

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

COURSE CODE: SOC 101

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. SECTION A IS COMPULSORY
2. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS
FROM SECTION B
3. TOTAL MARKS 100

**THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

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SOC 101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER DECEMBER 2012

Instructions: Section A is compulsory and carries 40 marks. From Section B choose any three questions. Section B carries 60 marks.

SECTION A

Q.1 Choose the correct answer in the following questions by writing the letter next to the response to the question numbers in your answer sheet. Each question is worth 1 mark

- (i) The main goal of sociology is to
 - (a) prevent its practitioners from having personal values.
 - (b) disprove the other social sciences.
 - (c) avoid controversy.
 - (d) advance our understanding of the world we live in.

- (ii) Which discipline defines itself as “the systematic study of human society”?
 - (a) Economics (b) History (c) Psychology (d) Sociology

- (iii) 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.

- (iv) According to Emile Durkheim, a category of people with a higher suicide rate typically has
 - (a) greatest self-esteem.
 - (b) more clinical depression.
 - (c) lower social integration.
 - (d) less money, power and other resources.

- (v) Some people in Swaziland under the age of 18 drink alcohol. This behaviour constitutes the violation of a
 - (a) law (b) sanction (c) folkway (d) value

- (vi) Cars, computers and i-phones are all examples of which of the following
 - (a) norms.
 - (b) non-material culture.

- (c) high culture.
 - (d) material culture.
- (vii) Which German word meaning “understanding” was used by Max Weber in describing his approach to sociological research?
- (a) Gesellschaft (b) Verstehen (c) Gemeinschaft (d) Verboten
- (viii) Which of the following early sociologists had an important influence on the development of the social conflict approach?
- (a) Karl Marx.
 - (b) Talcott Parsons.
 - (c) Herbert Spencer.
 - (d) Emile Durkheim.
- (ix) Which of the following statements is based on a symbolic-interaction analysis of sports?
- (a) Sports help develop important cultural values.
 - (b) Winning at sports means different things to different people.
 - (c) Some categories of people benefit more than others from sports.
 - (d) “Stacking” is a type of racial inequality in sports.
- (x) Which of the following historical changes is among the factors that stimulated the development of sociology as a discipline?
- (a) the founding of the Roman Catholic church
 - (b) the power of tradition
 - (c) the rise of industrial factories and cities
 - (d) a belief that our futures are defined by “fate”
- (xi) In deciding what types of questions to ask in their research, sociologists are guided by
- (a) their own common sense.
 - (b) our society’s conventional wisdom.
 - (c) one or more theoretical approaches.
 - (d) sheer chance.
- (xii) The term Sociology was coined in 1838 by:
- (a) Karl Marx (b) Adam Smith (c) Herbert Spencer (d) Auguste Comte
- (xiii) The basic idea of the symbolic-interaction approach is that society is
- (a) an arena of conflict between categories of people
 - (b) the product of people interacting in everyday situations
 - (c) a system that operates to benefit people
 - (d) all the above are correct.
- (xiv) Sociologists use the term “empirical evidence” to refer to
- (a) information that most people agree to be true

- (b) information that squares with common sense
 - (c) information we can verify with our senses
 - (d) information that is based on society's traditions.
- (xv) A theory states that increasing a person's formal education results in increased earnings over a life time. In this theory, "higher education" is the
- (a) independent variable
 - (b) dependent variable
 - (c) control variable
 - (d) effect
- (xvi) Interpretive sociology is sociology that
- (a) focuses on action
 - (b) sees an objective reality "out there"
 - (c) focuses on the meaning people attach to behaviour
 - (d) seeks to bring about change.
- (xvii) What research method was used in Philip Zimbardo's study, the "Stanford County Prison"?
- (a) the experiment (b) the survey (c) participant observation (d) secondary analysis
- (xviii) William Foote Whyte's study of Cornerville (*Street Corner Society*) used which sociological research method?
- (a) experiment (b) survey (c) participant observation (d) secondary analysis
- (xix) As a part of human culture, religion is an example of:
- (a) material culture (b) culture shock (c) human nature (d) non-material culture
- (xx) Which of the following adds to the creation of a global culture?
- (a) the flow of goods from one country to another
 - (b) the flow of information around the world
 - (c) the flow of people from country to country
 - (d) All of the above are correct.
- (xxi) Ethnocentrism refers to
- (a) people taking pride in their ethnicity
 - (b) claiming that another culture is better than your own
 - (c) judging another culture using the standards of your own culture
 - (d) understanding another culture using its own standards and values.
- (xxii) Multiculturalism is defined as:
- (a) efforts to encourage immigration from one country to another
 - (b) efforts to establish English as the official language of the USA
 - (c) an educational programme recognising the cultural diversity and promoting equality of all cultural traditions in the USA
 - (d) the idea that the United States should have a single dominant culture.

- (xxiii) Social norms are:
- (a) Creative activities such as gardening, cookery and craftwork
 - (b) The symbolic representation of social groups in the mass media
 - (c) Rules and expectations about interaction that regulate social life
 - (d) Religious beliefs about how the world ought to be.
- (xxiv) Cesare Lombroso claimed that:
- (a) Criminals were socialised into an 'underworld' of crime
 - (b) Biological failings drove some people into crime
 - (c) No act is intrinsically deviant
 - (d) Women were less likely to be arrested than men.
- (xxv) According to Walt Rostow, which is the final stage of economic development?
- (a) Drive to technological maturity
 - (b) High mass consumption
 - (c) Take-off
 - (d) Traditional
- (xxvi) Health is a social issue because
- (a) Cultural patterns define what people view as healthy.
 - (b) Social inequality affects people's health.
 - (c) A society's technology affects people's health.
 - (d) All the above are correct.
- (xxvii) The concept of 'karma' refers to
- (a) The Christian belief in salvation.
 - (b) The Muslim desire to do God's will.
 - (c) The Hindu belief in the progress of the human soul.
 - (d) The first five books of the Jewish Bible
- (xxviii) Labelling theory states that deviance
- (a) Is a normal part of social life.
 - (b) Always changes a person's social identity.
 - (c) Arises not from what people do as much as how others respond.
 - (d) All of the above are correct.
- (xxix) In Robert Merton's theory of deviance, which of the following concepts refers to the process of seeking conventional goals but rejecting the conventional means to achieve them?
- (a) Innovation.
 - (b) Ritualism.
 - (c) Retreatism.
 - (d) Rebellion.
- (xxx) The gender-conflict approach draws attention to

- (a) How structure contributes to the overall operation of society.
- (b) Inequality and conflict between men and women.
- (c) How people construct meaning through interaction.
- (d) The stable aspects of society.

Q. 2 Define any five (5) of the following sociological concepts with examples. Each definition is worth 2 marks with an example.

- (i) Geselleschaft
- (ii) Socialisation
- (iii) Looking glass self
- (iv) Structural-functional approach
- (v) Multiculturalism
- (vi) Labelling theory
- (vii) Modernization theory
- (viii) Dependency theory
- (ix) Health
- (ix) Social Change

SECTION B

ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION. EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 20 MARKS

- Q.3 Examine the contribution to our understanding of HIV/AIDS made by the three major sociological perspectives.
- Q.4 Cultural lag refers to the fact that some cultural elements change more quickly than others do. Discuss.
- Q.5 How can sociological knowledge contribute to our understanding of social problems in Swaziland?
- Q.6 Discuss the changing nature of family in any given society. Identify the factors that can explain the increase in the number of divorces in contemporary societies.
- Q.7 The study of social change is one of the most important areas of interest to the sociologist. Possibilities of social change range from impersonal to the very personal. Identify and discuss the causes of social change with examples.
- Q.8 How does poverty combine with gender to disadvantage women?