

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER**

**TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**COURSE CODE: SOC 101**

**TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS**

**DATE OF EXAMINATION: 8 DECEMBER 2009**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

**All Questions in Section A are compulsory. Answer any three questions from Section B. The marks are indicated against the questions.**

## SECTION A

Section A carries 40 marks

**All questions are compulsory in this section.**

**I. Multiple Choice Choose the correct answer in the following:  
Indicate the question number and choose one from a, b, c or d. Each carries one mark. Total mark for this question is 20.**

1. According to Emile Durkheim, a category of people with a higher suicide rate typically has:
  - (a) more clinical depression.
  - (b) less money, power and other resources.
  - (c) lower social integration.
  - (d) greater self-esteem.
2. Making use of the sociological perspective encourages:
  - (a) challenging commonly held beliefs.
  - (b) accepting conventional wisdom.
  - (c) the belief that society is mysterious.
  - (d) people to be happier with their lives as they are.
3. In deciding what kinds of questions to ask in their research, sociologists are guided by:
  - (a) one or more theoretical approaches.
  - (b) their own common sense.
  - (c) our society's traditional wisdom.
  - (d) sheer chance.
4. Which of the following early sociologists had an important influence on the development of the social conflict approach?
  - (a) Emile Durkheim
  - (b) Herbert Spencer
  - (c) Talcott Parsons
  - (d) Karl Marx
5. Which of the following statements is based on a symbolic-interaction analysis of sports?
  - (a) Winning at sports means different things to different people.
  - (b) Some categories of people benefit more than others from sports.
  - (c) Sports help develop important cultural values.
  - (d) "Stacking" is a type of racial inequality in sports.
6. Which German word meaning "understanding" was used by Max Weber in describing his approach to sociological research?
  - (a) Gemeinschaft.
  - (b) Geselleschaft.
  - (c) Verstehen.
  - (d) Verboten.
7. Cars, computers, and i-Phones are all examples of which of the following?

- (a) high culture.
  - (b) material culture.
  - (c) norms.
  - (d) nonmaterial culture.
8. As our society has entered a post-industrial, computer-based phase, which of the following have become more important?
- (a) gaining mechanical skills using industrial machinery
  - (b) gaining symbolic skills, including speaking, writing and computing
  - (c) knowing more about the past
  - (d) All the above are correct.
9. The term "cultural lag" refers to the fact that:
- (a) the rate of cultural change has been slowing.
  - (b) some societies advance faster than others.
  - (c) some people are more cultured than others.
  - (d) some cultural elements change more quickly than others.
10. Which theory developed by the psychologist John B. Watson claims human behaviour is not instinctive but learned within a social environment?
- (a) biological psychology
  - (b) evolutionary psychology
  - (c) behaviourism
  - (d) naturalism
11. When C.H. Cooley used the concept "looking-glass self," he meant to say that:
- (a) people are self-centred.
  - (b) people see themselves as they think others see them.
  - (c) people see things only from their own point of view.
  - (d) our actions are a reflection of our values.
12. Which concept refers to a social position that is assumed voluntarily and that reflects a significant measure of personal ability and effort?
- (a) active role
  - (b) master status
  - (c) ascribed status
  - (d) achieved status
13. Which of the following are functions of deviance noted by Emile Durkheim?
- (a) Deviance affirms cultural values and norms.
  - (b) Responding to deviance promotes social unity.
  - (c) Responding to deviance clarifies moral boundaries.
  - (d) All of the above are correct.
14. Using Robert Merton's strain theory, how would you classify a low-paid, yet compulsively conforming bank teller who never seems to want to get ahead but never seems to do anything wrong?
- (a) innovator
  - (b) ritualist
  - (c) retreatist
  - (d) rebel
15. The idea behind labelling theory is that:
- (a) deviance is actually useful in a number of ways.

- (b) deviance arises not so much from what people do as how others respond to what they do.
  - (c) power has much to do with how society defines deviance.
  - (d) All of the above are correct.
16. A caste system is defined as:
- (a) social stratification based on personal achievement.
  - (b) social stratification based on ascription at birth.
  - (c) a meritocracy.
  - (d) any social system in which categories of people are unequal.
17. According to the Davis-Moore thesis:
- (a) equality is functional for society,
  - (b) the more inequality a society has, the more productive it is.
  - (c) more important jobs must provide enough rewards to attract the talent necessary to perform them.
  - (e) meritocracy is less productive than a caste system.
18. Social epidemiology is the study of:
- (a) the biological basis of disease.
  - (b) the availability of doctors around the world.
  - (c) the age at which people die.
  - (d) the distribution of health and illness in a population.
19. Which of the following world regions is experiencing the most severe epidemic of AIDS?
- (a) Latin America
  - (b) Sub-Saharan Africa
  - (c) The Middle East
  - (d) Eastern Asia
20. The concept of "euthanasia" refers to:
- (a) assisting in death of a person suffering from a terminal illness.
  - (b) people's legal "right to die"
  - (c) providing medical treatment to seriously ill people.
  - (d) providing medical assistance to those who cannot afford it.

**II. True or False questions** Indicate the number and write T for True and F for False. Each carries one mark. Total marks for this sub-section is 10.

1. Advances in human genetics hold out promise to prevent disease but also raise ethical issues about how this technology should be used.
2. Holistic medicine seeks to change the focus of medical practice from treating symptoms of disease to preventing disease and promoting health.
3. Max Weber worried that modern societies were prone to a condition he called "anomie."
4. Ferdinand Tonnies described modernity as the loss of 'gemeinschaft.'
5. Mead's concepts of the "I" and the "me" are close parallels of Freud's concepts of the id and the superego.
6. Cesare Lombroso, an Italian physician and criminologist, claimed that most criminals were people who had been mistreated by society.

7. Corporate crime refers to stealing or other crimes committed against a corporation or other large business.
8. The symbolic-interaction approach treats religion as socially constructed meaning that provides greater certainty and security for our lives.
9. The concept of "karma" refers to the Hindu belief in the progress of the human soul.
10. The concept of "state capitalism" refers all productive enterprises in a country being owned by the government.

**III. Complete the following sentences: Write the term/word or name chosen.**

Each carries one mark except no. 9 which has two marks. Total mark is 10.

1. Judging another culture using the standards of your own culture is termed \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The spread of culture from one society to another is called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the concept Erving Goffman used to refer to a powerful and negative label that greatly changes a person's self-concept and social identity.
4. The killing of people in the Darfur region of Sudan is a recent example of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ sector of the economy generates raw materials directly from the natural environment.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the pattern of people marrying partners socially like themselves.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is the social institution providing members of a society with important knowledge.
8. Rational-legal authority is also called "\_\_\_\_\_ authority," because it usually is rooted in formal offices.
9. Margaret Mead's research on gender in three societies in New Guinea illustrates that what is \_\_\_\_\_ to one society may be \_\_\_\_\_ to another.

## **SECTION B**

**ANSWER ANY THREE (3) ESSAY QUESTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING**

**Each question carries 20 marks**

- IV. Discuss Gerhard Lenski's model of socio-cultural evolution taking appropriate examples.
- V. Examine the specific contributions to human development made by the family, school, peer group and mass media.
- VI. Explain the four justifications for punishment.
- VII. Discuss how poverty combines with gender to disadvantage women.
- VIII. Examine the contribution to our understanding of health and medicine made by the three sociological perspectives.
- IX. Discuss the impact of a social problem on Swaziland.