Answer Key for In-Text Questions
Chapter 4

Title: Chapter 4 Questions for Review

Question/Prompt: 1. Is primary socialization a micro-level or macro-level force? Explain.

Correct Answer Example(s):
Primary socialization is shaped by social forces both at the micro- and macro-levels. At the micro-level, primary socialization occurs through role modeling and encouragement by primary caregivers. At the macro-level, it is increasingly influenced by scientific experts such as pediatricians, developmental psychologists, and educators, and mass media such as books, YouTube videos, and podcasts. Macro-level forces also come into play within the family context, including changes in religious beliefs, new educational philosophies, and social class divisions.

Question/Prompt: 2. How does socialization change across a person's lifetime?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Sociologists distinguish five stages of the life course: Child, teenager, young adult, mature adult, and older adult. Each stage is associated with a set of expectations and behaviours that vary across cultures. For example, in Canada:
- Children are expected to learn symbols and language, internalize family norms, and learn rules and social roles through play;
- Teenagers are expected to show academic achievement, build a circle of friends, and learn gender roles;
- Young adults are expected to attend college or university, start working, and move out of their family home;
- Mature adults are expected to marry, have children, and increase their work status; and
- Older adults are expected to stay social and active, live independently, and manage health challenges.

Question/Prompt: 3. What are the key agents of socialization?

Correct Answer Example(s):
The key agents of socialization are:
- Home and the family;
- Kindergarten and school;
- College and university;
- The workplace; and
- Mass media and social media.

Question/Prompt: 4. What is the main disagreement between functionalists and symbolic interactionists around how socialization functions?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Functionalism is interested in socialization as a macro-level phenomenon that assign institutions a central role in promoting social norms and values, while symbolic interactionism is interested in socialization as a micro-level phenomenon that occurs in daily interaction. Symbolic interactionists criticize functionalist theory for assuming that people passively internalize existing social norms and values. Instead, symbolic interactionism focuses on how meaning is created, negotiated, and transformed through social interaction in pairs, social groups, and communities.

Question/Prompt: 5. How do conflict theorists characterize the role of socialization in society?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Conflict theorists argue that socialization is directly linked to social inequalities. People who grow up in more wealthy households will have access to better education, greater opportunities for learning, and more diverse forms of socialization. Class socialization preserves the status quo, making social mobility, which is defined as the ability to move between social strata or social groups, difficult.

Question/Prompt: 6. Define the looking-glass self.

Correct Answer Example(s):
The looking-glass self refers to how a person's concept of 'self' develops from interpersonal interactions in society and observations of others.

Question/Prompt: 7. What is role conflict? Provide an example.

Correct Answer Example(s):
Role conflict refers to when a person feels social pressure to fulfill two different social roles that have clashing needs, values, or expectations. For example, a person's role as a lawyer may demand long work hours, but the person's role as a mother to a toddler may also demand time and care.

Title: Chapter 4 Questions for Critical Thought

Question/Prompt: 1. What difficulties are involved in studying socialization?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer might include or relate to the following points:
- Scientific advances combined with digital technologies have transformed socialization in recent decades.
- There is a constant interplay and tension between the transformative and constraining forces of society and the need for personal choice and freedom.
- Diverse agents of socialization shape a person during the different stages in their life.
- Theoretical approaches differ in how they study and understand socialization.
- Much has changed just in the past decade and sociologists are developing new understandings around how digital technologies and social media shape identity and perceptions of self.
- It is difficult to put together the most appropriate research question and design.
- There are challenges in measuring and comparing abstract theoretical concepts.

Question/Prompt: 2. How has digital technology like Facebook and Instagram changed socialization?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- Because of the prevalence of digital media in daily life, parents seem to be exercising less direct control over their children's interactions. The role of parents seems to diminish earlier in the life course.
- Digital technology is an increasingly powerful agent of socialization because it connects individuals to content and provides new means of interaction with peers and communities.
- Children and youth are exposed to global content, far-reaching online communities, and complex peer networks at earlier ages.
- The socialization of looks starts at a young age and continues throughout the lifespan.

Question/Prompt: 3. Why do students coming from middle-class families do better in school than students from working-class families? Explain the various mechanisms that advantage or disadvantage students from a different social class.

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:
- Social class is a key predictor of educational attainment and a student's likelihood of succeeding in university in particular. Working-class students face difficulties integrating into a middle-class culture and often report feeling alienated and isolated on campus.
- People who grow up in more wealthy households will have access to better education, greater opportunities for learning, and more diverse forms of socialization.
- Children in middle-class families have more structured routines that involve many activities ranging from art classes to sports teams to curriculum-related lessons. These early childhood experiences can be applied to the challenges and demands of future work settings.

- Some of the skills learned by middle-class children included managing a busy schedule, coordinating various events, and learning to belong in diverse social settings. These numerous activities also expose the middle-class child to more sources of cultural capital.
- Children from middle-class families tend to have more cultural capital, cultural literacy, and social capital.

Question/Prompt: 4. How do people become socialized into various professions even before they start their first job?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer might include or relate to the following points:
- Anticipatory socialization is associated with preparing to take on a new position or social role in society. Each time we start a new phase in our lives or take on a new responsibility, we learn the social norms, behaviours, and expectations associated with this social role.
- Class socialization preserves the status quo, making social mobility, which is defined as the ability to move between social strata or social groups, difficult.
- Gender socialization encourages boys and girls to pursue different interests. In high school, students tend to choose different subjects based on their gender, and these choices then influence the kinds of careers that they can later enter. For example, careers in the sciences, such as engineering, biochemistry, and computer science, are predominantly held by men and come with status and prestige as well as high-paying salaries, creating gender gaps.
- People's behaviours are guided by expectations held by society about how they are to perform socially defined categories (e.g., mother, teacher, doctor).

Question/Prompt: 5. If studies show that programs like Head Start are effective, why do you think they are not ubiquitous?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer might include or relate to the following points:
- Class socialization preserves the status quo, making social mobility, which is defined as the ability to move between social strata or social groups, difficult.
- Decision makers do not consider the long-term benefits and cost savings of the programs.
- There is stigma around social assistance and welfare programs.
- There are negative stereotypes associated with people from low socioeconomic backgrounds. For example, they are considered lazy, incompetent, and undeserving.

Question/Prompt: 6. What is the main criticism of Cooley's theory of the self-concept?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Charles Horton Cooley's central idea was that starting from birth, humans define themselves within the context of their socializations. It is only over time through interactions with others that develop a sense of "the self," or self-concept. The self is often viewed as a single entity, but some dismiss this notion and argue that people have multiple selves that are expressed in different social contexts. For example, different characteristics and behaviours are obvious when people interact with their peers versus when they interact with their professional network.