

Study Guide

Sociology Senior Comprehensive Exam

SOCIAL PROBLEMS:

- Define the following:
 - Corporate dumping
 - Feminization of poverty
 - Glass ceiling
 - Patriarchy
 - Social problem
 - Stigma
 - Value relevance

- Recognize the challenges one faces when defining and studying social problems.
- Be familiar with the ways in which Social Security is biased against women.
- Analyze social problems utilizing either the “person blame” approach or the “system blame” approach.
- Differentiate between therapeutic care and custodial care in nursing homes.
- Define and critique the “culture of poverty” hypothesis.
- Distinguish between the different types of poor people and explain why certain categories have increased in recent decades.
- Differentiate between welfare and wealthfare.
- Identify where in the world are the hungry concentrated, as well as where in the world those infected with HIV/AIDS are concentrated.
- Recognize the negative impacts of meat consumption on the environment.
- Identify the contributors to the greenhouse effect.
- Understand the way human culture impacts the environment.

THEORY:

- Define the following:
 - Anomie
 - Collective conscience
 - Double consciousness
 - Protestant ethic
 - Social facts
 - Sociological imagination
 - Tragedy of culture

- Know the contributions of the following people:
 - Pierre Bourdieu
 - W.E.B. DuBois
 - Emile Durkheim
 - Erving Goffman
 - Karl Marx

- George Herbert Mead
 - Talcott Parsons
 - Georg Simmel
 - Dorothy Smith
 - Max Weber
- Be familiar with the Enlightenment and its impact on societies and the growth of sociology.
 - Know the difference between the sacred and the profane, according to Durkheim.
 - Differentiate between manifest functions and latent functions and cite examples of each.

RESEARCH:

- Define the following:
 - Common sense
 - Ecological fallacy
 - Ethnography
 - Informed consent
 - Interviewer bias
 - Plagiarism
 - Sampling error
 - Verstehen
- Compare and contrast micro-level, macro-level, and meso-level theories.
- Differentiate between anonymity and confidentiality.
- Distinguish between validity and reliability.
- Identify three types of applied research and cite examples of each.
- Differentiate between an experimental group and a control group.
- Be familiar with different types of nonprobability sampling (convenience, purposive, snowball, quota), and when each type would be appropriate to use.
- Know why the public dissemination of research results is so important.
- Know the difference between manifest coding and latent coding.
- Be familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of secondary data analysis.

STATISTICS:

- Define the following:
 - Chi-square
 - Cramer's V
 - Cumulative frequency
 - Cumulative percentage
 - Frequency distribution
 - Lambda
 - Proportional reduction of error (PRE)
 - Spearman's rho
 - Spurious relationship

- Variable

- Know why inferential statistics are necessary in social research.
- Distinguish between independent variables and dependent variables.
- Identify and describe three levels of measurement and cite examples of variables from each.
- Distinguish between discrete variables and continuous variables and identify examples of each.
- Differentiate between a population and a sample.
- Interpret the strength of association based on phi.
- Know what the research hypothesis states for the chi square test for independence.
- Know the difference between Type I error and Type II error.
- Know the difference between a positive association and a negative association.
- Compare and contrast the mode, median, and mean.
- Differentiate between a research hypothesis and a null hypothesis.