# Australian Sociology: A Changing Society 4e

# Testbank

# Chapter 1 What is sociology?

## LO1.1 Describe the field of investigation that sociology studies

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 1: What does investigating human societies as a whole help us to understand?

a) How societies are researched

b) How we might differ from other human societies

c) The concepts of class and gender

d) The methodologies of social sciences

Answer: B

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 4 (Reading pages 2-4)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 2: What does investigating the nature of inequality in our society help us to understand?

a) The proportion of income for each person

b) What makes people walk to work

c) The arbitrary differences in society

d) The divisions that influence social power

Answer: D

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 4 (Reading pages 2-4)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 3: The markers of: class; gender; race; ethnicity, age and sexuality are important in gaining a general sociological understanding of which of the following?

a) Power and inequality

b) Colonialism and imperialism

c) Work and unemployment

d) The micro and the macro

Answer: A

Difficulty: 1

Answer Ref: 4 (Reading pages 4-5)

Question type: Short answer question

Question 4: Make a list of the markers of division that influence equality in human societies and explain how each impacts on your power in Australian society.

Answer: Student response could include the markers of: class, gender, race, ethnicity, age and sexuality and a brief description of how they may gain or lose power in society because of their class, gender, race, ethnicity, age or sexuality.

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 4 (Reading pages 4-5)

## LO1.2 Explain how sociology’s concern with inequality and power is linked to social reproduction and social change

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 5: Thinking about capitalism as a systemic social formation explains \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ inequalities.

a) Gender

b) Ethnicity

c) Class

d) Sexual orientation

Answer: C

Difficulty: 1

Answer Ref: 4 (Reading pages 4-5)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 6: The history of European nations such as Britain and France establishing colonies around the world helps explain inequality for the marker of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) Race

b) Class

c) Gender

d) Age

Answer: A

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 4 (Reading pages 4-5)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 7: Why are both the macro and the micro experiences of society important in sociology?

a) Personal experiences are shaped at the micro level

b) The macro features of society determine social experience

c) Big and small issues are important in sociology

d) Systems characterise broad features of society that impact on individuals differently

Answer: D

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 5 (Reading pages 4-5)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 8: What are the four areas of interest in sociology?

a) Macro, micro, tradition, and change

b) Systemic, individual, their interrelationship, and societal change

c) Systemic, individual, research, and issues

d) Gender, class, race, and ethnicity

Answer: B

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 5 (Reading pages 4-5)

Question type: Short answer

Question 9: In less than 500 words, describe an example from your own experience where systemic concepts of race, gender, class or sexuality have produced inequality.

Answer: Student response could focus on a specific marker from those listed such as gender. Describe a situation where they have experienced (or witnessed) inequality that can be explained by gender bias at the macro level.

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 5 (Reading pages 4-5)

## LO1.3 Describe the origins of the sociological imagination and the different forms it has taken

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 10: Which sociologist proposes the unique methodological approach of using the ‘sociological imagination’?

a) C. Wright Mills

b) Auguste Comte

c) Max Weber

d) Anthony Giddens

Answer: A

Difficulty: 1

Answer Ref: 6 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Short answer

Question 11: In short paragraphs, cite at least five reasons that sociologists should seek to constantly question their own assumptions when considering the social world.

Answer: Student response could include: the changing nature of society; the changing nature of people; the theoretical perspective the researcher applies; the researcher’s natural biases; and the influence of history.

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 6 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 12: All of the following descriptions of the discipline of sociology are correct EXCEPT:

a) Contemporary sociologists aim to avoid being part of the objects they study and advocate scientific neutrality

b) C. Wright Mills’ sociological imagination argues that how objects appear depends on the perspective of the observer

c) Reflexivity refers to the concept and practice of researchers working to minimise their own subjective biases

d) Contemporary sociologists no longer perceive humans as objects in the same way as Auguste Comte’s positivist perspective

Answer: A

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 6-7 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 13: Which of the following is not one of Anthony Giddens’ three kinds of sociological imagination that enrich our understanding of social structure?

a) Historical

b) Religious

c) Critical

d) Cultural

Answer: B

Difficulty: 1

Answer Ref: 7 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 14: Michel Foucault:

a) Understood historical discourses as a means for understanding the present

b) Showed how past societies maintain the status quo reproducing its social conditions

c) Argued that the sociological imagination is distinct from the historical domain

d) Proposed that the purpose of history is to socially analyse the past

Answer: A

Difficulty: 1

Answer Ref: 8 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Short answer

Question 15: Briefly brainstorm a list of the ways that sociology, anthropology and psychology are similar and different as disciplinary approaches.

Answer: Student response could identify similarities and differences in terms of content and method. For example, each discipline seeks greater understanding of people and societies and each has a different central focus. Psychology, for example, often focuses on the behaviours of individuals whereas anthropology is focused on behaviour as an expression of culture. Each discipline utilises methods for comparison.

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 8 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 16: When cultures come into contact with each other:

a) A shared understanding of difference results only in worldly appreciation

b) Parochial movements such as the ethnocentric ‘One Nation’ always result

c) Global in-mixing results in the world becoming a single homogeneous entity

d) Commonsense notions of culture tied exclusively to ethnicity become problematised

Answer: D

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 9 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 17: Which of the following best describes the impact of cultural globalisation on language?

a) The number of languages is increasing, with more technical terms than ever before

b) The number of languages globally is declining, and predicted to continue to decline with English being the dominant language

c) The number of languages has remained stable, with some minority cultures using new technologies to record previously undocumented languages

d) The number of languages globally is declining, and is predicted to remain stable, with Spanish being the dominant language

Answer: B

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 9 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Essay

Question 18: Choose an example of a minority culture or a subculture to explore which dominant ideology it runs counter to. State clearly in what ways this occurs, considering sociological factors such as age, gender, socioeconomic status and so on, in order to develop a detailed understanding.

Answer: Student response should include examples such as street artists or emos, describing the way these subcultures are expressed and the ideals of the dominant culture, which they reject.

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 10 (Reading pages 7-11)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 19: The critical domain of the sociological imagination requires us to continuously check between the theories we are using and which of the following?

a) Meanings, events, processes and structures in the social world

b) What people say or think about an event that has already happened

c) The history of capitalism in Europe

d) The political and economic structures of society

Answer: A

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 11 (Reading pages 6-11)

Question type: Essay

Question 20: Choose one example of a social issue, such as unemployment, and consider in what ways it can be understood according to the sociological imagination.

Answer: Student response could include a definition of the sociological imagination. Contrast the ways that unemployment can be explained at the micro and the macro level. Provide examples of the way that individuals are often blamed for their situation and contrasting examples that apply the sociological imagination to explain unemployment.

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 6-11 (Reading pages 6-11)

## LO1.4 Explain how the methods employed by the sociological imagination have political implications

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 21: Which of the following is not one of the four kinds of sociological imagination?

a) Political

b) Critical

c) Anthropological

d) Comparative

Answer: C

Difficulty: 1

Answer Ref: 11 (Reading pages 11-14)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 22: In what ways does sociology influence policy and social reform?

a) The certainty that underpins sociological research

b) Empirical knowledge of society

c) Using the imagination to study society

d) Researching society from different political perspectives

Answer: D

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 12 (Reading pages 11-14)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 23: The management of social issues by identifying dysfunction and improving social services is known as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approach to sociology.

a) Active

b) Empirical

c) Instrumental

d) Imaginative

Answer: C

Difficulty: 1

Answer Ref: 12 (Reading pages 11-14)

Question type: Multiple choice

Question 24: What does Pierre Bourdieu argue is the starting point for understanding social life?

a) Structure

b) Agency

c) Practice

d) Bureaucracy

Answer: C

Difficulty: 2

Answer Ref: 14 (Reading pages 11-14)

Question type: Essay

Question 25: ‘Understanding this complexification of the life-world has become an urgent task’ (p. 15). Discuss.

Answer: Student response could include a definition of the idea of life-world and an explanation of the term ‘complexification’. Describe the ways that human societies have grown in complexity. Include a description of the impact of new technologies and globalisation on cultural diversity. Outline why the task of understanding is urgent.

Difficulty: 3

Answer Ref: 14 (Reading pages 11-14)