

**Sociological Theory Midterm Test  
Spring 2008**

1. Sociological theorists attempt to do all of the following except (p. 1-2)

- a. systematize knowledge of the social world.
- b. focus on personal relationships.
- c. publish their theories.
- d. rely on data to create their theories.

**B**

2. Theories that attempt to tell the story of a great stretch of human history are called: (p. 9)

- a. portraits of the social world.
- b. grand theories.
- c. multicultural theories.
- d. theories of everyday life.

**B**

3. How are more recent sociological theories attempting to offer a more realistic view of the social world?  
(p. 5-6)

- a. They are focusing on the experiences of white male sociologists.
- b. They are politically conservative.
- c. They are incorporating the experiences of minority group members.
- d. They are based on hypotheses that can be tested empirically.

**C**

4. The term “means-end rational action” is used to describe: (p. 30)

- a. action that is the result of powerful emotions.
- b. action that is chosen on the basis of an actor’s commitment to a larger set of values.
- c. action that is chosen on the basis of an actor’s rational evaluation of the best means to achieve a desired end.
- d. action that is done on the basis of traditional habits and customs.

**C**

5. The term “value-rational action” is used by Weber to describe: (p. 30)

- a. action that is the result of conservative mores.
- b. action that is chosen on the basis of an actor’s commitment to a larger set of values.
- c. action that is chosen on the basis of an actor’s instincts.
- d. action that is the result of emotion.

**B**

6. In Emile Durkheim’s theory, the weakening of collective conscience under organic solidarity may lead to: (p. 17)

- a. anomie.
- b. alienation.

- c. the emotional dynamics of subordinate positioning that limit women's options.
- d. a cataclysm entirely unforeseen by the oracles.

A

7. An ideal type is a: (p. 36)

- a. utopian blueprint for a better society.
- b. model or theoretical measuring rod used for the comparison of various empirical examples of a given social phenomenon.
- c. demographic regression equation, which asserts that rapid population growth can bring about state breakdown when economic and political institutions are too rigid.
- d. charismatic person who attracts the affection of members of the opposite sex.

B

8. Max Weber's three types of authority are: (pp. 37-39)

- a. alpha, beta, and gamma.
- b. patrimonial, feudal, and imperial.
- c. maternal, paternal, and neuter.
- d. rational-legal, traditional, and charismatic.

D

9. According to Karl Marx, who owns the means of production under capitalism? (p. 23)

- a. the proletariat
- b. the communist party
- c. the Protestants
- d. capitalists

D

10. Marx viewed communism as: (p. 27)

- a. the evil empire.
- b. the social system that would permit the expression of full human potential.
- c. the social system that would emerge from the revolutionary overthrow of feudalism.
- d. a necessary stage in the development of capitalism.

B

11. Rational-legal authority is a type of authority in which: (p. 40)

- a. all value comes from labor.
- b. the individual knows not what to do.
- c. the proletariat demystifies the conditions of his existence, attains class consciousness, and engages in praxis.
- d. the legitimacy of leaders is derived from a series of codified rules and regulations.

D

12. False consciousness occurs in capitalism when: (p. 25)

- a. the intellectuals are the shoe-shine boys of the ruling elite.

- b. the system colonizes the lifeworld under conditions of increasing rationalization in the industrial world.
- c. slave and communal modes of production are fused in the wake of barbarian invasions.
- d. the proletariat and the capitalists have a distorted sense of themselves, their relationship to one another, and the workings of capitalism.

D

13. According to Max Weber, the Protestant ethic was a driving force in: (p. 32-33)

- a. the development of the spirit of capitalism.
- b. the mystification of feudalism.
- c. the ethics of ancient Judaism.
- d. the de-problematization of postmodern criticality.

A

14. According to Durkheim, the ideas shared by members of a group or society are known as:(p. 16)

- a. objective culture.
- b. collective rationality.
- c. restitutive law.
- d. collective conscience.

D

15. In Simmel's theory, \_\_\_\_\_ refer to patterns imposed on events, actions, and interactions by people in their everyday lives. (p.44)

- a. types
- b. associations
- c. forms
- d. lies

C

16. People tend to \_\_\_\_\_ social structures by endowing them with a separate and real existence in spite of the fact that all are created by people. (p. 46)

- a. mystify
- b. fetishize
- c. rationalize
- d. reify

D

17. Simmel's theory of space emphasizes the importance of: (p. 49)

- a. boundaries.
- b. postmodern bricolage.
- c. the practice of feng shui.
- d. geographic features.

A

18. According to Simmel, things that are close to us and easy to obtain: (p. 50)

- a. have great value to us.
- b. are usually produced in factories.
- c. are of no great value to us.
- d. are usually produced by our own hands.

C

19. In Georg Simmel's theory, an increasing division of labor leads to: (p. 51)

- a. increased specialization and the ability to produce more sophisticated and complex components of objective culture.
- b. anomie and the tragedy of suicide.
- c. mental confusion.
- d. the labor theory of value.

A

20. Thorstein Veblen's term for the consumption of goods that elevates status and creates invidious distinctions is: (p. 53)

- a. invidious consumption.
- b. penurious consumption.
- c. conspicuous consumption.
- d. immaculate consumption.

C

21. Which of the following is an example of a significant gesture? (p. 56)

- a. human snoring
- b. the bark of a dog
- c. sign language
- d. a sneeze

C

22. According to Mead, language: (p. 57)

- a. is a nonsignificant gesture.
- b. makes possible the ability to think.
- c. is possessed only by lower animals.
- d. is the only means of communication available to humans.

B

23. The ability to put ourselves in the place of others is: (p. 58)

- a. reflexivity.
- b. the self.
- c. perspectivity.
- d. language.

A

24. The generalized other is: (p. 59)

- a. the paternal voice.
- b. the religious impulse.
- c. the attitude of the entire community.
- d. the attitude of a role model.

C

25. Which of the following is true of the me? (p. 62)

- a. It is the conformist aspect of the self.
- b. It is the aspect of the self of which most people are aware.
- c. It is the one true self.
- d. It is the aspect of the self that is most independent.

A

26. Sociologists refer to patterned social interaction and persistent social relations as: (p. 64)

- a. functions.
- b. stratification.
- c. structures.
- d. grand theories.

C

27. The Parsonsian subsystem that performs the function of helping society adapt to its environment is: (p. 75-76)

- a. the economy.
- b. the fiduciary system.
- c. the polity.
- d. the societal community.

A

28. Merton was critical of Parsonsian structural functionalism because he believed: (p. 80)

- a. in the functional unity of society.
- b. social structures were highly integrated.
- c. social structures did not always function in a positive way.
- d. in the indispensability of all social structures that existed in society.

C

29. Which of the following concepts was used by Merton to describe a serious disconnection between social structure and culture? (p. 84)

- a. latent functions
- b. dysfunctions
- c. anomie
- d. debunking

C

30. According to Dahrendorf, society is characterized by a state of: (p. 86)

- a. equilibrium.
- b. change.
- c. stability.
- d. common morality.

B

31. Dahrendorf believes that authority resides in: (p. 87)

- a. social positions.
- b. individuals.
- c. the economy.
- d. the polity.

A

32. According to Luhmann's system theory: (p. 92)

- a. a system is always more complex than its environment.
- b. a system is always less complex than its environment.
- c. the environment continually attempts to simplify a system.
- d. a system is not affected by its environment.

B

33. The form of differentiation that dominates modern society is called: (p. 98)

- a. functional differentiation.
- b. stratificatory differentiation.
- c. center-periphery differentiation.
- d. segmentary differentiation.

A

34. Which of the following sociological thinkers favored theories of the middle-range? (p. 80)

- a. Talcott Parsons
- b. Robert Merton
- c. Ralf Dahrendorf
- d. Niklas Luhmann

B

35. In a one-dimensional society people lose the capacity to: (p. 108)

- a. think critically.
- b. work hard.
- c. be efficient.
- d. pray fervently.

A

36. Standardized work routines: (p. 112)

- a. increase productivity.
- b. satisfy workers.
- c. decrease diversity.
- d. are adaptable.

A

37. Post-Fordist systems of production are: (p. 114)

- a. more civilized.
- b. more flexible.
- c. more homogenous.
- d. more efficient.

B

38. Sneakerization means that footwear has become: (p. 114)

- a. more athletic.
- b. less formal.
- c. more specialized.
- d. less heterogeneous.

C

39. The three geographic areas of the capitalist world economy are: (p. 115)

- a. state, nation, world.
- b. east, west, south.
- c. agrarian, industrial, post-industrial.
- d. core, semi-periphery, periphery.

D

40. According to Habermas, consensus can only be achieved under conditions of: (p. 124)

- a. expert discourse.
- b. free and open communication.
- c. civil society.
- d. colonization.

B

41. The image of the Juggernaut suggests: (p. 125)

- a. the rationalization of the lifeworld.
- b. control of the system.
- c. the absence of reason.
- d. the dangers of modernity.

D

42. According to Ulrich Beck, the \_\_\_\_\_ effect occurs when risks strike back at the upper classes and rich nations most responsible for their production. (p. 127)

- a. boomerang
- b. slingshot
- c. Giddens
- d. blowback

A

43. \_\_\_\_ thinking, according to the critical theorists, is obsessed with efficiency. (p. 108)

- a. Juggernaut
- b. Technocratic
- c. Natural
- d. Civilized

B

44. In the view of the Immanuel Wallerstein, the \_\_\_\_ consists of areas that provide raw materials to the core and are heavily exploited by it. (p. 115)

- a. core
- b. semiperiphery
- c. periphery
- d. Fordist mode of production

C

45. Which of these thinkers says that modern society is threatening to spin out of control? (p. 120)

- a. Wallerstein
- b. Elias
- c. Giddens
- d. Marcuse

C

46. Which of the following might be a part of the personal front? (p. 138)

- a. a priest's robe
- b. the church in which a priest performs a religious ritual
- c. the ego
- d. the soccer ball that a doctor keeps in his consulting office

A

47. In Goffman's theory, manner: (p. 138)

- a. tells the audience the performer's social status.
- b. is the set of rules that prescribe good behavior in any society.
- c. is the source of ego in animals.
- d. tells the audience the role that the performer expects to play in a situation.

D

48. The term used to describe the techniques that actors use to maintain a performance in the face of problems is: (p. 137)

- a. front stage manipulation.
- b. impression management.
- c. correctivation.
- d. self-presentation.

B

49. Ethnomethodologists study conversations because: (p. 145)

- a. conversations reveal the personality traits that drive interpersonal relations.
- b. the self is created in conversation.
- c. they are interested in analyzing the accounts that people give of themselves in conversation.
- d. conversations are natural breaching experiments that reveal the structure of social facts.

C

50. Garfinkel's work with Agnes shows that: (p. 148)

- a. gender is a set of practices that must be learned.
- b. chimpanzees are capable of communicating in a simple spoken language.
- c. chimpanzees are incapable of solving complex problems.
- d. gender is an outgrowth of biological makeup.

A

51. Which theory did George Homans draw on to develop his exchange theory? (p. 149)

- a. neoclassical economics
- b. psychological behaviorism
- c. psychoanalysis
- d. symbolic interactionism

B

52. While Skinner was interested in the study of individual behavior, Homans was interested in the study of: (p. 151)

- a. pigeon behavior.
- b. nineteenth-century French political life
- c. everyday economic behavior.
- d. the interaction between individuals.

D

53. In exchange theory, actor's preferences or values are called: (p. 155)

- a. profits.
- b. utilities.
- c. goods.
- d. miniature selves.

B

54. Opportunity costs are: (p. 157)

- a. the limits that social institutions place on individual rational behavior.
- b. the costs of forgoing the next-most attractive action.
- c. the risks that people face when they challenge figures of authority.
- d. the difference between the amount of money a laborer makes in a year, and the amount of money a capitalist makes in a year.

B

55. The focus of symbolic interactionism is on:

- a. extraordinary events.
- b. everyday life.
- c. long-term historical shifts.
- d. neoclassical economics.

B

56. Which one of the following is a conceptual contribution of Charles H. Cooley?

- a. the looking-glass self
- b. stigma
- c. opportunity costs
- d. impression management

A

57. Within an exchange network, all actors: (p. 165)

- a. have a variety of resources.
- b. adhere to norms of exchange.
- c. seek to extend their network relations.
- d. exercise dyadic power.

A

58. When there is an imbalance in dependence, the actor with less dependence: (p. 166)

- a. has an advantage in terms of power.
- b. has a disadvantage in terms of power.
- c. has an advantage in terms of social capital.
- d. has a disadvantage in terms of social capital.

A

59. The ability to describe our actions in words is called:

- a. practical consciousness.
- b. discursive action.
- c. reflexive practicality.
- d. discursive consciousness.

D

60. Structuration theory grants great importance to: (p. 170)

- a. the intent of the actor.
- b. external structure.
- c. the power of the actor.
- d. the structures of the mind.

C

61. Giddens calls specific rules and resources that give similar social practices a systematic form: (p. 170)

- a. habitus.
- b. structures.
- c. norms.
- d. mindscapes.

B

62. According to Giddens, social systems are made up of: (p. 171)

- a. collections of material and non-material social facts.
- b. networks of exchange.
- c. reproduced social practices.
- d. ordered environments.

C

63. According to Margaret Archer, collapsing the analytical distinction between structure and agency makes it difficult for Giddens to analyze: (p. 172)

- a. the similarities between the two.
- b. the interrelations between the two.
- c. the differences between the two.
- d. the autonomy of agents.

B

64. Bourdieu calls the internalized schemes through which people perceive, understand, appreciate and evaluate the social world: (p. 175)

- a. dispositions.
- b. tastes.
- c. habitus.
- d. consciousness.

C

65. The relative weight of a person's honor and prestige is his or her: (p. 178)

- a. economic capital.
- b. cultural capital.
- c. social capital.
- d. symbolic capital.

D

66. Differences among social classes are primarily demonstrated through: (p. 179)

- a. wealth.
- b. taste.
- c. status.
- d. cosmopolitanism.

B

67. Which wave of feminist activism centered on women's struggle for the right to vote and for admission into the political process? (p. 185)

- a. First Wave
- b. Second Wave
- c. Third Wave
- d. Fourth Wave

A

68. All feminist theories assert that: (p. 188)

- a. Women's experiences are different from men's.
- b. Women's situation is less privileged than men's.
- c. Women are repressed by men.
- d. Women's experiences vary by their social location.

A

69. Feminists define gender as: (p. 188)

- a. a biological fact.
- b. a social construct.
- c. an ontological state.
- d. a choice.

B

70. Which of the following sentences best describes theories of structural oppression? (p. 188)

- a. Women's experiences of oppression vary by their social location.
- b. Women are simply different from men.
- c. Structure is oppressive.
- d. Women are better than men.

A

71. Patricia Hill Collins represents which one of the following variants of feminist theory? (p. 204-207)

- a. cultural feminism
- b. liberal feminism
- c. Maoist feminism
- d. intersectionality theory

D

72. The perspective of embodied actors within groups that are differentially located in

social structure is known as a(n): (p. 208)

- a. embodied perspective.
- b. standpoint.
- c. outsider within.
- d. outsider without.

**B**

73. Liberal feminists pursue change through: (p. 191)

- a. law.
- b. sex.
- c. revolution.
- d. meditation.

**A**

74. Institutional explanations argue that gender differences result from: (p. 190)

- a. biology.
- b. the I and the me.
- c. different roles that men and women play within institutional settings.
- d. capitalist patriarchy.

**C**

75. Which of the following is a concept employed by socialist feminists? (p. 201)

- a. the Protestant Ethic
- b. the Talbotization of society
- c. the juggernaut of gender
- d. historical materialism

**D**

76. For radical feminists, why does patriarchy exist as a near-universal social form? (p. 199)

- a. Women are nicer than men.
- b. Men can muster physical force to establish control.
- c. Men are smarter than women.
- d. Matriarchies were less efficient and adaptable.

**B**

77. What did Michel Foucault call the practices and techniques by which control is exercised over people? (p. 219)

- a. postindustrialism
- b. postmodernism
- c. ambivalence
- d. governmentalities

**D**

78. The panopticon is a specific example of: (p.220)

- a. hierarchical power.
- b. postmodern morality.
- c. consumer culture.
- d. neotribal politics.

A

79. From a postmodern perspective, morality: (p. 229)

- a. is bad.
- b. is universal.
- c. is irrational.
- d. emanates from society as a whole.

C

80. Which of the following theorists describes consumption as a language? (p. 231)

- a. Zygmunt Bauman
- b. Jean Baudrillard
- c. Daniel Bell
- d. Michel Foucault

B

81. What is the term that describes a reversible process of giving and receiving? (p. 234)

- a. monetary exchange
- b. symbolic exchange
- c. postindustrial exchange
- d. simulated exchange

B

82. Jean Baudrillard believes that contemporary society is becoming increasingly: (p. 235)

- a. enchanted.
- b. authentic.
- c. simulated.
- d. dominated by symbolic exchanges.

C

83. Things that make consumption possible are called (p. 239)

- a. the means of consumption.
- b. consumer capital.
- c. the means of production.
- d. simulations.

A

84. The goal of a dream world is to arouse a: (p. 242)

- a. desire that can immediately be satisfied.

- b. free-floating desire that be satisfied in the future.
- c. desire to use a credit-card.
- d. desire to save money.

**B**

85. Which of the following theorists discusses endocolonization? (p. 246)

- a. Jean Baudrillard
- b. Walter Benjamin
- c. George Ritzer
- d. Paul Virilio

**D**

86. Why do many feminists question postmodernism? (pp. 248-249)

- a. Postmodern theory is too reflexive.
- b. Postmodern theorists are all men.
- c. Postmodern theory is located outside the academy.
- d. Postmodern theory is a privileged discourse.

**D**

87. According to Baudrillard what controls consumption? (p. 231)

- a. the advertising industry
- b. human needs
- c. a code
- d. symbolic exchange

**C**

88. While they're all considered postmodern theorists because of their perspectives and subject matter, which one of these theorists directly addressed the condition of postmodernity in his work?

- a. Michel Foucault
- b. Jean Baudrillard
- c. Zygmunt Bauman
- d. Paul Virilio

**C**

89. \_\_\_\_\_ is defined as the influence of a particular culture on a wide array of cultures. (p. 253)

- a. Globalization
- b. Hegemony
- c. Cultural imperialism
- d. Structuration

**A**

90. The transnational expansion of common codes and practices is known as:

- a. homogenization.

- b. heterogenization.
- c. structuration.
- d. empire.

A

91. Anthony Giddens describes globalization as a(n): (pp. 254-255)

- a. McDonaldized Society.
- b. empire.
- c. colonization of the lifeworld.
- d. runaway world.

D

92. According to Huntington, the cultural differences between arrogant Western Civilization and intolerant Islam will: (pp. 258-262)

- a. be healed by a political rapprochement
- b. result in a clash of civilizations.
- c. can be handled civilly by political leaders.
- d. create hybrid modern societies in the Middle East.

B

93. Theories of \_\_\_\_\_ argue that the cultures of the world are growing increasingly similar. (p. 262)

- a. cultural differentialism
- b. cultural convergence
- c. cultural hybridization
- d. cultural criticism

B

94. The principles of \_\_\_\_\_ include efficiency, predictability, calculability, control, and the irrationality of rationality. ( p. 263-265)

- a. Walmartization
- b. Coca-colonization
- c. McDonaldization
- d. Pizzafication

C

95. \_\_\_\_\_ means that products, settings, employee and customer behavior are pretty much the same from one geographical setting to another. (p. 264)

- a. Efficiency
- b. Predictability
- c. Calculability
- d. Control

B

96. \_\_\_\_\_ is a paradigm that emphasizes the mixing of cultures and the production of new unique cultures that are not reducible to the local or the global. (p. 268)

- a. Cultural differentialism
- b. Cultural convergence
- c. Cultural hybridization
- d. Cultural criticism

C

97. \_\_\_\_\_ can be defined as the interpenetration of the global and local resulting in unique outcomes in different geographical areas. (p. 268)

- a. Pluralism
- b. Innovation
- c. Relationality
- d. Glocalization

D

98. \_\_\_\_\_ include the fluid, global configuration of high and low, mechanical and information technology that moves freely and quickly around the globe. (p. 270)

- a. Ethnoscapes
- b. Technoscapes
- c. Mediascapes
- d. Ideoscapes

B

99. Leslie Sklair argues that the dominant class of the globalization era is: (p. 271-272)

- a. the lumpenproletariat
- b. the middle class
- c. the transnational capitalist class
- d. vagabonds

C

100. The culture -ideology of consumption: (p. 273)

- a. aids transnational corporations by stimulating demand.
- b. impedes transnational corporations by generating social strain.
- c. aids the transnational capitalist class by providing them with prestige.
- d. undermines the nation-state by commodifying patriotism.

A