Any examples should compare social conditions that are seen as problematic by one society and not by another, or should compare social conditions that have become problematic (or deconstructed) over time.

Learning Objective: 1.1: What are social problems and how are they social constructions?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Problems are Social Constructions

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Why did intellectuals like Auguste Comte believe that the science of sociology was necessary?

Ans: Answers will vary. The best answers will discuss and describe the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, and will explain that these eras led to rapid and dramatic social changes and social upheaval. People like Auguste Comte noted that this social upheaval could be understood by studying the social world using what came to be recognized as sociological methods. Students should explain how sociology’s goal was to take these lessons and use them to improve society and solve social problems. Ideally, students should discuss how Jane Addams and W.E.B. Du Bois engaged in active, applied sociology by going further than basic research; both sociologists personally advocated for solutions to what they identified as social problems.

Learning Objective: 1.2: What sparked the development of the science of sociology?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Sociology and the Study of Social Problems

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Women in the United States did not gain the right to vote until 1920 with the passage of the 19th amendment. However, this was not perceived as a social problem in the early years of America’s founding. Why?

Ans: Answers will vary. Ideally, answers should discuss the concept of social constructionism, and mention that culture has a huge impact on our perceptions of social problems. The fact that men held a vast majority of the power in early society, and that powerful groups have more influence over what people believe, should also be addressed. Finally, students should discuss how the women’s suffrage movement allowed women to organize and challenge male supremacy over political affairs through creating strategies, mobilizing resources, and ultimately changing society’s perceptions.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Why are some social conditions considered social problems while others are not?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Social Problems and Power

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Examine the concepts of the sociological eye and the sociological imagination. Explain the differences between these concepts, and describe how they are connected.

Ans: Answers will vary. Students should define the terms and explain their significance to one another and to the sociological perspective. The *sociological eye* is the first core commitment that comes with gaining a sociological perspective. It involves the ability to scratch beneath the surface and identify social patterns that exist in our world. This is only achievable by attaining a *sociological imagination.* The sociological imagination gives researchers the ability to recognize the patterns that exist between individuals and society by emphasizing the societal causes of social problems.

Learning Objective: 1.4: What can be done to help address social problems?

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Core Commitments of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Imagine that you plan on conducting research on climate change. Now that your social problem has been identified, explain how you would go about following the remaining steps in the social scientific research process, including how you would ensure unbiased, accurate research that can be replicated.

Ans: Answers will vary. For this question, students should start with step 2 of the social scientific research process: (2) Conduct a literature review to understand what is already known. Students should talk about the importance of good sources, and how to distinguish good sources from untrustworthy sources. (3) Decide what new data would help you to better understand the social problem and how to address it; (4) Determine how to collect data, which requires a research write clear descriptions of samples and the methodology to ensure that future researchers can replicate the research; (5) Collect and analyze the data; (6) Describe your findings; (7) Determine how to implement your proposal; (8) Publicize your findings and carry out your planned solution.

Learning Objective: 1.5: What are the steps of the social scientific research process?

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: How to Conduct Social Scientific Research

Difficulty Level: Hard