

Student 7 – Social Science Answer Sheet

Question 1

Explain the differences between sociology, anthropology, and political science within the field of social science. Provide examples of research topics for each discipline.

Answer:

Sociology studies how individuals interact within groups and how societies are organized. It focuses on social relationships, institutions, and cultural norms. Research topics include family dynamics, social inequality, urbanization, and crime.

Anthropology explores human beings from cultural and biological perspectives, often emphasizing the evolution and diversity of societies. Anthropologists study kinship systems, rituals, language development, and human origins.

Political science examines governance systems, political behavior, and policy-making. It investigates electoral processes, democratic institutions, public policies, and international relations.

In summary, sociology analyzes social structures and interactions, anthropology studies human culture and development, and political science focuses on power and governance.

Question 2

Describe the structure and function of a typical social survey. Why are surveys important in social science research?

Answer:

A social survey is a systematic method for collecting data from a population, typically through questionnaires or interviews.

Key components:

- **Sampling:** Selecting a representative subset of the population.
- **Questionnaire:** Designing structured or semi-structured questions.
- **Data Collection:** Gathering responses via interviews, phone, online, or mail.
- **Analysis:** Interpreting data to identify trends, relationships, or patterns.

Surveys are important because they provide quantitative data on attitudes, behaviors, and demographics, enabling researchers to understand social trends, test hypotheses, and inform policy decisions.

Question 3

Discuss the ethical considerations and societal impacts of conducting social science research with human participants.

Answer:

Ethical considerations include:

- **Informed Consent:** Ensuring participants understand the study and agree voluntarily.
- **Confidentiality:** Protecting participants' identities and data.
- **Non-maleficence:** Avoiding harm or distress.
- **Right to Withdraw:** Allowing participants to leave the study at any time.

Social science research can improve policies and social welfare but unethical practices may damage public trust, reinforce stereotypes, or harm vulnerable groups. Ethical oversight and transparency are essential.

Question 4

Explain the concept of social stratification and discuss its advantages and limitations in understanding society.

Answer:

Social stratification refers to the hierarchical organization of society based on wealth, power, education, or status.

Advantages:

- Explains social inequality and mobility.
- Provides a framework to analyze class, race, gender, and other divisions.
- Helps understand resource distribution.

Limitations:

- May oversimplify social complexity.
 - Can reinforce stereotypes or justify inequality.
 - May overlook individual agency and cultural diversity.
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Question 5

Describe the principles of qualitative research and how interviews are used to explore social phenomena.

Answer:

Qualitative research seeks to understand social phenomena through detailed, non-numerical data.

Principles include:

- Contextual understanding of participants' experiences.
- Flexible, open-ended data collection.
- Emphasis on meaning and interpretation.

Interviews allow researchers to explore participants' perspectives and experiences deeply. They can be structured, semi-structured, or unstructured, providing rich data on identity, beliefs, social change, and group dynamics.