Chapter 1: Private Troubles and Social Problems

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. To begin studying global social problems, we first need to distinguish personal problems from \_\_\_\_\_\_ problems.

a. group

b. public

c. economic

d. private

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Distinguish between personal and social problems, societal and global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Victims of Circumstance: The Lost Boys

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. What helps one to see the social dimensions of problems in the global system?

a. global perspective

b. socioeconomic imagination

c. social location

d. sociological imagination

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Victims of Circumstance: The Lost Boys

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Durkheim discovered the importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_ on the suicide rate.

a. social ties

b. finances

c. global problems

d. intersectionality

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Distinguish between personal and social problems, societal and global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: An Example: Suicide

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Environmental degradation can best be described as which of the following?

a. personal trouble

b. manufactured risk

c. social expenditure

d. global system

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.1: Distinguish between personal and social problems, societal and global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Global Vulnerability

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Breakdowns in an entire system, as opposed to breakdowns in individual parts and components, are an example of which type of risk?

a. systematic

b. global

c. social

d. political

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.1: Distinguish between personal and social problems, societal and global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Global Vulnerability

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Not everyone is equally vulnerable to global risks. Much depends on one’s \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. social capital

b. cultural capital

c. life chances

d. personal choices

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Individual Vulnerability

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Which societies are typically considered wealthy?

a. intersectional

b. conventional

c. developing

d. developed

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Developed and Developing

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. To provide a measure better suited to gauging the actual life chances of people within a country, The United Nations Development Programme calculates the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Human Development Index

b. Human Capital Index

c. Social Capital Index

d. Human Capability Index

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Developed and Developing

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Which of the following considers the impact of three measures of inequality on each country’s overall human development score?

a. Human Capital Report

b. Gender Inequality Index

c. Inequality Adjusted Human Development Index

d. Social Inequality Report

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Developed and Developing

Difficulty Level: Hard

10. Formed by a UN Convention in 1960, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ is an intergovernmental organization of the richest countries of the world.

a. Organization for Adjusted Development

b. Global Development Group

c. Coalition Against Human Inequality

d. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: East and West, North and South, and more

Difficulty Level: Hard

11. Which theorist claimed that if we want to understand the global problems that plague individuals today, it is necessary to understand the history behind global systems?

a. Mills

b. Durkheim

c. Marx

d. Weber

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Shaping the Modern World

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. Which term refers to a period of time in which some societies surged ahead of others in development?

a. global accumulation

b. human development period

c. great divergence

d. social divergence

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Great Divergence

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Which of the following statements about growth in the 21st century is true?

a. Growth in developing societies has outpaced growth in developed societies.

b. Growth in developed societies continues to outpace growth in developing societies.

c. Violent conflict has reached a peak point in the 21st century, and it will further hinder growth across the globe.

d. The “Asian Tigers” remain the fastest growing societies in the world.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Great Divergence

Difficulty Level: Moderate

14. In tackling a broader set of issues, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ acknowledges the interdependence of problems and the globe as a single system.

a. Human Capital Report

b. Great Divergence Plan

c. Adjusted Development Process

d. Sustainable Development Goals

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Document global goals for improving people’s life chances and progress made toward those goals.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Challenges Ahead: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Difficulty Level: Hard

15. Each UN SDG stresses \_\_\_\_\_\_ by acknowledging that development in the past has wreaked havoc on the environment.

a. accountability

b. sustainability

c. stewardship

d. development

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.3: Document global goals for improving people’s life chances and progress made toward those goals.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Challenges Ahead: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Based on the work of \_\_\_\_\_\_, conflict theorists center their analyses on competition for and differences in power.

a. Durkheim

b. Weber

c. Marx

d. Huntington

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conflict Theory and the Forces of Production

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. According to conflict theorists, power shifts from one group to a newly formed one as \_\_\_\_\_\_ change.

a. social structures

b. public opinions

c. private troubles

d. economic decisions

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Conflict Theory and the Forces of Production

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Which group does Marx suggest controls industrial activity?

a. proletariats

b. bourgeoisie

c. millennials

d. politicians

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Conflict Theory and the Forces of Production

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. Fred is paid minimum wage for a factory job. While he has worked for his company for years, he has experienced very limited mobility. Fred is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. capitalist

b. peasant

c. bourgeoisie

d. proletariet

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Conflict Theory and the Forces of Production

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. Which theory asserts that organisms are comprised of systems and structures, each of which has a set of functions?

a. conflict theorists

b. structural functionalists

c. symbolic interactionists

d. political activists

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Structural Functionalism: Problems of Order Within and Among Systems

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. Without collective values and beliefs, society would be at a war with itself. This ideology demonstrates the importance of which of the following?

a. individual liberty

b. social structures

c. solidarity

d. family structures

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Importance of Solidarity

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. In traditional societies, people had a strong basis of collective values and beliefs that served as the basis of their solidarity. These values and beliefs prescribed very specific codes and guidelines for living. This is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_ solidarity.

a. mechanical

b. organic

c. economic

d. social

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Importance of Solidarity

Difficulty Level: Hard

23. Which theory prompts us to find the problems of order within and among societal and global systems?

a. conflict

b. rational choice

c. symbolic interactionism

d. structural functionalism

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Function and Dysfunction

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. Unintentional dysfunction resulting from public policy is an example of which type of dysfunction?

a. manifest

b. latent

c. functional

d. structural

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Function and Dysfunction

Difficulty Level: Hard

25. Secure housing for the poor as a result of a public housing project would be considered which type of function?

a. sustainable

b. conflict

c. manifest

d. latent

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Function and Dysfunction

Difficulty Level: Hard

26. What do conflict and structural functionalist perspectives focus on?

a. social systems

b. latent systems

c. symbolic systems

d. symbolic interactions

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Symbolic Interactionism: “If People Believe Something Is real, It Is Real in Its Consequences.”

Difficulty Level: Medium

27. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* demonstrates the importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_ in understanding why capitalism developed in England and Germany.

a. solidarity

b. conflict

c. verstehen

d. sustainability

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Symbolic Interactionism: “If people believe something is real, it is real in its consequences.”

Difficulty Level: Hard

28. Weber argued that as life became increasingly \_\_\_\_\_\_, people would feel increasingly trapped.

a. bureaucratized

b. capitalist

c. industrialized

d. functional

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Symbolic Interactionism: “If People Believe Something Is Real, It Is Real in Its Consequences.”

Difficulty Level: Medium

29. Weber’s detailed analysis of bureaucracy led him to believe that members of society imprison themselves in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_ cage.

a. industrial

b. iron

c. bureaucratized

d. verstehen

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Symbolic Interactionism: “If People Believe Something Is Real, It Is Real in Its Consequences.”

Difficulty Level: Easy

30. Which of the following focuses on international power and the division of labor among societies?

a. conflict report

b. functional systems perspective

c. periphery analysis

d. world systems analysis

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.3: Document global goals for improving people’s life chances and progress made toward those goals.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: World Systems Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

31. Which type of societies do multinational manufacturers often enter for cheap labor, tax breaks, and weak environmental laws?

a. semi-peripheral

b. peripheral

c. developed

d. developing

Ans: B

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Periphery

Difficulty Level: Medium

32. Capital extracted from peripheral and semi-peripheral societies accumulates in which societies?

a. core

b. capitalist

c. agricultural

d. developed

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Core

Difficulty Level: Easy

33. Which of the following exerts control of global economic, political, and cultural systems?

a. international bourgeoisie group

b. developed societies coalition

c. transnational capitalist class

d. peripheral system

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Global Systems Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

34. Which component of global culture, when paired with science, helps us create reliable and valid knowledge about the world and find the best ways to do things?

a. NGOs

b. diversity

c. education

d. rationalization

Ans: D

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Global Culture

Difficulty Level: Easy

35. \_\_\_\_\_ capital is the capital built up among people who are alike in characteristics such as age, race, and social class.

a. Bonding

b. Cultural

c. Social

d. Bridging

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Global Community: Global Civil Society

Difficulty Level: Easy

# True/False

1. Social locations increase or decrease a person’s vulnerability to the risks of the world.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Individual Vulnerability

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. The global production or commodity chain begins at the core.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Periphery

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Both global and world systems theorists predict that we are nearing the end of the capitalist era as we know it.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Global Systems Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Mediscapes are important to determining the occupational structures of high and low wage jobs within countries.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Appadurai’s Global “Scapes”: A Theory of Global Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Our clubs and organizations, our friendship groups, and the places we volunteer are physical communities that we inhabit.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Global Community: Global Civil Society

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Martina has many social ties and relationships that she can count on to build professional connections. Considering this, one might say Martina possesses high economic capital.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Global Community: Global Civil Society

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. World society theory is the counterpoint to global systems theory because it argues that the global economy, global culture, and globalization grow out of human relationships outside of the formal operations of the economy or states.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: World Society Theory

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. Within international governmental organizations, countries with greater economic power have a greater voice in deciding courses of action.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Global Governance and Global Problems

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Non-governmental organizations are a type of civil society organization.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Civil Society Organizations

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. As cities become more diverse, they resemble each other less.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Global Culture

Difficulty Level: Easy

# Essay

1. Sarah is a recent college graduate and she is having difficulty finding a job. Because of this, she is unable to pay off her student loan debt and must move in with her parents. Is this an example of a private problem or a social problem? Please explain your answer.

Ans: Varies. Sarah’s situation is an example of a social problem. Increasingly, college graduates are having a difficult time finding jobs that pay above minimum wage. More and more, millennials are moving in with their parents to better manage their student debt. It is unlikely that Sarah found herself in this situation due to being lazy or unmotivated because this is a trend many college graduates are experiencing.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Distinguish between personal and social problems, societal and global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Private Troubles, Public Issues

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. What are manufactured risks? Please provide an example and explain your answer.

Ans: Varies. Manufactured risks are risks that are produced through modernized processes. For example, global agriculture produces more than enough food to feed the world. Despite this, the economic value of food waste is estimated at billions of U.S. dollars per year. Growing the food that is wasted, accompanied by the decay of food waste, emit greenhouse gases which add billions more to economic loss. Greenhouse gases cause global warming which in turn contributes to hunger and conflict. Each of these contributes to waves of migration which can destabilize surrounding countries.

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Global Vulnerability

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Discuss the origin of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and provide five of the goals.

Ans: Varies. As the Millennium Development Goals approached their final years, the U.N. adopted the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Five goals of the SDG include 1) no poverty, 2) zero hunger, 3) quality education, 4) gender equality, and 5) climate action.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Document global goals for improving people’s life chances and progress made toward those goals.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Challenges Ahead: The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. How do structural functionalists view society? Please provide an example of structural functionalism.

Ans: Varies. Structural functionalists view societies as living organisms. These organisms are comprised of systems and structures, each of which has a set of functions. The economic system, political system, and educational system are all separate entities. While these systems serve individual functions, they still rely on each other to be successful. If one system fails, the others are impacted. For example, disorganized political systems may cause economic recession which may cause public schools to close.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Structural Functionalism: Problems of Order within and Among Systems

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. How does mechanical solidarity differ from organic solidarity?

Ans: Varies. In traditional societies, there was little diversity and people had a strong basis of collective values that served as the basis of their solidarity. These values prescribed very specific codes for living. Durkheim called this mechanical solidarity. In modern societies, the division of labor, diversity of lifestyles, religions, and overall customs is more significant. A much more generalized set of values and normative behaviors exist. Durkheim calls this organic solidarity—organic as in held together by differences rather than similarities.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Importance of Solidarity

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Public housing projects are intended to provide stable and secure housing for the poor, but in many parts of the world, they replaced viable neighborhoods and became hotbeds of crime. Is this an example of a manifest function or a latent function? Please explain your answer.

Ans: Varies. Functions and dysfunction may be manifest (intended and recognized) or latent (unexpected or unknown to many). The above scenario is an example of a latent function because the intent was to provide stable and secure housing for the poor, even if the reality is that public housing projects created unstable neighborhoods.

Learning Objective: 1.4: Apply theoretical frameworks to the analysis of global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Function and Dysfunction

Difficulty Level: Hard

7. What is the focus of the World Systems Analysis?

Ans: Varies. World Systems Analysis focuses on international power and the division of labor among societies. Its fundamental tenant is that a society’s position in the global economy is more important to individual life chances than their position in their society. It focuses on the expansion of capitalism across countries.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: World Systems Perspective

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Josephine lives and works in an economically weak society that is not well integrated into the global system. She works in the textile industry spinning thread. While Josephine’s art is sold at an expensive price, she receives very little compensation for her work. What type of society does Josephine live in?

Ans: Varies. Josephine lives in the periphery where the commodity chain begins. Unlike the semi-periphery or core, the periphery is comprised of very weak societies. In periphery societies, work is not always guaranteed and workers are paid very little.

Learning Objective: 1.2: Understand how the political, economic, and cultural features of a society comprise its social location and influence both individual and societal vulnerability to global problems.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Periphery

Difficulty Level: Hard

9. How does the concept of rationalization relate to global culture?

Ans: Varies. Rationalization is one of the most important components of global culture. Rationalization is a way of thinking grounded in reason rather than tradition, common sense, or religion. Through science, rationality helps us create reliable and valid knowledge about the world and find the best ways to do things. Rationalization emphasizes calculability—it argues that everything can be arranged for the purpose of efficiency and predictability.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Global Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Arjun Appadurai uses “scapes” to capture the nature of global cultural flows. Similar to landscape, global culture is not static—it is constantly changing. What are Appadurai’s five scapes? List and describe each one.

Ans: Varies. The five scapes are ethnoscapes—the flow of people for migration, recreational travel, business, and to give assistance as part of NGOs or governmental organization, or for any other reason; mediascapes—produced by mass and social media, the influence how people view other people and understand their situations; ideoscapes—images of ideologies; technoscapes—the flows of technology, high and low tech, mechanical and informational; and financescapes—the flow of currency and stock markets and of investment into and out of countries.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Outline the major features of the global economy, global governance, and global culture.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Appadurai’s Global “Scapes”: A Theory of Global Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard