

Name: _____

Roll No: _____

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

IIT Bombay

HS 307: Introduction to Sociology (KD/1)

Quiz

Duration: 11.40 am to 12.30 pm

Date: 30th August 2016

Total Marks: 15

Attempt all questions. **One option** out of the four choices given is correct.

1. Peter Berger states: "It would appear plausible, in consequence, that sociological thought would have the best chance to develop in historical circumstances marked by severe jolts to the self-conception, especially the official and authoritative and generally accepted self-conception, of a culture." What Berger means is that:
 - A. Jolts to self conception leads to social problems which can be studied by sociologists. ()
 - B. Jolts make people think beyond the assertions of the self conception. (✓)
 - C. Jolts are necessary because without jolts society cannot progress. ()
 - D. Jolts help us understand the official and generally accepted self-conception, which are then studied by sociologists.

2. C. W. Mills points out, that "Perhaps the most fruitful distinction with which the sociological imagination works is between 'the personal troubles of milieu' and 'the public issues of social structure.' This distinction is an essential tool of the sociological imagination and a feature of all classic works in social science.... Troubles occur within the character of the individual and within the range of her/his immediate relations with others... Issues have to do with matters that transcend these local environments of the individual and the range of her/his inner life."

From the above assertion by C.W. Mills, point out which statement of the following reflects a sociological imagination:

- A. . "Those people were a major problem in the area. They made lots of noise, spread filth, and disturbed the area. They screamed a lot and made all kinds of noise. They were always drunk and would fight for no reason. The space was such a mess. There were a thousand huts here and many thousands of people. They were such dirty people. But, don't think they were poor. They just occupied the land, took rent on it, and got rich. ()
- B. "The middle classes have been able to distance themselves from their own residues, but in the poor they see bodily residues, animals closely associated with residual matter, and residual places coming together and threatening their own categorical scheme under which the pure and the defiled are distinguished". ()
- C. "The encroachment has now grown and taken a mammoth shape threatening the natural environment in the area and has started jeopardizing the life of the residents of Delhi by posing problems like pollution of all sorts, health hazards, insanitary conditions due to garbage dumping, blocks of roads and also giving rise to social problems like theft, robbery, etc. that threaten the security of the residents of the city." ()
- D. "The problem was that the DDA was letting people occupy the land. In the city there are 35 lakh slum dwellers. This has given rise to crime because they are mostly unemployed and coming from all states. They occupy public land, set up *jhuggis* [huts] and create health hazard. Because infrastructure in the city isn't even enough for [real] inhabitants, so they should stop immigration from these countries: Nepal, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Bihar" ()

3. Karl Marx makes a critique of Classical Political Economy approach by pointing out:

- i. Self seeking and pursuit of profit are natural characteristics of man.
- ii. Capital, commodities, prices have a life independent of human mediation
- iii. Exchange economy is an outcome of a historical process

iv. Wages and Profit are an outcome of a bitter struggle between capitalists and workers

A. ii & iv are correct ()

B. i & iv are correct ()

☒ C. iii & iv are correct (✓)

D. i & ii are correct ()

4. According to Peter Berger: "It may have become clear at this point that the problems that will interest the sociologist are not necessarily what other people may call 'problems'. People commonly speak of a 'social problem' when something in society does not work the way it is supposed to according to the official interpretations. They then expect the sociologist to study the 'problem' as they have defined it and perhaps even to come up with a 'solution' that will take care of the matter to their own satisfaction." What Peter Berger means here is that-

A. People want sociologists to study social problems while sociologists only study conceptual problems. ()

B. People's problems and sociologist's problems never match. ()

☒ C. People problem's often get defined according to the official interpretation of it while the interests of sociologists lead to a different set of questions. ()

D. People's problems can be solved only by social workers not by sociologists. ()

5. According to Marx, alienation occurs:

☒ A. Due to the devaluation of the human world in direct proportion to the increase in value of the world of things. ()

B. Due to the increased valuation of the human world with increase in value of the world of things. ()

C. There is no correlation between the human world and the world of things. ()

D. Due to the decrease in value of both the human world and the world of things. ()

6. In Marx's conceptualization of Dialectical Materialism, the law of negation of negation means:

- A. One opposite unites with its positive. ()
- B. One negation is cancelled by its negation. ()
- ☒ C. One opposite negates another and is in turn negated by a higher development which has elements of both negated. ()
- D. One opposite negates another and is in turn negated by a higher level of historical development which has something totally new. ()

7. In 'A Preface to the Contribution to a critique of the Political Economy', Marx states: "In the social production of their existence, men inevitably enter into definite relations which are independent of their will, namely relations of production appropriate to a given stage in the development of their material forces of production...". Here "independent of their will" means:

- A. In capitalism for instance, persons belonging to both the bourgeoisie and proletarian classes cannot think independently. ()
- B. Within capitalism, capitalists are free to do whatever they wish but workers have to listen to the capitalist class. ()
- ☒ C. Within capitalist mode of production, class relations are determined by men's relation to the forces of production. ()
- D. In capitalism, workers are forced to work for the capitalist class against their will because of political compulsion. ()

8. Within a particular mode of production:

- ☒ A. The totality of relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society. ()
- B. The totality of relations of production constitutes the ideological superstructure of society. ()
- C. The economic structure and the ideological superstructure are not related to each other. ()
- D. The state is a basic part of the economic structure of society. ()

9. The basic difference between the feudal mode of production and capitalist mode of production is:

- A. The feudal mode of production is in operation in rural based economies and capitalist mode of production appears in urban based economies. ()

- B. The feudal mode of production does not produce any surplus value while the capitalist mode of production produces surplus value. ()
- C. The feudal lords used to punish the serfs while capitalists are more humane with the workers. ()
- D. In feudalism, the means of production are owned by the producers while in capitalism the means of production are in the hands of the non-producing class. ()

10. According to Marx's capital Vol 1,

- A. Use value is realized in the process of exchange. ()
- ☒ B. An object can have use value without it being a commodity. ()
- C. A commodity can have exchange value but need not have any use value. ()
- D. Exchange value of a commodity is independent of value in the market. ()

11. According to Marx, the exchange value of two different commodities corn and iron:

- A. Cannot be calculated as different kinds of human labor are necessary to produce it. ()
- ~~B. Can be calculated using abstract labor time which will give us their respective use value. ()~~
- ☒ C. Can be calculated using abstract labor time which will give us their respective exchange value. ()
- D. Cannot be calculated as their use value and exchange value differ. ()

12. There is rooted in capitalist economy a structural tendency for the rate of profit to fall.

This means:

- A. The capitalist economy would collapse on its own in the long run. ()
- B. In the capitalist economy, the rate of surplus value grows faster than the rate of organic composition of capital ()
- ☒ C. The rate of profit is dependent on the organic composition which grows at a faster rate than the rate of surplus value ()
- D. The rate of profit depends on supply and demand and tends to fall when demand is low. ()

13. Marx described Asiatic mode of production as mainly constituted by:

A. Slavery used as a means of production. ()

☒ B. Self-sufficient village republics ()

C. Traditional conservative cultures resistant to change. ()

D. Extensive economic independence due to the irrigation system. ()

14. The main difference between simple reproduction of capital and extended reproduction of capital is:

A. The technology used in simple reproduction of capital is labor intensive while in extended reproduction of capital it is technologically advanced. ()

B. Simple reproduction of capital is found in feudal society and extended reproduction of capital is found in capitalist society. ()

☒ C. In simple reproduction of capital, the surplus is consumed away while in extended reproduction of capital the surplus is reinvested in both constant and variable capital. ()

D. In simple reproduction of capital the rate of surplus grows faster than rate of organic composition of capital. ()

15. According to Marx, the capitalist "must buy his commodities at their value, must sell at their value, and yet at the end of the process must withdraw more value from circulation than he threw into it as starting". This happens because:

A. Without profits no capitalist will take the risk and invest so much money in the production process. ()

B. Of the role of constantly changing technology which leads to higher productivity and therefore profits. ()

C. The changing demand and supply situation leads to higher rates of profit. ()

☒ D. Of the role of human labor which produces more than it consumes. ()
