Chapter 2

Test bank

**Multiple Choice**

1. For the earliest sociologists, including Comte and Durkheim, the goal of sociology was to:
   1. Give a voice to marginalized groups
   2. Discover the cultural variability in the structures that guided society
   3. Discover the universal laws that governed social functioning
   4. Uncover the linguistic structures that tied people together people in a society

Answer: C; page 14

1. Which of the following is a question NOT asked by the early structuralists?
   1. Why do particular societies exist?
   2. How do individuals from different social backgrounds construct meaning for themselves and their lives?
   3. What components comprise a society?
   4. Why do societies change or not change?

Answer: B; page 14

1. From which discipline did early structuralists borrow language and concepts?
   1. Biology
   2. Philosophy
   3. Economics
   4. Linguistics

Answer: A; page 15

1. Who was a chief architect of early functionalist theory?
   1. Herbert Spencer
   2. Michel Foucault
   3. Max Weber
   4. William James

Answer: A; page 15

1. The substratum that appears to underlie all social life is known as
   1. A social network
   2. Deep structure
   3. Social relationships
   4. None of the above

Answer: B; page 16

1. Although he made important contributions to the development of sociological theory, Malinowski could best be categorized as a
   1. Philosopher
   2. Historian
   3. Economist
   4. Anthropologist

Answer: D; page 16

1. The Kula Ring ritual of the Trobriand Islanders of New Guinea involved
   1. Courtship and mating
   2. Childhood gender socialization
   3. Trading and exchange
   4. The selection of new leadership

Answer: C; page 16

1. Talcott Parsons AGIL system was concerned with:
   1. The functional imperatives the kept a social system alive and well
   2. The factors that contribute to social disintegration
   3. The processes though which individuals adapt to local environments
   4. Physical agility

Answer: A; page 18

1. Talcott Parsons trained under:
   1. Auguste Comte
   2. Emile Durkheim
   3. Vilfredo Pareto
   4. Bronisław Malinowski

Answer: C; page 18

1. Although similar in many ways, a key difference between Talcott Parsons and Niklas Luhmann was:
   1. Parsons did not think consensus among members of society was crucial to social functioning, while Lehmann did
   2. Luhmann did not think consensus among members of society was crucial to social functioning, while Parsons did
   3. Parsons did not draw on biological models of society, while Lehmann did
   4. Luhmann did not draw on biological models of society, while Parsons did.

Answer: B; page 20

1. Luhmann placed a great deal of emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in modern society due to its increasing complexity
   1. Trust
   2. Money
   3. Laws
   4. Incarceration

Answer: A; page 20

1. A major movement in social theory in the beginning of twentieth century involved
   1. A new focus on class relations under capitalism
   2. A focus on language as having potential to give meaning to the world in very particular ways
   3. Defragmentation of knowledge and truth
   4. None of the above

Answer: B; page 21

1. Much of the linguistic turn was inspired by:
   1. Emile Durkheim
   2. August Comte
   3. Stewart Hall
   4. Ludwig Wittgenstein

Answer: D; page 22

1. Wittgenstein’s theory rested on which crucial insight?
   1. Social structures and their functions were inherently related
   2. Thought and language were separate, autonomous systems
   3. All thought had to emerge from language, and language set the boundaries of one’s world
   4. The desires embedded in the unconscious drove much of human behavior

Answer: C; page 22

1. According to Louis Althusser, structure was
   1. Overemphasized on the social sciences
   2. The primary determinant of all social activity
   3. Less important than the unconscious in determining social behavior
   4. Driven by economic incentives

Answer: B; page 24

1. According to Althusser, ideology is
   1. Codes or frameworks used to understand society
   2. An ideal vision of what society should be
   3. Used as a tool to control the masses
   4. Less important than pragmatism

Answer: A; page 25

1. A key assertion of exchange theory is that
   1. People are irrational, and easily manipulated
   2. People want to maximize their rewards and minimize their hurt
   3. Exchange rituals differ across cultural contexts
   4. None of the above

Answer: B; page 30

1. One critique of network analysis is that it
   1. Is too heavy on methodologies and lacks theoretical depth
   2. Is too heavy on theory, and lacks methodological depth
   3. Ignores social structure
   4. Hasn’t contributed to structural analysis

Answer: A; page 32

1. A key distinction in narrative theory is
   1. What is narrated and who is narrating it
   2. Who is narrating and where it is being narrated
   3. What is narrated and how it is narrated
   4. Who is the reader

Answer: C; page 34

1. A key contention of Anthony Giddens’s theory of structuration is that
   1. Structure is more important than agency
   2. Agency is more important than structure
   3. Both structure and agency are important in explaining social processes
   4. Agency and structure are dead ends. Theory should focus instead on identity

Answer: C; page 36

**True or False:**

1. One of the key foci of structural functionalism, especially that of Comte and Durkheim, was the relationship between structure and function of those units thought to constitute society.

Answer: True; page 15

1. Structuralists often viewed the individual actor as little more than a passive reflection of social processes.

Answer: True; page 15

1. Rational choice theory is often referred to as exchange theory.

Answer: True; page 30

**Short Answer:**

1. What does AGIL stand for?
2. What are the key components of network analysis?
3. What assumptions about human nature does rational choice theory make?

**Essay**

1. Describe and explain three ways in which the linguistic turn changed structuralism.
2. In what ways have critics claimed that structuralism failed? Do you agree?
3. What role does language play in maintaining social structure? Choose two theorists who included language in their theories, and describe how they viewed it.