

Chapter

GUIDED READING

Directions: As you read the passage, select the correct word (from the choices that follow) to fill in each blank.

Sociology is considered to be the scientific study of ____1____ structure. It is unique in its view of society in that it does not focus on the individual person, but rather on the patterns of behavior shared by members of a group. Even though the ____2____ of a group will have individual differences, as a whole, they will basically ____3____ to the culture and traditions of that group. We are better able to make individual decisions when we are ____4____ of this pressure to conform. This awareness, called social imagination, helps us not to conform blindly with no thought to ____5____ point of view.

The science of sociology was brought forth in the political and economic turmoil of late nineteenth-century Europe. A Frenchman named Auguste Comte is considered to be the father of ____6____. He believed that in order to make society better, it needed to be ____7____ and understood. Other early sociologists ____8____ Harriet Martineau, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber. Martineau developed early feminist theories, linking the oppression of ____9____ to slavery. Spencer introduced a ____10____ of social change called Social Darwinism. Marx focused on the social classes and the clash between the “haves” and the “have-nots.” He felt society should work towards a ____11____ society, or communism. Durkheim advocated that society existed because of the ____12____ of different members of society to work together. Weber identified the concept of rationalization, which is a mindset of knowledge and reason, and how it helped society ____13____ from the superstitions and traditions of the past.

Sociology has ____14____ broad theoretical perspectives—functionalism, conflict perspective, and symbolic interactionism—that each provide a different slant on human social behavior. Functionalism focuses on how different parts of a society, such as family and religion, work together to form the whole of the society and keep that society fairly stable. Functionalism

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finds that agreement on desirable _____15_____ accounts for the high degree of cooperation found in any society. The _____16_____ perspective sees social living as a contest that determines who gains what. Advocates of the conflict perspective believe that society changes as different groups _____17_____ power. Symbolic _____18_____ focuses on the way people interact with one another. The basic assumptions of symbolic interactionism are as follows: we learn what a symbol represents by how others react to it; once we learn what the symbol _____19_____, we base our behavior on it; and we use the meanings of symbols to determine how others will _____20_____ to behavior.

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| 1. a. biological
b. economic
c. social
d. scientific | 8. a. forget
b. ignore
c. include
d. inclusion | 15. a. discounts
b. designers
c. values
d. volumes |
| 2. a. mothers
b. members
c. sports teams
d. governments | 9. a. men
b. women
c. athletes
d. horses | 16. a. confusion
b. conflict
c. sociology
d. symbolic |
| 3. a. conformity
b. conform
c. confirm
d. contest | 10. a. theory
b. argument
c. complaint
d. dissipation | 17. a. gain
b. avoid
c. expel
d. plan |
| 4. a. worn
b. deflated
c. ignorant
d. aware | 11. a. social
b. high-class
c. classless
d. classy | 18. a. action
b. activism
c. symbolism
d. interactionism |
| 5. a. another's
b. you
c. telescopic
d. your | 12. a. conflict
b. argument
c. agriculture
d. agreement | 19. a. despise
b. mention
c. sensationalize
d. means |
| 6. a. France
b. physics
c. sociology
d. England | 13. a. disappear
b. cling
c. change
d. changes | 20. a. respond
b. record
c. pretend
d. practice |
| 7. a. ignored
b. forgotten
c. perpetrated
d. studied | 14. a. three
b. nine
c. no
d. innumerable | |