

Social Structure and Inequity

1. A theoretical approach to social structure that starts with an empirical phenomenon (as opposed to a broad abstract entity like the social system) and abstracts from it to create general statements that can be verified by data would best be described as:
 - A. structuralism
 - B. structural functionalism
 - C. middle range theory
 - D. social constructionism
2. When the German teenager, Helmut, learned that the exchange student his family was to be hosting was from Texas, he was upset and unhappy because he expected the fellow to be a gun-loving cowboy with crazy politics who would embarrass Helmut at school. Helmut's attitude can best be described as:
 - A. stigma
 - B. discrimination
 - C. valid
 - D. prejudice
3. All of the following are social groups except:
 - A. Virginia residents
 - B. people waiting in line at a bank
 - C. a mob during a riot
 - D. a basketball team
4. Of the choices below, which is the best translation into English of the phrase, 'Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft?'
 - A. self and group
 - B. community and society
 - C. structure and change
 - D. communication and influence
5. Absent immigration or emigration, if the fertility rate within the population of a country is roughly 2.0 births per woman:
 - A. Population growth would tend towards zero.
 - B. Population would decline.
 - C. The answer depends on variation in fertility rates among different age cohorts within the population.
 - D. The question is impossible to answer without more information.
6. The portion of an individual's self-concept derived from perceived membership in a relevant social group is called:
 - A. social identity
 - B. collective identity
 - C. in-group bias
 - D. relationship-contingent self-esteem
7. Which choice below does NOT belong among the others?
 - A. cultural mosaic
 - B. assimilation
 - C. global culture
 - D. melting pot

8. One of the claims in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is as follows: "Worldwide standards of freedom and justice, based on the principle that man is free only when he lives as his society defines freedom, that his rights are those he recognizes as a member of his society, must be basic." At the time of publication, the anthropologist Julian Steward questioned whether this principle means that anthropologists "approve the social caste system of India, the racial caste system of the United States, or many other varieties of social discrimination in the world." Steward criticism reflects the point of view that:
- A. There are no absolute or universal moral standards.
 - B. The concept of culture, like any other piece of knowledge, can be abused and misinterpreted.
 - C. It is difficult or impossible to apply the principles of cultural relativism to moral problems.
 - D. A person's beliefs and activities should be understood based on that person's own culture.
9. The first weeks after Abdul's mother came to live with him and his family in Atlanta, she had seemed delighted. Compared to Sierra Leone, there were many conveniences. However, those feelings soon gave way to unpleasant feelings of frustration and anger. She began to experience events on a daily basis that seemed strange and offensive to her. The traffic, the manners, and the barrage of media all seemed to heighten her sense of disconnection. What was Abdul's mother experiencing?
- A. culture bound syndrome
 - B. neophobia
 - C. cultural conflict
 - D. culture shock
10. Richard confided that he prefers hiring Mexican laborers for his construction business. He would say that Mexicans were humble people and they were "willing to work like their bread depended on it!" According to the stereotype content model, through which type of stereotype does Richard view Mexican laborers?
- A. paternalistic
 - B. contemptuous
 - C. admiration
 - D. envious
11. In a 2x2 between-group design, Hindu or Muslim participants were asked to make casual attributions for undesirable acts performed by Hindus or Muslims. Hindus attributed external causes to undesirable acts committed by fellow Hindus, but an internal cause for undesirable acts committed by Muslims. Conversely, Muslims attributed external causes to undesirable acts committed by fellow Muslims, but an internal cause for undesirable acts committed by Hindus. This study provides evidence for which of the following?
- A. fundamental attribution error
 - B. ultimate attribution error
 - C. actor-observer asymmetry
 - D. cultural bias

12. Which of the following demonstrates explicit stereotyping as opposed to implicit stereotyping?
- A. Many individuals are more likely to believe they saw a weapon rather than a cell phone when it is paired with the photo of an African American man.
 - B. Both male and female subjects associate male category members more strongly than female category members with words like bold, mighty, and powerful.
 - C. College faculty are less likely to respond to inquiries about research opportunities if the email appears to be from a woman as opposed to an identical email from a man.
 - D. New parents bring a doll to their first meeting with their adoptive daughter because girls like to play with dolls.
13. Recent experimental psychology suggests that the more power one has, the less one takes on the perspective of others, implying that the powerful have less empathy. Furthermore, researchers investigating the bystander effect found that powerful people are three times as likely to first offer help to a “stranger in distress”. From these results it is logical to infer that:
- A. Lack of empathy is not necessarily the reason people fail to help to a victim when others are present.
 - B. Taking on the perspective of another person is not synonymous with empathy.
 - C. Powerful people have the ability to influence the behavior of other people.
 - D. Diffusion of responsibility is not a likely cause of the bystander effect.
14. Children from a wealthy family are equipped with skills valued by educational institutions and employers as a result of their parents’ socialization and cultural capital. Meanwhile, individuals from less privileged backgrounds are asked to perform at the same level as their more ‘capitally-endowed’ peers and thus have to work harder to keep even. According to Karl Marx, this produces the dynamic of
- A. social mobility
 - B. class conflict
 - C. social reproduction
 - D. plutocracy
15. Realistic conflict theory is a social psychological model of intergroup conflict. The theory explains how intergroup hostility can arise as a result of conflicting goals and competition over limited resources, and it also offers an explanation for the feelings of prejudice and discrimination toward the outgroup that accompany the intergroup hostility. Groups may be in competition for a real or perceived scarcity of resources such as money, political power, military protection, or social status. Feelings of resentment can arise in the situation that the groups see the competition over resources as having a zero-sums fate, in which only one group is the winner and the other loses. The length and severity of the conflict is based upon the perceived value and shortage of the given resource. According to this theory, positive relations can only be restored if:
- A. Superordinate goals are in place.
 - B. Resource surplus removes scarcity.
 - C. A surrogate victim is chosen through the scapegoating mechanism.
 - D. Intergroup communication is restored.

16. A study was conducted in which participants were asked to predict attitudes of third parties using a rating system. After being provided with a brief biographical description, a female history major and a female math major were rated as more similar to one another by male judges than by female judges. Of the following choices, these results best exemplify

- A.** stereotyping
- B.** out-group homogeneity effect
- C.** self-fulfilling prophecy
- D.** cognitive schemas

17. The question of when people rely on stereotypic preconceptions in judging others was investigated in two studies. Subjects exhibited stereotypic biases in their judgments to a much greater extent when the judgments were rendered at a nonoptimal time of day (i.e., in the morning for “night people” and in the evening for “morning people”). In Study One, this pattern was found in probability judgments concerning personal characteristics. In Study Two, the pattern was obtained in perceptions of guilt in allegations of student misbehavior. These results suggest that

- A.** Pineal gland activity is implicated in increased stereotyping behavior.
- B.** Stereotyping may be a frustration-aggression response.
- C.** The propensity to stereotype is related to processing capacity.
- D.** Stereotyping may be influenced by waking dream mentation.

18. Some sociologists, for instance Karl Polanyi, have argued that relative differences in economic wealth are more important than absolute deprivation, and that it is more significant in determining human quality of life. This suggests that:

- A.** Poverty can be eliminated by raising total wealth.
- B.** A person’s well-being depends on their actual negative condition.
- C.** Social inequality is also a factor in well-being.
- D.** Egoistic and fraternalistic relative deprivation are distinct.

19. Stereotype Implicit Association Tests (IAT) measure associations between concepts that often reflect the strength to which a person holds a particular societal stereotype. For example, the Gender-Science IAT reveals that most people associate women more strongly with liberal arts and men more strongly with science. Compared to a closed question self-report method, which of the following represent advantages of an IAT as a research tool for measuring stereotypes?

- I.** IAT test procedures largely avoid social-desirability bias.
- II.** IAT results reveal stereotypes of which the subject is not aware.
- III.** IAT represents an easier and faster way to collect data.
- IV.** IAT results are more directly quantifiable.

- A.** I and II
- B.** I, II and IV
- C.** II, and III
- D.** I, II, III and IV

20. Ambivalent sexism is a framework positing that:
- A. Gender based stereotyping occurs on both an in-group and out-group basis.
 - B. Gender stereotyping has both cognitive and behavioral components.
 - C. Sexism has two sub-components: hostile sexism and benevolent sexism.
 - D. The definition of sexism should encompass transphobia.
21. The national social insurance program that provides health-care for Americans aged 65 and older is:
- A. Medicare
 - B. Social Security
 - C. Medicaid
 - D. The Affordable Care Act
22. Ramaswamy is an Indian man from an upper caste who supports the current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. Ramaswamy believes that the caste system is an essential part of Indian culture, even though Narendra Modi belongs to a lower middle caste classified as an 'Other Backward Class' under Indian law, a collective term used by the Government of India to classify castes which are socially and educationally disadvantaged. How is Ramaswamy likely to attribute Prime Minister Modi's success?
- A. Modi's success demonstrates the value of Indian laws that ensure the rights of lower castes.
 - B. Modi's elevation was the result of compromises within the BJP Party not his own merit.
 - C. Modi's success can be attributed to the special treatment he received.
 - D. Modi is a truly exceptional individual.
23. Subjects in a study were instructed to read descriptions of behaviors performed by members of groups A and B. Negative behaviors outnumbered positive actions and group B was smaller than group A, making negative behaviors and membership in group B relatively infrequent and distinctive. Participants were then asked who had performed a set of actions: a person of group A or group B. Results showed that subjects overestimated the frequency with which both distinctive events, membership in group B and negative behavior, co-occurred, and evaluated group B more negatively. This despite the fact the proportion of positive to negative behaviors was equivalent for both groups and that there was no relationship between group membership and behaviors. The results of this study best exemplify which of the following?
- A. outgroup bias
 - B. ingroup bias
 - C. ultimate attribution error
 - D. illusory correlation
24. _____ refers to the difficulty that members of stigmatized or negatively stereotyped groups may have in interpreting feedback. This can lead stigmatized group members to feel uncertainty about whether negative outcomes are due to discrimination against them or their own behavior. In comparison, they might discredit positive feedback as a form of sympathy rather than seeing it as the result of their ability and achievement.
- A. stereotype threat
 - B. attributional ambiguity
 - C. actor-observer discrepancy
 - D. fundamental attribution error

25. Which portion of Medicare covers inpatient hospital stays?
- A. Part A
 - B. Part B
 - C. Part C
 - D. Part D
26. Jeff does not believe he is a racist, and he never expresses overtly racist views or consciously discriminates. Slavery and Jim Crow were in the past, to his way of thinking, and he believes that blacks in the United States no longer face much prejudice or discrimination. He believes that the failure of blacks to progress results from their unwillingness to work hard enough and that black people depend too much on the government for handouts and programs like affirmative action to get ahead. Which of the following terms is used within sociological research to describe this belief system?
- A. traditional values
 - B. ambivalent prejudice
 - C. aversive racism
 - D. symbolic racism
27. A system of established and prevalent social rules that structure social interactions of a set of individuals within a community is called a(n):
- A. norm
 - B. script
 - C. institution
 - D. convention
28. Schizophrenia patient is an example of what kind of status?
- A. achieved status
 - B. ascribed status
 - C. master status
 - D. ambivalent status
29. Which of the following is an ascribed status?
- I. race
 - II. gender
 - III. professional certifications
 - IV. social caste
- A. III only
 - B. I and II
 - C. I, II and IV
 - D. I, II, III and IV
30. For Durkheim _____ arises more generally from a mismatch between personal or group standards and wider social standards, or from the lack of a social ethic, which produces moral deregulation and an absence of legitimate aspirations.
- A. normlessness
 - B. anomie
 - C. deviance
 - D. alienation
31. Karl Marx is the father of
- A. conflict theory
 - B. functionalism
 - C. symbolic interactionism
 - D. utilitarianism

32. A child born in the United States to parents with income in the lowest quintile is more than ten times more likely to end up in the lowest quintile than the highest as an adult (43 percent versus 4 percent). And, a child born to parents in the highest quintile is five times more likely to end up in the highest quintile than the lowest (40 percent versus 8 percent). These statistics best exemplify which of the following:
- A. intragenerational mobility
 - B. social reproduction
 - C. vertical social mobility
 - D. meritocracy
33. _____ is the most extreme system of social stratification.
- A. the caste system
 - B. aristocracy
 - C. slavery
 - D. plutocracy
34. Which of the following is NOT an ethnic group?
- A. Amish
 - B. African Americans
 - C. Catholics
 - D. Sikhs
35. Which of the following best exemplifies a symbolic interactionist approach to prejudice and racism?
- A. Prejudice and discrimination derive from the differences in power and economic resources of ethnic groups.
 - B. For race and ethnic relations to contribute to the harmonious conduct and stability of society, racial and ethnic minorities should assimilate as much as possible into that society.
 - C. A person is socially determined in a position that involves race, class, and gender and, thus, looking at only one of them to explain their status is incomplete.
 - D. The question to ask is what happens when two people of different racial or ethnic origins come into contact with each other, and how can such interracial or interethnic contact reduce hostility and conflict.
36. America's 'melting pot' is a metaphor for:
- A. multiculturalism
 - B. pluralism
 - C. cultural mosaic
 - D. assimilation
37. One of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, _____ requires health insurance providers to offer health insurance policies with the same premium to all applicants of the same age and location without regard to gender or most pre-existing conditions (excluding tobacco use). Premiums for older applicants can be no more than three times those for the youngest.
- A. community rating
 - B. the individual mandate
 - C. guaranteed issue
 - D. essential health benefits

38. In the 1978 case, *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that _____ in college admission decisions violated the Equal Protection Clause.
- A. affirmative action
 - B. using racial quotas
 - C. using a racial point system
 - D. considering the applicant's race
39. The ability to impose one's will on others is called _____ when it is perceived as legitimate by the social structure.
- A. government
 - B. power
 - C. authority
 - D. a norm
40. The Civil Rights Movement in the United States would be described as which type of social movement?
- A. radical
 - B. reform
 - C. innovation
 - D. conservative
41. _____ challenges the idea that gender is part of the essential self and closely examines the socially constructed nature of sexual acts and identities.
- A. feminist theory
 - B. essentialism
 - C. queer theory
 - D. conflict theory
42. To say that gender is an emergent feature of social situations, both as an outcome of and a rationale for various social arrangements, is to apply which approach to gender?
- A. constructionist
 - B. essentialist
 - C. positivist
 - D. functionalist
43. The _____ hypothesis suggests that residents of deprived neighbourhoods have universally poorer access to high-quality food environments, which in turn contributes to the development of spatial inequalities in diet and diet-related chronic disease.
- A. social reproduction
 - B. deprivation amplification
 - C. just-world
 - D. self-fulfilling prophecy
44. Which of the following countries does NOT provide universal health-care for its citizens?
- I. United States
 - II. Japan
 - III. France
 - IV. Germany
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. I and IV
 - D. II, III, and IV

45. _____ is the study and analysis of the social aspects of health and disease conditions.

- A. sociobiology
- B. biosocial theory
- C. epidemiology
- D. sociological medicine

46. Corresponding to demographic transition is the epidemiological transition. The epidemiological transition occurs when a country undergoes the process of modernization from developing nation to developed nation status. The developments of modern healthcare and medicine, like antibiotics, drastically reduce infant mortality rates and extends average life expectancy which leads to:

- A. congruent increase in population caused by delayed birth rate decreases
- B. a high death rate and a high birth rate which are roughly in balance
- C. new epidemics in which zoonotic diseases can spread in a more rapid manner and become large outbreaks
- D. the replacement of infectious diseases by chronic diseases as the primary cause of death

47. Robert was taken off the lung transplant list after testing positive for nicotine during his last clinic visit. As a result of this, Alphonso, who is five years older, will be next in line to receive a lung transplant. This is an example of

- A. vertical equity
- B. horizontal equity
- C. provider discrimination
- D. social inequality

48. A marked increase has been observed in the all-cause mortality of middle-aged white non-Hispanic men and women in the United States between 1999 and 2013. This change reversed decades of progress in mortality and was unique to the United States. No other rich country saw a similar turnaround. The midlife mortality reversal was confined to white non-Hispanics. Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics at midlife, and those aged 65 and above in every racial and ethnic group, continued to see mortality rates fall. This increase for whites was largely accounted for by increasing death rates from drug and alcohol poisonings, suicide, and chronic liver diseases and cirrhosis. Although all education groups saw increases in mortality from suicide and poisonings, and an overall increase in external cause mortality, those with less education saw the most marked increases. Rising midlife mortality rates of white non-Hispanics were paralleled by increases in midlife morbidity. Self-reported declines in health, mental health, and ability to conduct activities of daily living, and increases in chronic pain and inability to work, as well as clinically measured deteriorations in liver function, all point to growing distress in this population. Within Durkheim's sociological framework, the social condition described above exemplifies:

- A. strain
- B. anomie
- C. decompensation
- D. alienation

49. Previous research has identified a wide range of indicators of social isolation that pose health risks, including living alone, having a small social network, infrequent participation in social activities, and feelings of loneliness. However, multiple forms of isolation are rarely studied together, making it difficult to determine which aspects of isolation are most deleterious for health. Using population-based data from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project, a study combined multiple indicators of social isolation into scales assessing social disconnectedness and perceived isolation. The study examined the extent to which social disconnectedness and perceived isolation have distinct associations with physical and mental health among older adults. Results indicated that social disconnectedness and perceived isolation are independently associated with lower levels of self-rated physical health. However, the association between disconnectedness and mental health seems to operate mainly through the strong relationship between perceived isolation and mental health. From the results of this study it is reasonable to conclude that:

- A.** A lack of social connectedness is almost always accompanied by feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- B.** Reliance on self-reported measures of social connectedness restricts the ability to measure objective social disconnectedness apart from perceived isolation.
- C.** Older adults who are able to withstand socially isolating circumstances or adjust their expectations so that they do not develop a subjective sense of isolation may fare better.
- D.** Social disconnectedness and perceived isolation are interchangeable indicators of physical health risks.

50. Bioethicist Edmund Pellegrino proposed a philosophically grounded structure for ethical decision-making in medicine. In Pellegrino's system the fact of illness is conditioned by the limitation placed on personal autonomy of the patient and their degree of vulnerability in illness. Clinicians "profess" specialized knowledge and skill to help those who are ill by an oath at graduation, and they re-articulate this pledge whenever they enter a patient's room wearing public symbols of the profession and offer to help a person who is ill. Pellegrino considers the act of medicine to be first and foremost a relationship with the well being of the patient its goal. The clinician must answer three questions: What can be wrong? What can be done? What should be done? The latter is a moral question. In Pellegrino's construct, the good of the patient is the primary focus of the medical event. There are four distinct levels of good: 1) biomedical good 2) the good as the patient has chosen it 3) the good of the patient as a person 4) the patient's designation of the ultimate good. The patient also incurs moral obligations which include truthfulness, probity, tolerance and trust. Pellegrino is concerned with the good physician: "the one who can be trusted to do what is right even when no one is looking; the one who goes beyond mere duty; the one who does the right thing for the right reasons and with the right attitudes, motives and emotions; the one who can serve as a role model and teach by example." He sees physicians as capable of growing toward this ideal by the application of virtues in practical wisdom.

As described in the passage above, what is a primary difference between Pellegrino's view of a medical doctor's ethical obligations and those described by the Hippocratic oath?

- A.** the obligation to take a holistic approach to the patient
- B.** the centrality of the doctor-patient relationship
- C.** respect for patient autonomy
- D.** that the patient also has ethical obligations

Answer Key

Social Structure and Inequity

- 1. C**—Middle-range theory is currently the de facto dominant approach to sociological theory construction, especially in the United States. Middle-range theory starts with an empirical phenomenon (as opposed to a broad abstract entity like the social system) and abstracts from it to create general statements that can be verified by data. This approach stands in contrast to the earlier “grand” theorizing of social theory, such as functionalism and many conflict theories.
- 2. D**—Prejudice is an affective feeling toward a person or group member based solely on their group membership. The word is often used to refer to preconceived, usually unfavorable, feelings toward people or a person because of their sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, language, nationality, beauty, occupation, education, criminality, sport team affiliation or other personal characteristics. Prejudice refers to a positive or negative evaluation of another person based on their perceived group membership.
- 3. B**—A social group has been defined as two or more people who interact with one another, share similar characteristics, and collectively have a sense of unity. A social group exhibits some degree of social cohesion and is more than a simple collection or aggregate of individuals, such as people waiting at a bus stop, or people waiting in a line.
- 4. B**—Max Weber used the *Gemeinschaft–Gesellschaft* dichotomy (first proposed by Ferdinand Tönnies) to accentuate the key elements of a historic/social change. According to the dichotomy, social ties can be categorized, on one hand, as belonging to personal social interactions, and the roles, values, and beliefs based on such interactions (*Gemeinschaft*, German, commonly translated as “community”), or on the other hand as belonging to indirect interactions, impersonal roles, formal values, and beliefs based on such interactions (*Gesellschaft*, German, commonly translated as “society”).
- 5. D**—The total fertility rate (TFR) is a measure of the fertility of an imaginary woman who passes through her reproductive life subject to all the age-specific fertility rates for ages 15–49 that were recorded for a given population in a given year. The TFR represents the average number of children a woman would potentially have, were she to fast-forward through all her childbearing years in a single year, under all the age-specific fertility rates for that year. Replacement fertility is the total fertility rate at which women give birth to enough babies to sustain population levels. If there were no mortality in the female population until the end of the childbearing years then the replacement level of TFR would be very close to 2.0. The replacement fertility rate is roughly 2.0 births per woman for most industrialized countries (2.075 in the UK, for example), but ranges from 2.5 to 3.3 in developing countries because of higher mortality rates. Taken globally, the total fertility rate at replacement is 2.33 children per woman. At this rate, global population growth would tend towards zero.
- 6. A**—A social identity is the portion of an individual’s self-concept derived from perceived membership in a relevant social group.
- 7. A**—Cultural mosaic is the mix of ethnic groups, languages, and cultures that coexist within society. The idea of a cultural mosaic is intended to suggest a form of multiculturalism, different from other systems such as the melting pot, which is often used to describe the United States’ supposed ideal of assimilation. The concept of ‘global culture’ also fits beneath the rubric of assimilation rather than multiculturalism, for example, in how a shared language gives people the chance to study and work internationally, not just being limited to the same

cultural group. People from different countries contribute to diversity and form the “global culture” which means the culture combined by the elements from different countries. This “global culture” can be seen as a part of assimilation that causes cultures from different areas to affect each other.

8. **C**—Steward and others were arguing that any attempt to apply the principle of cultural relativism to moral problems would only end in contradiction: either a principle that seems to stand for tolerance ends up being used to excuse intolerance, or the principle of tolerance is revealed to be utterly intolerant of any society that seems to lack the (arguably, Western) value of tolerance. They concluded that anthropologists must stick to science, and engage in debates over values only as individuals.
9. **D**—Culture shock is an experience a person may have when one moves to a cultural environment which is different from one’s own. It is also the personal disorientation a person may feel when experiencing an unfamiliar way of life due to immigration or a visit to a new country, a move between social environments, or simply transition to another type of life. One of the most common causes of culture shock involves individuals in a foreign environment. Culture shock can be described as consisting of at least one of four distinct phases: honeymoon, negotiation, adjustment, and adaptation.
10. **A**—The stereotype content model hypothesizes that stereotypes possess two dimensions: warmth and competence. Social groups are perceived as warm if they do not compete with the ingroup for the same resources and they are considered competent if they are high in status. The combination of warm but not competitive leads Richard to view Mexican workers with a paternalistic stereotype.
11. **B**—Ultimate attribution error is the best answer. The ultimate attribution error is a group-level attribution error that offers an explanation for

how one person views different causes of negative and positive behavior in ingroup and outgroup members. In fact, this particular study, Taylor and Jaggi (1974), was one of those that established the foundation of ultimate attribution error and support its general prediction that negative behaviors by outgroup members are more likely to be attributed to internal causes than negative behaviors of ingroup members.

12. **D**—Implicit stereotypes operate without conscious intention. Explicit stereotypes are the result of intentional, conscious, and controllable thoughts and beliefs.
13. **A**—If powerful people are less prone to empathy but, nevertheless, more likely to intervene to help a victim when others are present, then it is logical to infer that the bystander effect is not necessarily due to a lack of empathy among those who fail to render assistance.
14. **C**—Social reproduction is a concept originally proposed by Karl Marx in *Das Kapital* referring to the emphasis on the structures and activities that transmit social inequality from one generation to the next. It has been proposed that there are four types of capital that contributes to social reproduction in society: financial capital, cultural capital, human capital, and social capital.
15. **A**—The Robbers Cave Experiment by Muzafer Sherif represents one of the most widely known demonstrations of Realistic Conflict Theory. Sherif’s study was conducted over three weeks in a 200-acre summer camp in Robbers Cave State Park involving 22 eleven- and twelve-year-old boys who had never previously met and had comparable backgrounds. Sherif made several conclusions. From the study, he determined that because the groups were created to be approximately equal, individual differences are not necessary or responsible for intergroup conflict to occur. Sherif noted that hostile and aggressive attitudes toward an outgroup arise when groups compete for resources that only

one group can attain. Sherif also establishes that contact with an outgroup is insufficient, by itself, to reduce negative attitudes. Finally, he concludes that friction between groups can be reduced along with positive intergroup relations maintained, only in the presence of superordinate goals that promote united, cooperative action.

16. **B**—The out-group homogeneity effect describes how a person's perception of out-group members as more similar to one another than are in-group members.
17. **C**—The key term in the passage is 'sub-optimal'. When cognitive resources are more limited, the results suggest that people are more apt to behave as cognitive misers and imply stereotyping heuristics.
18. **C**—The debate regarding relative vs. absolute deprivation has important consequences for social policy, particularly on whether poverty can be eliminated simply by raising total wealth and regarding the role of egalitarian measures in promoting well-being.
19. **A**—Implicit Association Tests reveal stereotypes which are not subject to conscious awareness, ie. implicit stereotypes. Compared to self-report surveys, IAT procedures are much less prone to social-desirability bias. Both IAT procedures and closed question self-report surveys (questions which provide a limited choice) lend themselves to easy quantitation.
20. **C**—Within the theoretical framework of ambivalent sexism, hostile sexism reflects overtly negative evaluations and stereotypes about a gender (e.g., the ideas that women are incompetent and inferior to men). Benevolent sexism represents evaluations of gender that may appear subjectively positive (subjective to the person who is evaluating), but are actually damaging to people and gender equality more broadly (e.g., the ideas that women need to be protected by men).

21. **A**—Medicare provides health insurance for Americans aged 65 and older who have worked and paid into the system through the payroll tax. In contrast, Medicaid provides healthcare for families and individuals with limited resources.
22. **D**—Using this mode of reasoning, Ramaswamy can exclude Prime Minister Modi from the outgroup. This is a an attribution strategy within the context of ultimate attribution error to individuate the outgroup member and dissociate them from the group. Compared to the other answer choices, this is the one that allows dissonance between Ramaswamy's prejudice and his support for Prime Minister Modi to be resolved. This view allows for the maintenance of prejudicial beliefs through categorizing the "good" member as an exceptional case, while the other lower caste people are still seen as "bad".
23. **D**—The study demonstrates the role of illusory correlation in stereotype formation. Illusory correlation is the phenomenon of perceiving a relationship between variables (typically people, events, or behaviors) even when no such relationship exists. A common example of this phenomenon is the formation of a false association between membership in a statistical minority group (e.g., African-Americans) and a rare, typically negative, behavior (e.g., drug abuse). This false association is formed because rare or novel occurrences are more salient and therefore tend to capture one's attention.
24. **B**—Attributional ambiguity as an element of conceptual terminology might be a step beyond the scope of the MCAT. It's difficult to say. It's on the border. Be that as it may, the other three answer choices are basic terms for the MCAT and you should be able to eliminate them. Understanding why the answer is not 'stereotype threat', for example, is especially salient. Stereotype threat is a situational predicament in which the fear of conforming to a stereotype produces anxiety and hinders performance, most likely by depleting working memory.

25. **A**—Medicare provides health insurance for Americans aged 65 and older who have worked and paid into the system through the payroll tax. Part A covers inpatient hospital stays. Part B medical insurance helps pay for some services and products not covered by Part A. What this means in a general sense are outpatient services. Part C is optional. Part C offers Medicare recipients the option of receiving Medicare benefits through a capitated health insurance Part C plan. About 30% of Medicare beneficiaries choose to participate in Part C. Part D is the prescription drug benefit portion of Medicare.
26. **D**—Symbolic racism is a form of modern racism against black people in the United States, as it is more subtle and indirect than more overt forms of racism, such as those characterized in Jim Crow Laws. As symbolic racism develops through socialization and its processes occur without conscious awareness, an individual with symbolic racist beliefs may genuinely oppose racism and believe he is not racist. Symbolic racism is perhaps the most prevalent racial attitude today. Symbolic racism as the expression or endorsement of four specific themes or beliefs: 1) Blacks no longer face much prejudice or discrimination. 2) The failure of blacks to progress results from their unwillingness to work hard enough. 3) Blacks are demanding too much too fast. 4) Blacks have gotten more than they deserve.
27. **C**—As structures or mechanisms of social order, institutions govern the behaviour of a set of individuals within a given community. Institutions are identified with a social purpose, transcending individuals and intentions by mediating the rules that govern living behavior. The term “institution” commonly applies to both informal institutions such as customs, or behavior patterns important to a society, and to particular formal institutions created by entities such as the government and public services. Primary or meta-institutions are institutions such as the family that are broad enough to encompass other institutions.
28. **C**—In perception, an individual’s master status supersedes other identifying traits. The master status is often the most important architecture of individual identity.
29. **C**—Status is a social phenomenon rather than a biological one. Ascribed status is the social status a person is assigned at birth or assumed involuntarily later in life. It is a position that is neither earned nor chosen but assigned.
30. **B**—Most sociologists associate the term ‘anomie’ with Durkheim, who used the concept to describe how a person is integrated within a system of social norms and practices. Normlessness and anomie are not synonyms because anomie is a mismatch of norms and practices as much as an absence. For example, anomie could be used to describe the cultural results of the mismatch between middle class norms and the actual economic opportunities of young people during periods of economic stagnation. The concept of anomie is important to strain theory, which seeks to develop the relationship between criminal behavior and social structure.
31. **A**—Conflict theory represents one of the ‘four paradigms’ of sociology. The other three are represented by the other answer choices. Karl Marx is the father of conflict theory. Social conflict theory argues that individuals and groups within society interact on the basis of conflict rather than consensus. Marxist theory views class conflict as an engine of historical change, since conflict produces contradictions which are sometimes resolved, creating new conflicts and contradictions in an ongoing dialectic.
32. **B**—Social reproduction refers to the emphasis on the structures and activities that transmit social inequality from one generation to the next.
33. **C**—Slavery, in which principles of property law are applied to people, allowing individuals to own, buy and sell other individuals, represents the most extreme form of social stratification.

34. **C**—An ethnic group or ethnicity is a category of people who identify with each other based on similarities, such as common ancestral, language, social, cultural or national experiences. The linguistic and cultural diversity within Catholicism is too great for Catholicism to be considered an ethnicity.
35. **D**—Symbolic interactionism is a sociological perspective which developed around the middle of the twentieth century. Within the framework of symbolic interactionism, people act toward things based on the meaning those things have for them, and these meanings are derived from social interaction and modified through interpretation.
36. **D**—The melting pot is a metaphor for a heterogeneous society becoming more homogeneous, the different elements “melting together” into a harmonious whole with a common culture or vice versa, for a homogeneous society becoming more heterogeneous through the influx of foreign elements with different cultural background with a potential creation of disharmony with the previous culture. Historically, it is often used to describe the assimilation of immigrants to the United States.
37. **A**—Community rating is a concept which requires health insurance providers to offer health insurance policies within a given territory at the same price to all persons without medical underwriting, regardless of their health status. Community rating, as a basis for premium calculation, is fundamentally different from the usual method of determining insurance premiums, i.e. risk rating. The other three answer choices are also provisions of the ACA. The individual mandate is the requirement to buy insurance or pay a penalty for everyone not covered by an employer sponsored health plan or public insurance program. Guaranteed issue prohibits insurers from denying coverage to individuals due to pre-existing conditions. Essential health benefits are the set of benefits that health insurance plans are required to cover for patients.
38. **B**—*Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* was a landmark decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. It upheld affirmative action, allowing race to be one of several factors in college admission policy. However, the court ruled that specific racial quotas, such as the 16 out of 100 seats set aside for minority students by the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, were impermissible.
39. **C**—‘Authority’ means the right to exercise power.
40. **A**—Radical movements are dedicated to changing value systems in a fundamental way. The Civil Rights Movement which demanded full civil rights and equality under the law to all Americans, regardless of race, exemplifies the concept of a radical social movement. A reform movement is the kind of social movement that aims to make gradual change, or change in certain aspects of society, rather than rapid or fundamental changes.
41. **C**—Queer theory has been associated most prominently with bisexual, lesbian and gay subjects, but its analytic framework also includes such topics as cross-dressing, intersex, gender ambiguity and gender-corrective surgery. Queer theory’s general approach is to question the concept of stable sexes, genders, and sexualities.
42. **A**—Social constructionism examines the development of jointly constructed understandings of the world that form the basis for shared assumptions about reality. A social construct or construction concerns the meaning, notion, or connotation placed on an object or event by a society, and adopted by the inhabitants of that society with respect to how they view or deal with the object or event. In that respect, a social construct as an idea would be widely accepted as natural by the society, but may or may not represent a reality shared by those outside the

society, and would be an “invention or artifice of that society.” A major focus of social constructionism is to uncover the ways in which individuals and groups participate in the construction of their perceived social reality. It involves looking at the ways social phenomena are created, institutionalized, known, and made into tradition by humans.

43. **B**—Deprivation amplification occurs when an individual’s disease risks are amplified by social factors such as inequality.
44. **A**—Of OECD member countries, only the United States and Mexico do not have universal health care.
45. **C**—Epidemiology is the study and analysis of the patterns, causes, and effects of health and disease conditions in groups of people and populations.
46. **D**—Epidemiological transition describes the replacement of infectious diseases by chronic diseases over time due to expanded public health and sanitation as a country undergoes demographic transition through stages of development.
47. **A**—Health equity falls into two major categories: horizontal equity, the equal treatment of individuals or groups in the same circumstances; and vertical equity, the principle that individuals who are unequal should be treated differently according to their level of need. In addition to level of need, there are other morally relevant considerations which are relevant in vertical equity such as, in the case of the question, the ability to benefit.
48. **B**—Durkheim used the concept of anomie to speak of the ways in which an individual’s actions are matched, or integrated, with a system of social norms and practices. Anomie can occur during periods of economic transition where dysjunction between norms of behavioral expectations and economic conditions leads

to normlessness, alienation and social breakdown.

49. **C**—The study found that ‘the association between disconnectedness and mental health seems to operate mainly through the strong relationship between perceived isolation and mental health.’ In other words, social disconnectedness is most strongly associated with worse mental health when it prompts feelings of loneliness or a perceived lack of social support.
50. **C**—One of the most frequently criticized aspects of the Hippocratic Oath is that the principle of patient autonomy is noticeably absent, both in its original version and the modernized version of the code. Note that choice ‘D’ is correct in the sense that the Hippocratic Oath does not discuss the obligations that patients have. However, the question is specifically dealing with the ethical obligations of medical doctors.