

Test your knowledge and understanding: Sociological theory

Questions based on chapter 12 of *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives Student Handbook*

- 1 Which two of the following are structural perspectives?**
 - a Functionalism
 - b Marxism
 - c Symbolic interactionism
 - d Weber's theory of social action
- 2 Which of the following is not a conflict perspective?**
 - a Functionalism
 - b Marxism
 - c Radical feminism
 - d Liberal feminism
- 3 Functionalism is often seen as having:**
 - a A conservative ideology
 - b A liberal ideology
 - c A radical ideology
 - d An anarchistic ideology
- 4 According to Durkheim, which two of the following are problems of societies with a complex division of labour?**
 - a Fatalism
 - b Anomie
 - c Egoism
 - d Social facts
- 5 What does Parsons call the process by which society develops more complex institutions?**
 - a Institutional specialization
 - b Structural differentiation
 - c Structural specialization
 - d Institutional differentiation
- 6 Dialectical materialism means:**
 - a The existence of conflict
 - b The study of socialization
 - c The clash of material forces such as classes
 - d The economic foundations of society
- 7 Which of the following is part of the superstructure of society in Marxist theory?**
 - a Technology
 - b The bourgeoisie
 - c The state
 - d Raw materials
- 8 In Weber's sociology, *Verstehen* means:**
 - a Social action
 - b Structure
 - c Meaning
 - d Understanding
- 9 Weber thought that modern societies were dominated by:**
 - a Traditional social action
 - b Charisma
 - c Rational social action
 - d Idealism
- 10 What type of feminist puts primary emphasis on material inequality?**
 - a Radical feminist
 - b Marxist feminist
 - c Liberal feminist
 - d Postmodern feminist
- 11 What type of feminist is most likely to say that males and females should live separate lives?**
 - a Radical feminist
 - b Marxist feminist
 - c Liberal feminist
 - d Postmodern feminist
- 12 What type of feminist puts most emphasis on the use of language as a source of gender inequality?**
 - a Radical feminist
 - b Black feminist
 - c Postmodern feminist
 - d Marxist feminist
- 13 Anna Pollert criticizes the concept of patriarchy for:**
 - a Confusing description and explanation
 - b Ignoring improvements in the position of women
 - c Assuming that women are dominated
 - d Being sexist
- 14 The founder of symbolic interactionism is usually seen as:**
 - a Blumer
 - b Mead
 - c Husserl
 - d Becker
- 15 For Mills the sociological imagination involves:**
 - a Making up new theories
 - b Predicting the future of society
 - c Understanding how history relates to the lives of individuals
 - d Producing creative and original sociological ideas
- 16 Herbert Blumer believes that:**
 - a There are no rules in society
 - b Rules are fixed and inflexible
 - c Rules exist but are flexible
 - d Modern societies are increasingly dominated by rules
- 17 In phenomenology, phenomena are:**
 - a Things which belong in the same category
 - b Amazing social events.
 - c The basic rules of society
 - d Causal explanations

- 18** In interaction, when you try to understand the viewpoint of somebody else, you:
- a** Take the role of the other
 - b** Use self-analysis
 - c** Engage in empathy
 - d** Use telepathy
- 19** In what context was the term 'postmodern' first used?
- a** Art
 - b** Literature
 - c** Architecture
 - d** Sociology
- 20** The intellectual movement which gave rise to modernity is known as:
- a** The Awakening
 - b** The Renaissance
 - c** The Illumination
 - d** The Enlightenment
- 21** According to Baudrillard, postmodern society is based on:
- a** Materialism
 - b** The production and sale of signs
 - c** Art
 - d** Language games
- 22** According to Lyotard the most important characteristic of postmodernity is:
- a** Incredulity towards metanarratives
 - b** The revival of religion
 - c** The development of tourism
 - d** Belief in scientific rationalism
- 23** Which of the following is not mentioned by Strinati as a characteristic of postmodernism?
- a** The triumph of style over substance
 - b** Confusions over space and time
 - c** The breakdown of the distinction between high and low culture
 - d** The belief in progress
- 24** Which of the following is put forward by Philo & Miller as a criticism of postmodernism?
- a** It fails to recognize the increasing importance of consumer culture
 - b** It ignores growing inequalities of wealth and power
 - c** It exaggerates the importance of religion
 - d** It ignores the increasing choice that people have about their identity
- 25** According to Giddens, reflexivity means:
- a** Greater flexibility
 - b** Automatic reaction
 - c** Reflection and planning future actions
 - d** Insensitivity to other cultures
- 26** The sociological theory that puts most emphasis on materialism is:
- a** Interactionism
 - b** Marxism
 - c** Functionalism
 - d** Postmodernism
- 27** The sociological theory that denies the existence of facts about society is:
- a** Marxism
 - b** Weberian theory
 - c** Phenomenology
 - d** Giddens's theory
- 28** Giddens calls the latest stage in the development of society:
- a** High modernity
 - b** Late modernity
 - c** Young postmodernity
 - d** Pre-postmodernity
- 29** By 'hegemony' Antonio Gramsci means:
- a** Cultural styles
 - b** Political domination
 - c** The ruling class
 - d** The beliefs of workers
- 30** A communist society can best be defined as:
- a** A society in which the ruling class have no power
 - b** A society in which everybody is equal
 - c** A society in which capitalism does not exist
 - d** A society in which the means of production are communally owned

Answers

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|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | <i>a and b</i> | 16 | <i>c</i> |
| 2 | <i>a</i> | 17 | <i>a</i> |
| 3 | <i>a</i> | 18 | <i>a</i> |
| 4 | <i>b and c</i> | 19 | <i>c</i> |
| 5 | <i>b</i> | 20 | <i>d</i> |
| 6 | <i>c</i> | 21 | <i>b</i> |
| 7 | <i>c</i> | 22 | <i>a</i> |
| 8 | <i>d</i> | 23 | <i>d</i> |
| 9 | <i>c</i> | 24 | <i>b</i> |
| 10 | <i>b</i> | 25 | <i>c</i> |
| 11 | <i>a</i> | 26 | <i>b</i> |
| 12 | <i>c</i> | 27 | <i>c</i> |
| 13 | <i>a</i> | 28 | <i>a</i> |
| 14 | <i>b</i> | 29 | <i>b</i> |
| 15 | <i>c</i> | 30 | <i>d</i> |