

# Test your knowledge and understanding: Health, medicine & the body

## Questions based on chapter 8 of Sociology: Themes and Perspectives Student Handbook

- 1 Which of the following is a functional definition of an ill person?**
  - a A person who lacks physical and spiritual health
  - b A person who is not fit and strong
  - c A person who cannot carry out their normal social roles as a result of health problems
  - d A person whose body is pathologically diseased
- 2 Which of these is not part of the sick role, according to Parsons?**
  - a The opportunity to miss work legitimately
  - b The right not to be blamed for being sick
  - c The obligation to seek medical help
  - d The chance to obtain sympathy from others
- 3 The political economy approach is closest to:**
  - a A Marxist perspective
  - b A Weberian perspective
  - c A feminist perspective
  - d An interactionist perspective
- 4 Which of the following examples would not support the political economy approach?**
  - a The use of patents by drug companies to ensure they can charge high prices for drugs
  - b The rising life expectancy in some capitalist countries
  - c The continuation of breast implant surgery despite the dangers
  - d The large numbers of accidents that take place at work
- 5 According to Ivan Illich, social iatrogenesis involves:**
  - a The reduced ability of the population to come to terms with illness and death
  - b The harm which results from a passive and docile population who rely on the medical profession
  - c The side effects of medical intervention
  - d The increasing power of the medical profession
- 6 Which of the following is not an example of medicalization?**
  - a A rise in the number of babies delivered by caesarian section
  - b An alcoholic visiting Alcoholics Anonymous
  - c A patient being prescribed antidepressants after the death of her child
  - d The recognition of Gulf War Syndrome
- 7 Which of the following is an example of an interactionist study of health?**
  - a The Black Report
  - b Michael Bury's study of the effects of being diagnosed with a chronic illness
  - c Graham & Oakley's study of pregnancy
  - d Becker's study of visits to the doctor
- 8 Which of the following is an example of the 'illness iceberg'?**
  - a A physiotherapist treating a muscle strain
  - b An elderly person waiting for a hip replacement
  - c A woman treating her child with complementary therapy
  - d A man going to exercise classes after a heart attack
- 9 Three of the following do not believe that Repetitive Strain Injury is a disease. Which is the odd one out?**
  - a Trade unions
  - b Employers
  - c Psychiatrists
  - d The CBI
- 10 Which of the following best describes a socialist feminist view of health?**
  - a Health care in Britain is patriarchal and completely dominated by men
  - b Health care in Britain is necessary for the smooth running of society
  - c Health care in Britain serves the needs of capitalists and men
  - d Health care in Britain reflects gender roles
- 11 According to radical feminists doctors control women in pregnancy by:**
  - a Discussing their family history of pregnancy
  - b Advising them on diet in pregnancy
  - c Insisting they lie down to be examined
  - d Explaining complex medical terminology
- 12 Which of these is not an aspect of the biomedical model?**
  - a An emphasis upon environmental factors in causing illness
  - b Seeing the mind and body as separate entities
  - c Seeking specific causes for illnesses
  - d Using the mechanical metaphor
- 13 Thomas McKeown believes that improvements in health in Britain since the early 18th century have largely been caused by:**
  - a Immunization
  - b Improvements in surgery
  - c Improvements in nutrition and hygiene
  - d Better diagnosis of illness
- 14 Functionalists believe doctors deserve their high status and rewards. Which of these factors does not support this?**
  - a Possession of a body of specialized knowledge
  - b Passing relevant examinations
  - c Control by the state
  - d Being subject to a code of conduct
- 15 Weberians see professionalism as a successful market strategy. Doctors maintain their high rewards by:**
  - a Social closure
  - b Staying close to their patients
  - c Working as equals with other professions
  - d Ensuring plenty of doctors are trained

- 16** The indeterminacy/technicality ratio refers to:
- a The exclusion of people who are not trained from practising medicine
  - b The use of technical jargon to exclude women from medicine
  - c The use of technical jargon to mystify medicine
  - d The degree of choice that doctors have about the way that they practise medicine
- 17** According to Ernst, what proportion of the population use complementary medicine?
- a 10%
  - b 15%
  - c 20%
  - d 25%
- 18** Dakx identified three types of medicine. Which is the odd one out?
- a Popular medicine
  - b Therapeutic medicine
  - c Folk medicine
  - d Biomedicine
- 19** According to which of the following do consumption groups have more influence on health inequalities than class?
- a Lobstein
  - b Doyal & Pennell
  - c AnneWitz
  - d Peter Saunders
- 20** Which of the following cannot be used to measure health inequality?
- a Mortality rates
  - b Standardised mortality rates
  - c Morbidity rates
  - d Size of doctors' practices
- 21** Shaw *et al* see class inequalities in health as being due to:
- a The way the statistics are calculated
  - b Differences in the possession of social capital
  - c An accumulation of disadvantages during a person's life
  - d Genetic differences between the classes
- 22** Which of the following is *not* an explanation of health inequalities in Britain?
- a Higher rates of smoking and drinking amongst the working class
  - b The middle class eating more fresh fruit and vegetables
  - c Lack of health education in poorer groups
  - d Racial prejudice amongst health workers
- 23** Which of the following is *not* a reason why women suffer worse health than men?
- a Women are likely to earn lower wages
  - b Women spend less money on themselves
  - c Women are more likely to engage in edge-work
  - d Women do long hours of domestic work in poor working conditions
- 24** Three of the following have been used to explain the differences in health amongst ethnic minorities. Which is the odd one out?
- a Low rates of smoking and drinking
  - b Differences in diet
  - c Higher rates of unemployment
  - d Better educational qualifications
- 25** Which of the following statements would Giddens disagree with?
- a People are unable to see the body from outside
  - b People use drugs and diets to achieve the perfect body
  - c The body is an important part of identity
  - d There is an increased choice about sexuality
- 26** Which of these is *not* a result of the birth of the clinic?
- a The growth of clinical observation
  - b The increase in physical examination
  - c Increased surveillance
  - d Treatment of the body as a whole
- 27** According to Goffman, discreditable stigma are:
- a Types of disability
  - b Physical deformities which may be hidden
  - c Infectious illnesses
  - d Easily visible deformities
- 28** The view that the problems of disabled people results from society's unwillingness to accommodate their needs is called the:
- a Personal tragedy of disability
  - b The impediment theory of disability
  - c The labelling theory of disability
  - d The social model of disability
- 29** Women are more likely to be diagnosed with mental illness because:
- a They seek help more often than men
  - b Middle-class women feel trapped in their role
  - c They have similar rates of psychosis to men
  - d Bad mothers are often mentally ill
- 30** Which of the following is *not* an explanation of why rates of mental illness are higher for ethnic minorities?
- a There is a cultural bias in psychiatry
  - b Ethnic minorities experience more deprivation
  - c Ethnic minorities experience racism
  - d Ethnic minorities are a very diverse group

## Answers

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