

## **Student 6 – 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 is the study of how people interact within societies, focusing on social relationships, institutions, and patterns of behavior. Common research topics include family structure, social inequality, urban development, and crime.

Anthropology examines humans from both cultural and biological perspectives, often exploring how societies and cultures evolve over time. Anthropologists might study kinship systems, rituals, language change, or the origins of humanity.

Political science analyzes how societies are governed, investigating political institutions, activities, and public policies. Research topics include electoral systems, democracy, policy analysis, and international relations.

In summary, sociology looks at social patterns and institutions, anthropology explores human diversity and culture, and political science studies governance and power structures.

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### **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 research tool for systematically collecting information from a population, often using questionnaires or interviews.

**Key components include:**

- **Sampling:** Choosing a group that represents the larger population.
- **Questionnaire:** Designing structured or semi-structured questions.
- **Data Collection:** Gathering responses through interviews, phone, online, or mail.
- **Analysis:** Interpreting the data to find trends, correlations, or patterns.

Surveys are vital in social science because they allow researchers to gather quantitative data on attitudes, opinions, behaviors, and demographics from large groups. This helps in understanding social trends, shaping policy, and testing theories.

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### Question 3

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

**Answer:**

Ethical considerations include:

- **Informed Consent:** Making sure participants know the study's purpose and agree voluntarily.
- **Confidentiality:** Protecting participants' privacy and identity.
- **Non-maleficence:** Avoiding harm or distress to participants.
- **Right to Withdraw:** Allowing participants to leave the study at any time.

Social science research can inform policy, improve welfare, and enhance understanding of social issues. However, unethical research or misuse of data can lead to mistrust, reinforce stereotypes, or harm vulnerable groups. Ethical oversight and transparency are essential for responsible research.

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### Question 4

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

**Answer:**

Social stratification is the ranking of individuals or groups in society based on factors like wealth, power, education, or status.

**Advantages:**

- Explains patterns of inequality and mobility.
- Provides a framework for analyzing class, gender, race, and other divisions.
- Helps understand the distribution of resources and opportunities.

**Limitations:**

- May oversimplify complex social realities.
- Can reinforce stereotypes or justify inequalities.
- Does not always account for individual choices or cultural differences.

Researchers continue to refine these theories to better address intersectionality and social change.

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**Question 5**

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

**Answer:**

Qualitative research aims to understand social phenomena through in-depth, non-numerical data.

**Principles include:**

- Gaining contextual understanding of participants' experiences.
- Using flexible, open-ended data collection methods.
- Emphasizing meaning, interpretation, and process.

Interviews are a core qualitative method, allowing researchers to explore participants' perspectives, motivations, and experiences in detail. They can be structured, semi-structured, or unstructured, and are used to gather rich, descriptive data on topics like identity, beliefs, social change, and group dynamics.