

CHAPTER 2

IN MARX'S WAKE: THEORIES OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The field of sociology began to change in the 1960s as a result of all but which of the following?
 - a. civil rights movement
 - b. immigrant's rights movement*
 - c. women's liberation movement
 - d. anti-Vietnam War protests

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2. During the 1950s, the leading voice in sociology and author of *The Social System* was
 - a. C. Wright Mills
 - b. Emile Durkheim
 - c. Talcott Parsons*
 - d. Karl Marx

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3. A sociological theory
 - a. explains social life and observations that help to explain social life*
 - b. shows that social life is socially constructed
 - c. changes frequently
 - d. is something everyone has the ability to develop on their own

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4. The conflict perspective contends that the competition for all but which of the following should be the main concern of sociology?
 - a. income
 - b. crime*

- c. power
- d. prestige
- e. wealth

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5. Which of the following is not found in Marx's analysis of the capitalist system?

- a. bourgeoisie
- b. proletariat
- c. secretariat*
- d. means of production
- e. all are found in Marx's conflict perspective

(Pages 27-28)

6. Marx's four social classes include all but which of the following?

- a. secretariat*
- b. proletariat
- c. lumpenproletariat
- d. bourgeoisie
- e. petit bourgeoisie

(Pages 27-28)

7. When workers unwittingly accept the economic and political systems that keep them unequal to the owners of the means of production, they are engaging in

- a. blind side politics
- b. false hope
- c. false consciousness*
- d. survival of the fittest
- e. scapegoating

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8. Max Weber's main tenets in the conflict perspective involve which of the following?
- a. class, power, and prestige
 - b. class, race, power
 - c. class, party, and prestige
 - d. race, class, and gender
 - e. class, status, and party*

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9. According to Max Weber, flaunting of one's wealth to show one's status is called
- a. conspicuous consumption*
 - b. purchasing power
 - c. capitalism
 - d. obvious purchasing
 - e. keeping up with the Jones's

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10. Max Weber's focus on party includes all but one of the following types of authority?
- a. bureaucratic
 - b. charismatic
 - c. legal*
 - d. traditional

(Pages 33-34)

11. Using Max Weber's definition of a charismatic leader, which of the following best fits that definition?
- a. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
 - b. Barack Obama
 - c. John F. Kennedy
 - d. Hilary Clinton

e. all of the above

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12. Erik Wright argued that according to Marx ownership of the means of production was important as all but which of the following?

- a. control over employees
- b. control over the means of production
- c. control over the political system*
- d. skill level
- e. control over the production process

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13. The three branches of the C. Wright Mills' definition of the power elite consist of all but which of the following?

- a. military circle
- b. political elite
- c. corporate elite
- d. legal and judicial system*

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14. G. William Domhoff theorized that the wealthy have a commitment to maintaining

- a. the prevailing rules and laws*
- b. growth and fairness in business and government
- c. negative images of the poor in the media
- d. unequal positions of women in society

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15. Thomas Dye's theory of the institutional elite states that the power elite, also known in his theory as "multiple interlockers" are those who are

- a. male, affluent, and younger
- b. male, educated, and located in rural areas

- c. Jewish, affluent, and white
- d. Anglo-Saxon, affluent, and male*
- e. male, younger, and located in urban areas

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True/False Questions

1. The structural functionalist theory shows that social life is full of conflict and disruptions. (False. Page 24)
2. According to Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore, the structural functionalist theory can explain why social stratification is inevitable and necessary. (True. Page 24)
3. The conflict theory's main proponent has been Karl Marx. (True. Page 25)
4. The mode of production is a way for a country to employ workers and provide benefits. (False. Page 25)
5. Capitalism is a mode of economic production that focuses on group ownership. (False. Page 26)
6. Marx's theory of capitalism and other modes of production distinguish between two core concepts: superstructure and supreme structure. (False. Page 26)
7. A superstructure involves the noneconomic parts of society like education and political system. (True. Page 26)
8. Karl Marx believed that the answer to competition inherent in the system of capitalism was to peacefully move towards the system of socialism. (False. Page 28)
9. Critics argue that although Marxist theory had its weaknesses, it also had its strengths. (True. Pages 29-30)
10. Marxist theory had its weakest impact in theories and research on social inequality and social stratification (False. Page 30)
11. Max Weber's contribution to the conflict perspective was his focus on class, party, and wealth. (False. Page 31)
12. Conspicuous consumption involves purchasing as much food as one can before access to food disappears. (False. Page 32)
13. Perrucci and Wysong's theory of social stratification which includes "the haves" and the "have nots" most closely mirrors that of Marx. (True. Pages 36-37)

14. C. Wright Mills and G. William Domhoff both found that the corporate class has a privileged secondary school and college and university background. (True. Page 40)
15. An interlocking directorate is when there is a formal connection between a major corporation and a political party because each has a consultant working for the other. (False. Page 40)

Short Answer Questions

1. Explain Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore's explanation of social stratification in society and the competing theory of Melvin Tumin and the theoretical perspectives adhered to by each. (Pages 24-25)
2. Compare the major dimensions of Marx's social stratification theory with those of Weber. (Pages 25-35)
3. What is the difference between the means of production and the mode of production? How are they interrelated? (Pages 25-27)

Essay Question

1. Using the many different theories that use the concept of the power elite, discuss the ways in which corporate connections, wealth, status, and education help to perpetuate social stratification. (Pages 38-43)