**CHAPTER 1**

**THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ focuses on the systematic study of human society.
   1. Theory
   2. Sociology
   3. Culture
   4. The sociological imagination
2. The word *sociology* was first coined by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. Auguste Comte
   2. Max Weber
   3. Peter Berger
   4. C. Wright Mills
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the largest-scale human group that shares a common geographic territory and common institutions.
   1. Secondary group
   2. Primary group
   3. Society
   4. Culture
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can be defined as a system of behaviour, beliefs, knowledge, practices, values, and materials.
   1. The sociological imagination
   2. Society
   3. Sociology
   4. Culture
5. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group is able to impose values, beliefs, and behaviours on a given society due to its political and economic power.
   1. elite culture
   2. counterculture
   3. dominant culture
   4. subculture
6. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a social group whose norms and values reject the norms and values of the dominant culture.
   1. subculture
   2. counterculture
   3. popular culture
   4. minority culture
7. A subculture group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. differs from the dominant culture in some way but is not necessarily critical of it
   2. is the culture of the elite
   3. rejects certain elements of the dominant culture, such as an anti-consumerist organization
   4. is able to impose its values, beliefs, and behaviours on a given society
8. *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* is used in the text as an example of the intersection of high culture and popular culture.
   1. *The Hunger Games*
   2. *Pride and Prejudice*
   3. *Othello*
   4. *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may be difficult to appreciate without having been taught to enjoy and understand it.
   1. Subculture
   2. High culture
   3. Counterculture
   4. Popular culture
10. C. Wright Mills argued that once we make the connection between our own lives and the larger society we live in, we will be able to see the relationship between our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and larger public issues.
    1. social institutions
    2. societal social problems
    3. personal troubles
    4. biographies
11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, developed by C. Wright Mills, calls for sociologists to try to see the connections between our individual lives and the larger society in which we live.
    1. The general in the particular
    2. The sociological imagination
    3. The strange in the familiar
    4. Secularization
12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ argued that individuals can understand their own experiences and gauge their own fates only by locating themselves within their periods.
    1. Auguste Comte
    2. C. Wright Mills
    3. Émile Durkheim
    4. Harold Garfinkel
13. The following activity would be most suitable as a topic for a sociological theory class assignment in which students were asked to conduct an on-campus breaching experiment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. the students would wear formal business attire to a fitness class
    2. the students would remain silent during their entire class
    3. the students would observe trials of people accused of breaching their parole
    4. the students would record all the answers that their classmates gave to the questions their professors asked in the course of a lecture.
14. Harold Garfinkel argued that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, deliberately breaking a social rule, could help sociologists understand how social order is maintained.
    1. role-playing exercises
    2. behavioural modification exercises
    3. breaching experiments
    4. controlled experiments
15. In 2012, the richest 20 per cent of Canadian families received 13.5 times the income of families in the bottom 20 per cent. This differential is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. social inequality
    2. social oppression
    3. social institutions
    4. social change
16. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are the norms, values, and rules of conduct that structure human interactions.
    1. Social institutions
    2. Social spaces
    3. Cultural institutions
    4. Standardized spaces
17. The Government of Canada defines visible minorities as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race
    2. persons who are non-Caucasian in race
    3. persons who are not of European decent
    4. persons who are first-, second-, or third-generation immigrants
18. Secularization refers to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. personal troubles that individuals face
    2. social oppression an individual faces in a given society
    3. process of a religion losing its authority over individuals and social life in general
    4. external social structures, norms, and values that shape an individual
19. The core aims of sociology do NOT include \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. to objectively measure key social factors
    2. to see general themes in everyday life
    3. to assess critically what seems familiar
    4. to examine how individuals are shaped by society
20. Peter Berger’s call for sociologists to look for patterns in people’s behaviour is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. “the sociological imagination”
    2. “the invitation to sociology”
    3. “the general in the particular”
    4. “the strange in the familiar”
21. Émile Durkheim viewed the discipline of sociology as unique because it was to be based on the study of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. social facts
    2. the sociological imagination
    3. social change
    4. philosophy
22. All of the following, except for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, are types of suicide as identified by Émile Durkheim.
    1. fatalistic suicide
    2. integration suicide
    3. anomic suicide
    4. egoistic suicide
23. According to Émile Durkheim, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reduce the likelihood of an individual committing altruistic suicide.
    1. excessively low levels of regulation
    2. low levels of integration
    3. high levels of integration
    4. excessively high levels of regulation
24. Émile Durkheim found that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were much more likely to commit suicide.
    1. Protestants
    2. single women
    3. single men
    4. Catholics
25. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ research examines the effect of some factor, sometimes called a treatment, on individual behaviour.
    1. Statistical
    2. Qualitative
    3. Survey
    4. Experimental
26. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ research focuses on things that can be counted.
    1. Qualitative
    2. Experimental
    3. Quantitative
    4. Survey
27. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are any construct that can take on different values, or can vary.
    1. Variables
    2. Questions
    3. Methods
    4. Problems
28. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ research involves giving questionnaires to a large number of people to learn about their characteristics, attitudes, or behaviours.
    1. Quantitative
    2. Survey
    3. Experimental
    4. Statistical
29. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ involves a researcher asking each participant the same set of questions and recording their responses.
    1. Participant observation
    2. Survey research
    3. Ethnography
    4. Interviewing
30. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ involves a researcher actively engaging with a group of individuals and working to understand their lives and experiences through intensive involvement with them over an extended period.
    1. Participant observation
    2. Case studies
    3. Interviewing
    4. Breaching experiment
31. Interviewing is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ research method.
    1. qualitative
    2. statistical
    3. ethnographical
    4. quantitative
32. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tends to examine a smaller number of cases in more detail and emphasizes social processes.
    1. Participant observation
    2. Interviewing
    3. Qualitative research
    4. Quantitative research
33. According to sociologists Susan O’Donnell and David Perley, much of the existing sociological research on Indigenous communities \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. is too dependent on private research funds
    2. ignores the historical dimension of Indigenous experience
    3. overstates the role of economic factors in contemporary Indigenous relations with the federal government
    4. is focused too much on what is damaged or broken in these communities
34. Eve Tuck proposes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to replace the damage-centred research that she argues tends to dominate in contemporary academic work.
    1. desire-based research
    2. Native spirituality–based research
    3. Marxist or class-based research
    4. peace-based research
35. According to the textbook, the problem with damage-based research is that it is based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    1. a flawed theory of social change
    2. a flawed theory of settler colonialism
    3. a lack of empirical analysis
    4. a Eurocentric worldview

**True or False Questions**

Sociology is the systemic study of human society.

Culture is the largest-scale human group that shares a common geographic territory and common institutions.

A counterculture differs from the dominant culture, but does not necessarily oppose it the way subcultures do.

Classical music is an example of popular culture.

*Hockey Night in Canada* is an example of high culture.

According to Mills, problems that arise in society are public issues.

Carol has difficulties keeping employment as she continually engages in arguments with co-workers and managers. This is an example of a personal trouble.

Garfinkel’s research involving the breaking of social rule(s) and studying how people react to these rule breakings is an example of experimental research.

In 2011, visible minorities born in Canada made roughly one-quarter less income than did Canadians who are not visible minorities.

In 2015, women earned less than 70 per cent of what men earned in income.

Social institutions are the norms, values, and rules of conduct that structure human interactions.

Peter Berger argued that it was important to understand how social facts can be used to understand patterns of people’s behaviour.

Émile Durkheim argued that there are five types of suicide.

According to Émile Durkheim, individuals from societies with extremely low levels of integration commit altruistic suicide.

In his studies, Émile Durkheim found that females are more likely to commit suicide because they are less integrated into societies.

Qualitative research measures social phenomena by using statistical models to assess the patterns of association between variables.

Quantitative research focuses on things that can be counted.

Answering an online survey to provide information on your views on environmental issues is an example of interviewing.

Participant observation is a core qualitative research method.

Most sociological research on contemporary Indigenous communities and peoples focuses on the many successes that have been achieved by these communities.

**Short Answer Questions**

1. What is society? List three examples of life events that are influenced by society.
2. What is the difference between dominant cultures and countercultures?
3. What is the sociological imagination?
4. What are three dimensions of social inequality that are being studied by sociologists in Canada today?
5. What important ideas did Harold Garfinkel contribute to the discipline of sociology?
6. What is the importance of social institutions and social change in sociology?
7. Why was Durkheim’s examination of suicide important for sociology?
8. What are the various approaches used in quantitative research? How are these approaches used to study people’s behaviour in society?
9. What are the various approaches used in qualitative research? How are these approaches used to study people’s behaviour in society?
10. What are the differences between damage-centred research and desire-based research as these have been applied to Canada’s Indigenous peoples?

**ANSWER KEY**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **b** (p. 3)
2. **a** (p. 3)
3. **c** (p. 3)
4. **d** (p. 3)
5. **c** (p. 3)
6. **b** (p. 4)
7. **a** (p. 4)
8. **d** (p. 4)
9. **b** (p. 5)
10. **c** (p. 5)
11. **b** (p. 5)
12. **b** (p. 7)
13. **a** (p. 12)
14. **c** (p. 12)
15. **a** (p. 13)
16. **a** (p. 14)
17. **a** (p. 14)
18. **c** (p. 16)
19. **a** (p. 18)
20. **c** (p. 18)
21. **a** (p. 19)
22. **b** (pp. 19–20)
23. **c** (pp. 19–20)
24. **a** (p. 20)
25. **d** (p. 24)
26. **c** (p. 24)
27. **a** (p. 24)
28. **b** (p. 24)
29. **d** (p. 25)
30. **a** (p. 25)
31. **a** (p. 25)
32. **c** (p. 25)
33. **d** (p. 27)
34. **a** (p. 27)
35. **a** (p. 27)

**True or False Questions**

1. **T** (p. 3)
2. **F** (p. 3)
3. **F** (p. 4)
4. **F** (p. 4)
5. **F** (p. 4)
6. **T** (p. 5)
7. **T** (p. 5)
8. **T** (p. 12)
9. **T** (p. 14)
10. **T** (p. 14)
11. **T** (p. 14)
12. **F** (p. 18)
13. **F** (p. 19)
14. **F** (p. 19)
15. **F** (p. 20)
16. **F** (p. 24)
17. **T** (p. 24)
18. **F** (p. 24)
19. **T** (p. 25)
20. **F** (p. 27)

**Short Answer Questions**

1. Society is a large-scale human group–the largest scale of human group, in fact. Members of a society live in a specific geographic territory and share the same set of institutions. Students’ answers to the second portion of the question will vary as almost any life event can be described as influenced by society, but some examples include growing up (socialization), going to school, a person’s experience of going to the hospital, the act of becoming a university student, experiencing bullying, choosing clothes at the shopping mall, eating a meal, getting married, and making the decision to have children of one’s own. (p. 3)
2. The dominant culture is able to impose its values, beliefs, and behaviours on a given society because of its political and economic power. For example, in the mass media the focus is on topics of interest to the dominant culture–that it is important to look attractive and fashionable, own an impressive home, and make a lot of money (being wealthy and successful). In contrast, a counterculture is a group that rejects certain elements of the dominant culture. For example, hippies are the classic example of pro-environment and anti-consumerism persons who reject focus on the importance of acquiring and consuming mass amounts of products in order to show our status and worth. (pp. 3–4)
3. C. Wright Mills called on us to try to see the connections between our individual lives and the larger society in which we live. He argued that we can only understand our own lives and biographies if we understand the larger history of our society. Once we make these connections, we will be able to see the relationship between our own personal troubles (problems that we face as individuals) and larger public issues (social problems that arise in society). (p. 5)
4. Social inequality is a central concern of sociology and focuses on the power and practices of the advantaged and disadvantages in society. Sociologists focus on class inequality (income distribution), racism/ethnicity (differences in earners between visible and non-visible minorities), gender inequality (income differences between men and women). (pp. 11–14)
5. Harold Garfinkel argued that individuals are constantly interacting with one another, guided by a set of expectations regarding how they should act in a given situation and that awareness of these expectations only occur when they are broken or violated. Garfinkel’s breaching experiments involved a researcher breaking a social rule to reveal the unrecognized way that all individuals co-operate to maintain the smooth functioning of social interactions and social order. By creating disorder, he hoped to demonstrate how social order is usually maintained. (pp. 12–13)
6. Social institutions, which are often ways of focusing sociological study, are one way in which human interactions are structured; they are established ways of doing things and can often be associated with physical locations. They include education, religion, the family, the government, and the economy. (pp. 14–15)
7. Durkheim’s study on suicide was important for sociology as it demonstrated both the concept of social facts and provided an example of how the sociological method could work. Durkheim argued that suicide varies across different groups of people and their level of integration. Men are less integrated than women, Protestant are not as integrated into their church as Catholics. (pp. 18–21)
8. Students may refer to data collection methods (e.g., survey research, the Census, Statistics Canada), statistical modelling, or experiments as part of their answer. They should make reference to the fact that quantitative research is based on measurable quantities and on relating variables to one another. Students may also refer to the fact that quantitative studies need many data points in order to make valuable conclusions. (pp. 24–25)
9. Students should refer to the fact that qualitative researchers focus on “the meaning of action for individuals and groups.” Qualitative studies use non-measurable or difficult-to-measure factors, and the methods these researchers use include interviewing and participant observation. Students may refer to the differences between the data that can be collected from these methods: while interviews are arguably easier to organize, participant observation may reveal facts about a social situation that interviewees would not think to share. (p. 25)
10. According to Eve Tuck (2009), damage-centred research documents everything that is broken or wrong in Indigenous communities. The result is that Indigenous people see themselves as damaged. In contrast, desire-based research captures the complexity and contradictions of everyday lives. It documents not only the painful elements but also the wisdom and hope, because Indigenous communities are so much more than broken. (pp. 27–31)