SOCIOLOGY 2000 EXAM #1 SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. _________ is the group memberships that people have because of their location in history and society.
   a. A status symbol   b. Social location   c. A social role   d. Social action

2. A(n) _________ is a group whose values, beliefs and behaviors place its members in opposition to the broader culture.
   a. counterculture   b. subculture   c. gemeinschaft society   d. symbolic culture.

3. _________ are the social roles assigned to each sex and labeled as masculine or feminine; behaviors and attitudes considered appropriate by society because one is a female or a male.
   a. Gender roles   b. Gender stereotypes   c. Gender socialization   d. Sex roles

4. _________ are groups or social contexts within which processes of socialization take place.

5. Welcome Week activities, dorm meetings and parties, campus clubs, and football games are all part of the university's efforts to do all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. socialize freshmen into their new social status as WMU students.
   b. prevent anomie.
   c. teach people the WMU culture.
   d. demonstrate the university's power over its students.

6. Language, police officers' badges, Mercedes automobiles, and the American flag are examples of:
   a. cultural relativism.   b. symbols.   c. social structure.   d. values.

7. _________ are rules of conduct that specify appropriate behavior in a given range of social situations.

8. One of Tom's favorite leisure activities is to watch MTV. It is likely that Tom's ideas about male-female relationships are that:
   a. males should dominate and females should be submissive and sexy.
   b. males and females should be equal in their relationships.
   c. females should be more independent and males should be more nurturing.
   d. the ideal woman is intelligent and articulate.

9. Peer groups are a major factor in socialization because of:
   a. their ability to provide role models.
   b. their role in helping us choose our careers.
   c. their role in teaching us right and wrong.
   d. the threat of expulsion.

10. _________ is an approach that attempts to explain the behavior of both animals and human beings in terms of biological principles.
    a. Sociology   b. Psychology   c. Anthropology   d. Sociobiology

11. _________ are assumptions of what people are like, based on previous association with them or people with similar characteristics, or based on information, whether true or false.
    a. Stereotypes   b. First impressions   c. Roles   d. Background assumptions

12. A group's ways of thinking and doing are called its:
a. social structure.  b. nonmaterial culture.  
c. social location.  d. material culture.  

13. A(n) ________ is the expected behaviors of people occupying particular social positions.  
a. ascribed status  b. achieved status  c. role  d. social status  

14. Bill lives in a small town, attends the same church as all of his neighbors, knows everyone in town, and is a farmer like most of the other residents. For Durkheim, this is an example of __________.  
a. class conflict.  b. organic solidarity  c. mechanical solidarity  d. capitalism  

15. How big the social group is that is being studied is called:  
a. the scientific method.  b. the level of analysis.  c. social structure.  d. social action.  

16. In the U.S., equality, racism and group superiority coexist as values. This is an example of:  
a. value clusters.  b. value contradictions.  c. value differences.  d. value inconsistencies.  

17. Jane and Samantha pulled an all-nighter last night in their dorm room studying for this exam. In Goffman's dramaturgical terms, this was an example of:  
a. face-saving behavior so that they didn't embarrass themselves on the exam.  
b. the use of sign-vehicles on a front stage.  
c. preparing for their next performance in a back stage setting.  
d. teamwork in a front stage setting.  

18. John and Mary work on the assembly line at a General Motors automobile factory. Their work is closely supervised and repetitive. Based on Melvin Kohn's research, they are more likely as parents to:  
a. encourage their children to learn conformity to rules.  
b. encourage their children to be creative.  
c. refuse to use physical punishment to discipline their children.  
d. teach their children to ask "Why?" questions  

19. John believes that the people who stood up to introduce themselves on the first day of class are people who have been socialized to be outgoing, while Melissa believes that these people are seeking to make a good first impression on their classmates and the professor. John's and Melissa's ideas are both examples of:  

20. Learning to be quiet in class, take notes, and raise your hand before speaking are examples of:  
a. the role of religion in teaching right and wrong.  
b. the role of peer groups in providing normative guidelines.  
c. a manifest function of education.  
d. the hidden curriculum of education.  

21. Learning to play team games is a key part of children's socialization according to:  
a. Mead's theory of taking the role of the other.  
b. Cooley's theory of the looking glass self.  
c. Freud's theory of the development of personality.  
d. Piaget's theory of the development of reasoning skills.
22. One reason for the development of sociology is:
   a. the inability of psychology to predict the future.
   b. to understand the rapid changes in society brought about by computer technology.
   c. the inability of class conflict theory to explain what holds society together.
   d. to explain social upheaval in Europe in the 1800s resulting from the Industrial Revolution.

23. One example of cultural lag is that:
   a. in many countries around the world, school is year-round to allow students to learn the skills and knowledge required to compete in the global economy.
   b. "Baywatch" is now the world's most popular television show.
   c. the Inuit language has many words for snow.
   d. despite the invention of ATM cash machines and electronic banking, many people still write paper checks.

24. One example of anomie is:
   a. Charlie Starkweather in the song "Nebraska."
   b. class conflict between workers and capitalists in Europe after the Industrial Revolution.
   c. Kevin Costner's character in "Bull Durham."
   d. the Old Order Amish.

25. One principle of culture is that:
   a. values are the same in all societies.
   b. values are different in different societies, but norms are the same.
   c. values and norms remain the same in one culture over time.
   d. values and norms are different in different societies.

26. Sarah is a sociologist who is interested in how changes in the U.S. economy are related to homelessness. She is studying how economic conditions have contributed to the increase in the number of homeless people in the U.S. By focusing on large scale patterns of society, this is an example of:
   a. symbolic interactionist analysis.
   b. macrosociological analysis.
   c. microsociological analysis.
   d. middle-range analysis.

27. The degree to which members of a group or society feel united by shared values and other social bonds is:
   a. anomie.
   b. social cohesion.
   c. social linkage.
   d. social bonding.

28. The key insight of sociology is that:
   a. the crime rate is the most important social fact in our society.
   b. using scientific methods to understand human behavior is hopeless because people are often unpredictable individuals who don't behave the way that theories would predict.
   c. social action is pointless because social structure determines our statuses, roles, attitudes and values, leaving individuals with few choices or options.
   d. human behavior is shaped by the groups to which we belong and social interaction within these groups.

29. The patterns of behavior that characterize a social group are:
   a. social actions.
   b. social statuses.
   c. social facts.
   d. social locations.

30. The process by which people learn what to "take for granted" is called:
   a. rationalization.
   b. socialization.
   c. acculturation.
   d. social learning.
31. The idea that language creates ways of thinking and perceiving, shaping how people see the world is:
   a. the Thomas Theorem.  b. cultural relativism.
   c. ethnocentrism.          d. the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.

32. The interdependence among the parts of a social system is:
   a. functional integration. b. social action. c. power.       d. social status.

33. The role of McDonald's in changing how people eat and of Wal-Mart in changing how people shop are examples of:
   a. the process of social integration.  b. the impacts of anomie in modern society.
   c. the process of rationalization.     d. the importance of how people use symbols to establish meaning.

34. The idea that human behavior is determined by both the objective facts of a situation and by how people define the situation was first presented by:

35. Shaking hands when you are introduced to someone is an example of:
   a. a folkway in our society.  b. a taboo in our society.
   c. the value of individualism. d. a more in our society.

36. When Jennifer visited Germany, she found it difficult to buy train tickets or to purchase items in stores because people pushed ahead of her. When she went home to the U.S., she told her friends that the Germans were the rudest people that she had ever encountered. Her judgment about German behavior is an example of:
   a. ethnocentrism.  b. universalism.  c. cultural relativism.           d. cultural leveling.

37. The experiences of the singer's sister in “Drive-in Movies and Dashboard Lights” are examples of the importance of:
   a. gender roles.  b. sex roles.  c. genderization.  d. gender stereotypes.

38. Which sociologist showed that social factors exert a fundamental influence on suicidal behavior?

39. The way in which social structure limits the range of activities and opportunities in individuals’ lives is called:
   a. division of labor  b. anomie
   c. rationalization  d. social constraint

40. Which early theorist saw class conflict as the main source of social change?
   a. Émile Durkheim
b. Harriet Martineau  
c. Karl Marx  
d. Max Weber

41. Which theorist examined society in terms of the history of class struggles?  
a. Max Weber  
b. Émile Durkheim  
c. George Herbert Mead  
d. Karl Marx

42. According to Karl Marx’s materialist conception of history, which of the following would be considered a source of social change in society?  
a. democratic political movements  
b. the relationships between the working class and the capitalist class  
c. acceptance of new religions  
d. changes in family structure

43. According to Max Weber, developments in modern science, technology, and bureaucracy are examples of the general social process that focuses on social, economic, and cultural life according to the principles of efficiency and technical knowledge. He terms this approach:  
a. proletariatization  
b. rationalization  
c. humanistic approach  
d. alienation approach

44. With the use of Internet technology, college students are able to more efficiently register for classes, check their grades, and access course material on class Web sites. Max Weber would say that this is an example of:  
a. globalization  
b. capitalism  
c. rationalization  
d. division of labor

45. According to W.E.B. Du Bois, African Americans’ sense of self and identity are greatly influenced by the experiences of slavery and, after emancipation, segregation. Du Bois labeled this experience:  
a. organic solidarity  
b. rationalization  
c. dialectical materialism  
d. double consciousness

46. When one item is used to represent another, it is labeled a(n):  
a. concept  
b. theory  
c. ideology  
d. symbol

47. A sociologist who studies gang tattoos in American society to understand the meaning they hold for the gang members would be studying these tattoos as:  
a. symbols  
b. artifacts  
c. concepts  
d. values
48. Drug trafficking and other illegal activities produce jobs and income for an underclass of Americans. Illegal activity in turn produces jobs in law enforcement, corrections, and the legal system. Who might say that drug trafficking has a useful place in society?
   a. capitalists
   b. postmodernists
   c. functionalists
   d. rational choice theorists

49. According to Robert K. Merton, the intended consequences of an activity or institution are called:
   a. latent functions
   b. manifest functions
   c. desired functions
   d. functional

50. Which of the following is NOT one of the manifest functions of education?
   a. Learn basic skills such as reading and writing.
   b. Learn the skills needed to get a job.
   c. Learn analytical skills such as critical thinking.
   d. Learn to obey authority figures.

51. If a person or group is able to make their own concerns or interests count, even if others resist, that individual or group has:
   a. power
   b. ideology
   c. symbolism
   d. Rational choice

52. The study of everyday life and face-to-face interaction is called:
   a. microsociology
   b. macrosociology
   c. sociobiology
   d. psychosociology

53. Which of the following is an example of microsociology?
   a. studying the social interactions in a coffee shop
   b. defining the organizational chart for a large corporation
   c. observing the hierarchical structures within a university
   d. comparing cultural changes in industrial and postindustrial countries

54. Analysis of large-scale systems and long-term processes is known as:
   a. microsociology
   b. macrosociology
   c. sociobiology
   d. psychosociology

55. Which of the following is a practical benefit of the study of sociology?
   a. increased understanding of biological determinism
b. ability to assess the effects, including unintended consequences, of public policies
c. increased self-esteem
d. realization that most social problems affect only a small number of people

56. A global culture is emerging due to all of the following EXCEPT:
a. electronic communications
b. global economy
c. nationalism movements
d. television

57. Features that are found in virtually all societies are defined as:
a. subcultures
b. multiculturalism
c. cultural universals
d. cultural relativism

58. Values are:
a. physical objects that a society creates
b. modes of behavior shared by all human cultures
c. concrete rules of behavior
d. abstract ideals about what is good and bad

59. The idea that you should not cheat during this exam is an example of a:
a. cultural universal
b. norm
c. signifier
d. value

60. The physical objects a society creates are defined as:
a. values
b. symbols
c. norms
d. material culture

61. The Sapir-Whorf linguistic relativity hypothesis is important in understanding how:
a. children learn their gender roles in American society
b. family members play a critical role in personality development
c. language shapes our perceptions and ways of thinking
d. people can never learn another language as well as their native tongue

62. The linguistic relativity hypothesis was developed by:
a. Chomsky
b. Durkheim
63. For most of their existence as a species, humans lived in what type of societies?
   a. agrarian
   b. industrial
   c. hunting and gathering
   d. pastoral

64. What type of society is described as having very little inequality, no divisions of rich and poor, few
   differences in power, emphasis on cooperation rather than competition, participatory decision making, and
   an elaborate ceremonial life?
   a. industrial
   b. horticultural
   c. hunting and gathering
   d. pastoral

65. There was little difference among members of hunting and gathering societies, and differences in
   position or rank were based on the:
   a. amount and type of food gathered during the growing season
   b. gender and age of the community members
   c. family size
   d. length of time in which a family resided with the community

66. __________ societies relied mainly on domesticated animals, while __________ societies grew crops for their livelihood.
   a. Agrarian; hunting and gathering
   b. Gathering; industrial
   c. Hunting and gathering; pastoral
   d. Pastoral; agrarian

67. In which type of society do most people live and work on the land, growing crops for food and to
   sell?
   a. postindustrial
   b. pastoral
   c. hunting and gathering
   d. agrarian

68. The emergence of machine production, based on the use of inanimate power sources, is known as:
   a. agriculture
   b. hunting
c. industrialization  
d. pastoralism  

69. Political communities with clearly defined borders (rather than vague frontiers) in which the governments have extensive power over citizens’ lives are known as:  
a. colonies  
b. empires  
c. nation-states  
d. traditional states  

70. Those societies in the global south that have begun to successfully develop industrial systems are known as:  
a. civilizations  
b. emerging economies  
c. more developed countries  
d. neo-economies  

71. Assessing a society by its own cultural standards is known as:  
a. sociobiology  
b. ethnocentrism  
c. cultural universals  
d. cultural relativism  

72. Children learn the values, norms, and social practices of their culture. This process is defined as:  
a. socialization  
b. sensitization  
c. social reproduction  
d. social interaction  

73. Friendship groups of similar age and social background are known as:  
a. age grades  
b. socializing groups  
c. peer groups  
d. peer grades  

74. Formalized peer groups in small traditional cultures are known as:  
a. age grades  
b. socializing groups  
c. peer grades  
d. social grades  

75. Nonverbal communication is:  
a. the exchange of information through facial expressions and movements of the body  
b. a function of controlled alertness
c. a useful form of communication only in front region situations
d. used to determine ascribed status

76. Erving Goffman and other theorists who focus on social interaction often use the analogy of:
a. theater and drama
b. football and stadiums
c. basketball and gyms
d. drinking and bars

77. The reading, research, and other preparation that your professor did to get ready for the lecture in your sociology class was done in what Erving Goffman refers to as:
a. master statuses
b. interactional vandalism
c. front regions
d. back regions

78. Harold Garfinkel developed “ethnomethodology,” which is the:
a. nonintrusive recognition of others, done more or less unconsciously
b. study of folk or lay methods people use to make sense of what others say and do
c. manner of communication that uses only gestures, no words
d. study of ethnic and racial difference in verbal and nonverbal conversational expressions

79. Interational vandalism can be defined as a situation in which a:
a. subordinate person breaks the tacit rules of interaction that are valued by the more powerful person
b. powerful person breaks the tacit rules of interaction that denigrate the subordinate
c. subordinate person defaces or destroys property valued by the more powerful person
d. powerful person breaks the tacit rules of interaction and interacts with a subordinate as an equal

80. In research by Elijah Anderson, time of day and activity were also important cues because they could help people assess whether a stranger “passed inspection” and was considered to be:
a. known
b. safe
c. powerful
d. friendly

81. When a student texts his friends with familiar abbreviations and acronyms but e-mails his professors with carefully written and edited messages e-mails, he is using the media for:
a. impression management
b. status reassignment
c. interactional staging
d. temporal regionalization

ANSWER KEY
1. b
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. D
6. B
7. A
8. A
9. D
10. D
11. A
12. B
13. C
14. C
15. B
16. B
17. C
18. A
19. B
20. D
21. A
22. D
23. D
24. A
25. D
26. B
27. B
28. D
29. C
30. B
31. D
32. A
33. C
34. A
35. A
36. A
37. D
38. B
39. D
40. C
41. D
42. B
43. B
44. C
45. D
46. D
47. A
48. C
49. B
50. D
51. A
52. A
53. A
54. B
55. B
56. C
57. C
58. D
59. B
60. D
61. C
62. D
63. C
64. C
65. B
66. D
67. D
68. C
69. C
70. B
71. D
72. A
73. C
74. A
75. A
76. A
77. D
78. B
79. A
80. B
81. A