***Social Problems and the Quality of Life, 14e* (Lauer)**

**Chapter 1 Understanding Social Problems**

1) A problem that can be explained in terms of the qualities of an individual is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) personal problem

B) social problem

C) institutional problem

D) societal problem

Answer: A

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2) A problem that has causes and solutions which lie outside an individual and the immediate environment is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) personal problem

B) social problem

C) institutional problem

D) societal problem

Answer: B

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3) Which famous sociologist referred to personal problems as the "personal troubles of milieu"?

A) Robert Merton

B) Emile Durkheim

C) Max Weber

D) C. Wright Mills

Answer: D

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

4) Which famous sociologist referred to social problems as the "public issues of social structure"?

A) Robert Merton

B) Emile Durkheim

C) Max Weber

D) C. Wright Mills

Answer: D

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

5) If a problem is defined as personal, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are employed to cope with the problem.

A) individual strategies

B) collective strategies

C) societal strategies

D) professional strategies

Answer: A

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6) A social problem is defined as a condition or pattern of behavior that:

A) validates some other condition or pattern of behavior.

B) is caused, facilitated, or prolonged by factors that operate at a single level of social life.

C) is defined as compatible with the desired quality of life.

D) requires social action to be resolved.

Answer: D

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7) A sociological theory that focuses on social systems and how their interdependent parts maintain order is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) structural functionalism

B) conflict theory

C) symbolic interactionism

D) cultural theory

Answer: A

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8) A theory that focuses on contradictory interests, inequalities between social groups, and the resulting conflict and change is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) structural functionalism

B) conflict theory

C) symbolic interactionism

D) cultural theory

Answer: B

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9) A sociological theory that focuses on the interaction between individuals, an individual's perception of situations, and the ways in which social life is constructed through interaction is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) structural functionalism

B) conflict theory

C) symbolic interactionism

D) cultural theory

Answer: C

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10) In structural functionalism, a problem involves a system of interdependent parts, including shared expectations about behavior called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) norms

B) roles

C) contradictions

D) values

Answer: A

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11) The behavior associated with a particular position in the social structure is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) norm

B) role

C) expectation

D) function

Answer: B

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12) Things that are preferred because they are defined as having worth are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) attitudes

B) ideologies

C) beliefs

D) values

Answer: D

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13) The arrangement of society into groups that are unequal with regard to such valued resources as wealth, power, and prestige is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) a stratification system

B) culture

C) society

D) intuition

Answer: A

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14) Which of the following is true according to the symbolic interactionist approach in sociology?

A) A problem involves a system of interdependent parts, including institutions, norms, roles, and values.

B) Contradictions and inequalities exist between the parts of a social system and generate conflict between groups.

C) A pattern of inequality of wealth, power, and prestige exists in all societies.

D) The perspectives of individuals, including their attitudes and ideologies, are important components of the social system.

Answer: D

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15) A set of ideas that explain or justify some aspect of social reality is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) an attitude

B) an ideology

C) a value

D) a role

Answer: B

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16) Which of the following is an assumption of the structural functionalist approach in sociology?

A) Society is an integrated system of interdependent parts, bound together by shared values and norms.

B) Society is a system of diverse groups, with conflicting values and interests, vying with each other for power, wealth, and other valued resources.

C) Society is an arena of interacting individuals who behave in accord with their definitions of situations and who create shared meanings as they interact.

D) Society is a system of the perspectives of individuals, including their attitudes and ideologies.

Answer: A

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17) How does the conflict theory explain social problems generally?

A) Problems occur when patterns of social interaction alter the social structural factors.

B) A situation or form of behavior becomes a problem when people define it as such.

C) Problems are the result of dominance over, and exploitation of, some groups by others.

D) Problems arise out of social disorganization, a state in which consensus about norms has broken down.

Answer: C

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18) How does structural functionalism explain poverty?

A) The upper and middle classes oppress and exploit the poor and create ideologies that blame the poor and justify their poverty.

B) Political, economic, and educational institutions are not functioning adequately, so that old arrangements are obsolete before new arrangements are in place.

C) Poverty became a social problem in the United States when people accepted that people remain poor when they define their poverty as the result of their own deficiencies.

D) Upper- and middle-class lawmakers regularly support corporate welfare but reject such welfare ideas for the poor as a guaranteed minimum annual income.

Answer: B

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19) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ uses three broad categories: basic human needs (such as nutrition, medical care, and sanitation); foundations of well-being (health, environmental quality, access to basic knowledge and information); and opportunity (personal rights and freedom, tolerance, access to advanced education).

A) World Values Survey

B) World Happiness Report

C) Human Development Index

D) Social Progress Index

Answer: D

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20) The idea of the globalization of the economy would be measured at what level of social life?

A) individual level

B) group level

C) societal level

D) global level

Answer: D

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21) The process of carefully attending to spoken or written information in order to evaluate its validity is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the fallacy of dramatic instance

B) the fallacy of thinking

C) critical thinking

D) scientific methodology

Answer: C

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22) The tendency to overgeneralize, that is to use one, two, or three cases to support an entire argument, is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the fallacy of dramatic instance

B) the fallacy of thinking

C) critical thinking

D) scientific methodology

Answer: A

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23) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the argument that things could not have worked out any other way than the way they did.

A) fallacy of dramatic instance

B) fallacy of thinking

C) fallacy of retrospective determinism

D) fallacy of misplaced concreteness

Answer: C

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24) In the context of critical thinking, which of the following is true of the fallacy of retrospective determinism?

A) It is the tendency to overgeneralize, to use one, two, or three cases to support an entire argument.

B) It asserts that what happened historically had to happen, and it had to happen just the way it did.

C) It is an idea, a way of thinking about a particular collectivity of people.

D) It attributes the cause of a particular problem to society and denies individual responsibility.

Answer: B

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25) In the context of critical thinking, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the tendency to make something abstract into something definite.

A) fallacy of dramatic instance

B) fallacy of retrospective determinism

C) fallacy of personal attack

D) fallacy of misplaced concreteness

Answer: D

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26) A tactic among debaters is to attack the opponent personally when they can't support their position by reason, logic, or facts. This is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) fallacy of personal attack

B) fallacy of misplaced concreteness

C) fallacy of dramatic instance

D) fallacy of appeal of prejudice

Answer: A

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27) In the context of critical thinking, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the tendency of debaters to use popular preconceptions or passions to convince others of the correctness of their position.

A) fallacy of retrospective determinism

B) fallacy of misplaced concreteness

C) fallacy of dramatic instance

D) fallacy of appeal to prejudice

Answer: D

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28) When a person uses conclusions to support the assumptions that were necessary to make the conclusions, it is an example of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the fallacy of circular reasoning

B) the fallacy of appeal to prejudice

C) the fallacy of misplaced concreteness

D) the fallacy of personal attack

Answer: A

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29) The fallacy of authority means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) an illegitimate appeal to authority

B) observing an experiment

C) conducting an experiment for yourself

D) giving a lecture on research that you have conducted

Answer: A

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30) The assertion that what is true of the part is necessarily true of the whole is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the fallacy of non sequitur

B) the fallacy of personal attack

C) the fallacy of composition

D) the fallacy of appeal to prejudice

Answer: C

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31) The term "non sequitur" means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) "to speak the truth"

B) "it does not follow"

C) "it is a given"

D) "it is not possible"

Answer: B

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32) In the context of critical thinking, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is defined as something that does not follow logically from what has preceded it.

A) fallacy of non sequitur

B) fallacy of authority

C) fallacy of composition

D) fallacy of appeal to prejudice

Answer: A

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33) A method of research in which a sample of people are interviewed or given questionnaires in order to get data on some phenomenon is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) an experiment

B) a survey

C) a record study

D) an observational study

Answer: B

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34) Your position in the social system based on economic resources, power, education, prestige, and life style is called your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) cultural position

B) role

C) inherited status

D) socioeconomic status

Answer: D

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35) A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is any trait or characteristic that varies in value or magnitude.

A) social trait

B) phenomenon

C) role

D) variable

Answer: D

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

36) The most common research method used in sociology is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) experiments

B) observational studies

C) records studies

D) survey research

Answer: D

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37) A statistical method for determining the probability that research findings occurred by change is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the mean

B) a test of reliability

C) a test of significance

D) regression analysis

Answer: C

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38) The organization of data to show the number of times each item occurs in a distribution is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the mean

B) the frequency distribution

C) the median

D) the range

Answer: B

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39) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the score in a distribution which has half of the scores above it and half of the scores below it.

A) mode

B) mean

C) median

D) range

Answer: C

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40) The variable in an experiment that is manipulated to see how it effects changes in the other variable is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the dependent variable

B) the independent variable

C) the control variable

D) the spurious variable

Answer: B

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41) The variable in an experiment that is influenced by an independent variable is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) the dependent variable

B) the independent variable

C) the control variable

D) the spurious variable

Answer: A

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42) A problem that can be explained in terms of the qualities of the individual is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: personal problem

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

43) A problem whose causes and solutions lie outside the individual and the immediate environment is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: social problem

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

44) There are three major theoretical perspectives in sociology. They are structural functionalism, conflict theory, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: symbolic interactionism

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

45) A sociological theory that focuses on social systems and how their interdependent parts maintain order is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: structural functionalism

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

46) A theory that focuses on contradictory interests, inequalities between social groups, and the resulting conflict and change is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: conflict theory

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

47) A theory that focuses on the interaction between individuals, the individual's perception of situations, and the ways in which social life is constructed through interaction is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: symbolic interactionism

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

48) A(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the behavior associated with a particular position in the social structure.

Answer: role

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

49) A(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the arrangement of society into groups that are unequal with regard to such resources as wealth, power, and prestige.

Answer: stratification system

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

50) A predisposition about something in one's environment is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: attitude

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

51) A set of ideas that explain or justify some aspect of social reality is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: ideology

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

52) Social problems can be manifested at multiple levels of social life. They can be manifested at the individual level, the group level, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: societal level

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

53) The process of carefully attending to spoken or written information in order to evaluate its validity is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: critical thinking

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

54) The tendency to overgeneralize, that is to use one, two, or three cases to support an entire argument, is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: the fallacy of dramatic instance

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

55) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the argument that things could not have worked out any other way than the way they did.

Answer: fallacy of retrospective determinism

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

56) A tactic among debaters is to attack the opponent personally when they can't support their position by reason, logic, or facts. This is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: fallacy of personal attack

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

57) When a person uses conclusions to support the assumptions that where necessary to make the conclusions, it is an example of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: fallacy of circular reasoning

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

58) In the context of critical thinking, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the process of defining what is abstract as something concrete.

Answer: reification

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

59) The fallacy of authority means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: an illegitimate appeal to authority

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

60) The assertion that what is true of the part is necessarily true of the whole is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: the fallacy of composition

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

61) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is designed to gain information about social problems so that one can have a valid understanding of them and employ realistic efforts in resolving them.

Answer: Social research

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

62) The variables in an experiment that are manipulated to see how they affect changes in the other variables are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: the independent variables

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

63) The variables in an experiment that are influenced by the independent variables are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: the dependent variables

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

64) A problem that can be explained in terms of the qualities of an individual is called a social problem.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

65) A problem whose causes and solutions lie outside the individual and the immediate environment is called a social problem.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

66) The famous sociologist Kai Erickson referred to personal problems as the "personal troubles of milieu."

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

67) The famous sociologist C. Wright Mills referred to social problems as the "public issues of social structure."

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

68) There are three major theoretical perspectives in sociology. They are structural functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

69) A sociological theory that focuses on social systems and how their interdependent parts maintain order is called structural functionalism.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

70) A theory that focuses on contradictory interests, inequalities between social groups, and the resulting conflict and change is called structural functionalism.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

71) A theory that focuses on the interaction between individuals, the individual's perception of situations, and the ways in which social life is constructed through interaction is called symbolic interactionism.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

72) A symbolic interactionist approach would stress the fact that people learn criminal behavior by communicating with, and accepting for themselves the perspective of, others who approve of such behavior.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

73) A status is the behavior associated with a particular position in the social structure.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

74) A stratification system is the arrangement of society into groups that are unequal with regard to such resources as wealth, power, and prestige.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

75) Social problems can be manifested at multiple levels of social life. They can be manifested at the individual level, the group level, and the cultural level.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

76) The idea of the globalization of the economy would be measured at the global level of social life.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

77) The process of carefully attending to spoken or written information in order to evaluate its validity is called critical thinking.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

78) The tendency to overgeneralize, that is to use one, two, or three cases to support an entire argument, is called the fallacy of dramatic instance.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

79) The fallacy of dramatic instance is the argument that things could not have worked out any other way than the way they did.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

80) A tactic among debaters is to attack the opponent personally when they can't support their position by reason, logic, or facts. This is called the fallacy of personal attack.

Answer: TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

81) When a person uses conclusions to support the assumptions that where necessary to make the conclusions, it is an example of the fallacy of appeal to prejudice.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

82) The most common research method used in sociology is research experiments.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

83) In an experimental method, measurements are taken in both experimental and control groups, and both are exposed to a treatment.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

84) The variables in an experiment that are manipulated to see how they affect changes in the other variables are called the dependent variables.

Answer: FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

85) Participant observation is a method of research in which one directly engages and observes the social reality being studied.

Answer: TRUE

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