

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND
BA SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS**

SOC 4302-11A: CONTEMPORARY THEORIES IN SOCIOLOGY

August 2023

Marks: 100

Time: 3 hours

Instructions:

Answer **all** questions in Section A, and any two questions in Section B.

Section A carries **50** marks. In Section B, all questions carry **25** marks each.

SECTION A (Compulsory)

1. Which of the following had profoundly conservative implications for early American sociology?
 - a. The American civil war
 - b. The French revolution
 - c. Capitalism
 - d. The political revolution [2]

2. Parsons had a clear notion of _____ of social analysis as well as their interrelationship.
 - a. Suitability
 - b. System
 - c. Levels
 - d. All of the above [2]

3. The Critical School accused the culture industry of producing what is conventionally called the 'mass panic'.
 - a. True
 - b. False [2]

4. In his work 'Mind, Self and Society,' Mead gave priority to:
 - a. The society
 - b. The mind
 - c. The social institutions
 - d. The self [2]

5. The functional theory of stratification can be criticised for ignoring that in the future, societies may be organised in other _____ ways.

- a. Social
 - b. Non-stratified
 - c. Systematic
 - d. None of the above [2]
6. Looking Glass Self Theory was developed by_____.
- a. G. H. Mead
 - b. E. Goffman
 - c. C. H. Cooley
 - d. D. H. Blumer [2]
7. _____ is the most critical thinker associated with the Chicago School and Symbolic Interactionism.
- a. Robert Merton
 - b. W. E. B. Du Bois
 - c. Thorstein Veblen
 - d. George Herbert Mead [2]
8. Which of the following is not one of Parsons' Action Systems?
- a. The cultural system
 - b. The latent system
 - c. The social system
 - d. The personality system [2]
9. Conflict theory emerged as a(n):
- a. Critique of feminist theory
 - b. Alternative to Giddens Structuration Theory
 - c. Alternative to structural functionalism
 - d. Critique of postmodernism [2]
10. Early American sociological theory helped rationalise exploitation and imperialism.
- a. True
 - b. False [2]
11. Talcott Parsons is known as a(n) _____.
- a. Micro-macro structuralist
 - b. Structural functionalist
 - c. Agency-structure determinist
 - d. A proponent of the Chicago School [2]
12. The critical school views the modern world as not rife with the irrationality of rationality.
- a. True

- b. False [2]
13. Early American sociologists did not question _____.
- a. Imperialism
 - b. Capitalism
 - c. Liberalism
 - d. The laissez faire doctrine [2]
14. American sociologists were qualitative, whilst European sociologists were quantitative.
- a. True
 - b. False [2]
15. According to Lester Ward, applied sociology was intended to:
- a. Use scientific knowledge to better society.
 - b. Make sociology more scientific through lots of practice
 - c. Base sociology on common sense
 - d. Combat the evils of postmodernism [2]
16. According to Lester Ward, the study of society, to understand and explain the natural laws that govern its evolution, is _____.
- a. Applied sociology
 - b. Ethnomethodology
 - c. Pure sociology
 - d. Dramaturgical analysis [2]
17. Objectively assessing ideas, statements, and information that entails solving problems and analysing evidence describes
- a. The sociological imagination.
 - b. Cultural relativism
 - c. Ethnocentrism
 - d. Critical thinking [2]
18. Whereas Parsons advocated the creation of grand, overarching theories, Merton favoured more limited, middle-range theories.
- a. True
 - b. False [2]
19. The use of observation, comparison, experimentation, and the historical method to analyse society is called _____.
- a. Positivism

- b. Econometrics
- c. Rationalisation
- d. None of the above. [2]

20. The focus on day-to-day interactions of individuals and groups in specific social situations in symbolic interactionism is referred to as _____.
- a. Dramaturgical analysis
 - b. Microlevel analysis
 - c. Functional analysis
 - d. Macrolevel analysis [2]

21. The first sociology courses in the United States were taught by _____ at Brown University.
- a. W. E. B. DuBois
 - b. Robert Park
 - c. Lester Ward
 - d. Ernest Burgess [2]

22. Sociological thinking is critical thinking that objectively assesses ideas, statements, and information.
- a. True
 - b. False [2]

23. Spencer's most famous American disciple was William Graham Sumner.
- a. True
 - b. False [2]

24. Merton argued that *all* standardised social and cultural forms and structures have _____ functions.
- a. Positive
 - b. Universal
 - c. Social
 - d. None of the above [2]

25. Sociology developed as a science in America for the same general reasons it developed in Europe. Specifically, the onset of rapid industrialisation, immigration, and urbanisation.
- a. True
 - b. False [2]

SECTION B

Answer any **two** questions. All questions carry **25** marks each.

2. Define functions and discuss how Parsons' AGIL Scheme could be used to solve a situational exigency of your choice.
3. Discuss Davis And Moore's (1945) Functional Theory of Stratification.
4. Discuss Niklas Luhman's concept of Autopoietic Systems.
5. Discuss Ralph Dahrendorf's Authority in Groups, Conflict and Change.