

Sociology Comprehensive
Examination

March 1968

30th--Sat. 9-10 to 1:00

Answer Question I and one other question in each of the following sections.

Section I

Q1

Successful participation in society requires a minimum understanding of self which, in turn, requires a minimum understanding of Society. Discuss.

Q2

Discuss housing in terms of status, socialization and social organization. What are some of the reasons housing problems have been acute in the United States?

Q3

What sciences would aid a social worker to better perform her/his role? How would such knowledge be put to use in the profession? Be specific.

Section II

Q1

What is Sociology? What is its value? What are its weaknesses? What effects has it had on society?

Q2

What is the function of ethnic intolerance in society? Can the resultant conflict be positively functional? If so, how? Be specific, and explain your answers by citing examples.

Q3

"The first year of marriage is the hardest." Discuss the pros and cons of this statement, including a sociological definition of marriage and giving reasons (other than biological) for the existence of marriage.

Section III

Q1

Discuss one sociological concept from each of the three lists. Be sure to state theorists and to clearly define the concept. Consider the possibility that you have something to add to general theory or, conversely, the right to question the relevance of theory in light of your knowledge of sociology and modern American society.

- A) Roles - Primary groups - Power and Authority
- B) Culture - Class - Cohesion and Social Conflict
- C) Bureaucracy - Social Control - Status - Interaction

Q2

What is a social problem? Give examples and cite the elements common to most groups or individuals involved, explaining one social problem in some detail. What is the relationship between deviance and disorganization?

Q3

Discuss urban theory of Park, Burgess and MacKenzie. Describe urban areas, urban life and use examples. What is a city? A slum? What must a city have? What are its functions. What is the history of the growth of cities? What are the characteristics of urban life? What would YOU predict for cities in light of your present knowledge? (Answer as many of the above specific questions as possible.)

Q4

Discuss several early American and several minor European sociologists, citing their contributions to sociology. Do you see similarities or differences between the two?

Section IV

Q1

Discuss one of the following. Be specific about major theoretical contributions of each man, and cite similarities and differences.

- A) Weber and Parsons
- B) Hegel and Sorokin
- C) Durkheim and Merton

Q2

Choose 15 men from the following list and give (briefly) the contribution to sociology of that man. Name major work, or concept with which he is connected, or theory which he developed.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| Plato | Marx | Vico | J.Mills |
| Mead | Piaget | Thomas | Locke |
| Hobbes | Tarde | Morgan | Comte |
| St. Simon | Rousseau | Bellamy | Cooley |
| Bagehot | LeBon | Znaniecki | St. Augustine |
| A. Smith | Buckle | Spencer | Veblen |

Q3

What is Structural-Functionalism? Conflict Theory?

Q4

Discuss Marriage and the family sociologically emphasizing communication, sex, respect, humor, role relations, norms and values.

Q5

Mrs. Sanchez is a resident of Spanish-Harlem. Her husband deserted her. She has a pre-school child, a teenage boy who is a member of a violent gang and some of whose friends are addicts, and a beautiful high-spirited daughter who is "running around." The Sanchez family arrived from rural Puerto Rico just 2 years ago, and the father disappeared soon after. Mrs. Sanchez, prior to her arrival in the States, never had a paying job.

Suggest ways to aid this client. Emphasize roles. Step-by-step state what you as a case worker, would do and what specific recommendations you would make.

Section V

Here - choose Q1 or Q2 and one other question.

Q1

Outline a course in Introductory Sociology and prepare a reading list for this course.

OR

List the courses you would consider fundamental for a good Sociology Department and give a brief description of each course.

Q2

(alternative to Q1)

State a problem and propose a method for researching it. Be sure to include (1) checking the literature citing one or two sources for the subject, (2) formulating the hypotheses, (3) choosing the method (experiment, field study, field experiment, survey), (4) designing the instrument, (5) collecting the data, i.e., doing the research noting sample, population, etc., (6) analyzing the data, (7) conclusions - writing the report.

Defend your method, your design re adequacy of sample, validity, reliability, etc.

What problems might you expect? What weaknesses do you see in your research?

Q3

Is it the importance of the pursuit of status that makes the crowd lonely, or the loneliness of the crowd that makes the pursuit of status important? Defend your answer logically and give specific social examples, interpreting them sociologically.

Q4

What is the relationship between alienation and anomie? Discuss various kinds of alienation. In a society which approaches an anomic state what happens with respect to the norms, the values, consensus, roles, etc.? Use your knowledge of modern society to illuminate your discussion.

Q5

Discuss any contemporary topic of your choice. Discuss any contemporary topic or problem centering on the definition of the situation in your analysis. Be sure you use your understanding of the relevant sociological concepts. (esp. roles, values)

Suggestions: CEF - Senate Foreign Affairs Committee
The Disbanding of a religious community
The Emotional contagion of Comp
"jitters" and the status of seniors
Black power