**Task 1 – Exploring One (1) Macro and One (1) Micro Theory**

**Task 1** *(Table – word limit 300 words)* **(AC 2.1)**

1. Prepare a table in which you identify the key aspects of one (1) micro-sociological and one (1) macro-sociological perspective (e.g. Functionalism, Marxism, Neo-Marxist, Feminism, Symbolic Interactionism).
2. Highlight the similarities and differences between the perspectives discussed.

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| Theory | Macro or Micro | Key Points | Similarities | Differences | How Can It Be Used To Understand A Real Event? |
| Marxism | Macro | This theory focuses on economic inequality and dichotomises the structure of capitalist society into the relationship between two groups; the bourgeousie and the proletariat (Marx and Engels, 2018). The Bourgeoisie being the owners of the “means of production” (e.g. factories), while the Proletariat are the ones who must sell their labour to the bourgeoisie in order to survive (e.g. factory workers).  The bourgeousie will seek to both stabalise and maximise their wealth and profit through their exploitation of the proletariat and mainpulation of the superstructure – that is, everthing in society not directly assiociated with production (Franz Jakubowski, 1990, p. 37). | Both theories acknowledge the possibility that social change can occur. Marxism emphasizes the potential for revolutionary change brought about by class consciousness and symbolic interactionism focuses on how meanings and symbols can change over time. | Because Marxism focuses on economic inequality it utalises more quantitative methods than symbolic interactionism and so can be argued to have greater scientific rigor. | The concept of False Class Consciousness can be used to explain interference by media CEOs over how the news is portrayed. Curran and Seaton (2010) found numerous evidence of media owners directly manipulating their content in order to favour certain political parties. |
| Symbolic Interactionism | Micro | Symbolic Interactionism focuses on the meaning that people ascribe to symbols created through their relationships and communication with other people (Blumer, 1986).  These meanings are socially constructed, not inherent to the symbol, which means that, through continued social interaction, the meaning of a symbol can change. People then act based on the meaning that they give to these symbols. |  |  | Symbolic Inteactionism can be used to explain contemporary views on gender. West and Zimmerman (1987) argue that gender is determined by whether or not a person socially conforms to acts associated by their gender. It is socially constructed, rather than an inherent quality. |

Word Count: 308

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West, C. and Zimmerman, D. (1987) *Doing gender.* Avaliable at: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/0t4/crcees/files/summerschool/readings/WestZimmerman_1987_DoingGender.pdf> (Accessed: 20 October 2023)