SOC 102: Exam #1(Spring ‘10)

1.(m/c) What might be a social problem can be dependent on a person’s, group’s, or organization’s interests, values and beliefs. Which of the following would be examples of this?

a. Corporations belief that government regulation of the economy is a social problem.

b. Fundamentalist Christians believe that the control of society’s institution by secular humanists (liberals) is

a social problem.

c. Heavy television viewers are less likely to believe that violent crime is one of the most serious problems in the U.S..

d. a and b e. all of the above

2.(m/c) According to your professor, television is not a good way to identify and understand social problems because it narrowly defines, sensationalizes, and distorts them. Which of the following are examples?

a. Extensive coverage of a flu season which was not different from any previous flu season in terms of severity or mortality.

b. Hyped coverage of the summer of “missing and murdered children” that was no worse than previous summers.

c. Continually increasing coverage of violent crime even though the crime rate is decreasing.

d. a and b e. all of the above

3.(m/c) The state that passed a law against sexy cheerleading was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Illinois b. Mississippi c. Florida d. Texas e. South Dakota

4.(m/c) Fundamentalist Christians believe which of the following would be solutions to American society’s problems?

a. Teaching abstinence only sex education. b. Teaching intelligent design in science classes.

c. Distribution of condoms to teenagers. d. a and b e. all of above

5.(m/c) Corporations believe which of the following are social problems?

a. corporate taxes b. “frivolous” law suits c. “runaway” juries d. a and b e. all of above

6.(m/c) Corporations believe which of the following would solve their problems?

a. deregulation b. tort reform c. harsh punishment for corporate crimes d. a and c e. all of above

7.(m/c) All of the following are true when comparing the U.S. to other industrialized nations EXCEPT:

a. The U.S. has the highest rate of poverty. b. The U.S. provides the least amount of income to the poor.

c. The U.S. is the only industrial nation without universal health care.

d. The U.S. provides the most in all forms of aid to poor children. e. none are exceptions

8.(t/f) Television is the main source of information for \_\_\_\_ % of Americans.

a. 33% b. 50% c. 66% d. 75% e. 87%

9.(m/c) According to the Annenberg study, heavy television viewers are more likely to do all of the following EXCEPT:

a. buy a gun b. buy a pit bull c. fortify their house with iron bars d. shoot a family member

e. none are exceptions

10.(m/c) According to the Annenberg study, heavy television viewers are more likely to support all of the following EXCEPT:

a. three strikes laws b. the death penalty c. less legal restraints on police

d. decrease in military funding e. none are exceptions

11.(m/c) According to your professor, the “tragedy of Haiti” began when:

a. the U.S. invaded and occupied it for almost 30 years, killing thousands and rewriting laws to benefit U.S. corporations.

b. the U.S. refused to recognize Haitian democracy in 1804 and supported French claims for reparations.

c. France and Spain exploited its natural resources for several hundred years.

d. Columbus began the African slave trade in Haiti.

e. Columbus “discovered” Haiti and began exploiting its resources and killing its people.

12.(m/c) According to your professor, all of the following are vital needs EXCEPT:

a. good job b. health care c. quality education d. marriage e. none are exceptions

13.(m/c) Which of the following is necessary (vital need) in a job?

a. decent wages b. reasonable hours c. job security d. retirement benefits e. all of above

14.(t/f) According to your professor, in America all vital needs to enjoy a decent life are guaranteed for the person who works hard and does a good job.

15.(m/c) Children are more likely to be victims of violence:

a. at home b. at school c. while playing d. in the car e. by a stranger

16.(t/f) According to your professor, the main social problem in American society is the combination of the extreme and growing inequality in wealth and income and the growing concentration of corporate power.

17.(m/c)) According to your professor, all the vital needs of millions of middle class and working class Americans and their children are in decline or being threatened. All of the following are examples EXCEPT:

a. millions of good jobs have been lost since 1999 and wages are stagnant or declining for 80% of workers.

b. foreclosures are up over 100% in 2009. c. 1 in 6 families in the U.S. is food insecure

d. 5.8 million Americans have lost their health care since 2000 e. none are exceptions

18.(t/f) Inequality in wealth and income is increasing in American society, and is greater than at any time since the

Great Depression.

19.(t/f) According to your professor, increasing inequality in wealth and income gives the upper class power over the political system and creates a plutocracy in America.

20.(t/f) According to your professor, increasing inequality gives the upper class power to shape social institutions such as the educational institution.

21.(t/f) The U.S. has less inequality in wealth and less poverty than any other industrial nation.

22.(t/f) The top 1% of Americans have significantly increased both their wealth and their share of yearly income since the mid 1970s.

23.(t/f) The wealth and income gaps between white and black families has declined to the point where it is insignificant because so many black families have entered the middle class.

24.(m/c) The lower educational attainment of minorities is due to:

a. biological differences b. a culture of poverty c. unequal access to high-quality education d. a and b

e. all of above

25.(m/c) All of the following are examples of racial inequality EXCEPT:

a. Black, Latino, and Native Americans disproportionately in lower strata of wealth and income.

b. Disproportionately high rates of unemployment in the above groups.

c. Disproportionately high rates of poverty in above groups.

d. a and b e. none of the above

26.(m/c) Which of the following are examples of inequality in life chances for Black, Latino, and Native Americans?

a. higher rates of birth defects b. higher rates of infant mortality c. higher rates of hunger

d. higher rates of lead poisoning e. all of above

27.(m/c) Which of the following is a sociological theory that explains social structure as the cause of racial inequality?

a. biological deficiency theory b. cultural deficiency theory c. institutional racism

28. (m/c) All of the following are means used by corporations to increase their concentration of ownership and consequently their control over the economic system EXCEPT:

a. mergers and acquisitions b. shared ownership c. interlocking directorates

d. cooperation through shared monopolies e. none are exceptions

29.(m/c) Increasing corporate power has had all of the following consequences EXCEPT:

a. increased concentration of wealth and income b. elimination of jobs

c. increased power over political system d. increased the power of labor unions e. none are exceptions

30.(m/c) According to the documentary The Corporation, in early America the corporation was a subordinate institution in U.S. society. All of the following were limits place upon corporations at the time EXCEPT:

a. a corporation had to be chartered by the state to fulfill a social need.

b. a corporation had time limitation to its existence. c. shareholders were not liable

d. a corporation could not buy another corporation e. none are exceptions

31.(m/c) According to the documentary The Corporation, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Amendment to the Constitution was used by corporations to gain the status of legal persons.

a. 11th b. 12th c. 14th d. 18th e. 20th

32.(t/f) In the U.S., the sole legal obligation of a public corporation is to maximize profit.

33.(m/c) An example of how shared monopolies and concentrated ownership can allow traders to manipulate the marketplace was revealed in a Daily Show about the California energy crisis and how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ took advantage to raise the price of electricity on “Grandma Millie.” a. SDG&E b. Sempra c. Enron d. Bechtel e.Halliburton \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Match the democratic institution or process to the ways by which it is undermined.

Institution/Process Ways

34. electoral process a. corporate owned, advertising sponsored

35. legislative process b. revolving door

36. judicial system c. lobbying

37. regulatory system d. appointments, campaign financing

38. free press e. campaign financing

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39.(t/f) The upper ten per cent of income earners receive the majority of their income from investment.

40.(m/c) The main lobbyist in *Bulworth* is from which of the following industries?

a. mass media b. insurance c. oil d. banking e. health care

41.(m/c) Bulworth sang his rap song Big Money :

a. at a church b. at a debate c. at a fundraiser d. at a club e. at a pick-up basketball game

42.(m/c) Bulworth’s campaign slogan was:

a. Change we can believe in b. We stand at the doorstep of a new millennium

c. Family values are American values d. Freedom first

43.(t/f) According to your professor, reducing or eliminating the estate tax (“death tax”) directly benefited the majority of Americans.

44.(m/c) All of the following are true about campaign financing EXCEPT:

a. the 2008 campaign cycle set a record for funds raised by politicians.

b. the 2008 presidential campaign set a record for funds raised by presidential campaigns.

c. the largest contributors to political campaigns are the wealthiest ½ of 1 per cent of Americans.

d. corporations can now spend as much money as they want supporting the candidate of their choice.

e. none are exceptions

45.(t/f) The financial industry was one of the biggest donors to both McCain and Obama because it wanted to make sure that whoever was elected would bail them out.

46.(m/c) All of the following engage in lobbying EXCEPT:

a. industries like health insurance b. trade groups like American Bankers Association

c. front groups like Citizens for Better Medicare d. public interest groups like Union of Concerned Scientists

e. none are exceptions

47.(m/c) According to the Daily Show, which of the following are guidelines for setting up a “fake” town hall meeting?

a. an alliterative title b. interracial and gender sensitive background

c. control of questions d. b and c e. all of above

48.(t/f) Incumbents get most of the campaign contributions and they win over 90% of the time.

49.(m/c) Corporations want laissez faire except when it comes to which of the following forms of “wealthfare”?

a. tax credits b. privatization of public resources

c. publicly funded research and development d. bailouts e. all of above

50.(m/c) Which of the following are ways that the merging of politics and television has undermined our democratic process?

a. Increased dependence on political advertising on television. b. Televised phony town hall meetings.

c. Increased expense of running for political office. d. a and b e. all of the above

51.(m/c) All of the following are examples of wealthfare EXCEPT:

a. Work Opportunity Tax Credit b. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

c. Telecommunications Act o1996 d. TARP bailout e. none are exceptions

52.(t/f) The reason property tax is the main form of funding for K-12 in the U.S. is because it guarantees equality of funding for students in all school districts.

53.(t/f) According to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Rodriguez v San Antonio, the U.S. Constitution guarantees equality of education.

54.(t/f) According to your professor, education in the U.S. is a meritocracy.

55.(m/c) In which of the following ways does education act as a gatekeeper in American society?

a. selection of certain knowledge and ideas for exclusion or inclusion b. ability grouping and tracking

c. socialization of groups into different norms d. a and b e. all of the above

56.(m/c) The Bush education policy called No Child Left Behind is based on the “miracle” in what city?

a. Dallas b. Austin c. Houston d. Ft. Worth

57.(m/c) No Child Left Behind emphasizes all of the following EXCEPT:

a. evaluating schools, teachers, principals and students on performance. b. standardized testing as means of evaluation.

c. earning promotion from one grade to the next.. d. adequate funding for success. e. none are exceptions

58.(m/c) Obama’s educational policy Race to the Top (RTTT) involves all of the following EXCEPT:

a. standardized testing as a means of evaluation. b. teacher salary tied to standardized testing.

c. national standardized test d. one time grants for states . e. none are exceptions

59.(m/c) All of the following are consequences for underfunded schools and their students EXCEPT:

a. less qualified teachers b. inadequate resources c. larger classed. d. decreased drop out rates e. none are exceptions

60.(m/c) Which of the following are factors related to poverty and poor educational performance?

a. Poor children are more likely to be hungry. b. Poor children are more likely to be sick.

c. Poor children are more likely to have fewer resources at home. d. a and b e. all of above

61. (t/f) Your professor believes that undereducating poor and minority students is the real function of our educational system because it creates uneducated and unskilled workers to take the McJobs our economy is producing.

62.(t/f) In California, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per cent of K-12 teachers quit within five years.

a. 10 b. 25 c. 30 d. 40 e. 50

63.(m/c) To meet funding shortfalls, universities have had to adapt. This has included which of the following:

a. fewer classes b. larger classes c. increased tuition d. b and c e. all of above

64.(m/c) Which of the following is (are) true about higher education in America?

a. The cost has increased significantly in the last ten years. b. Students are more dependent on loans than grants.

c. Student debt has increased. d. a and b e. all of above

65.(t/f) The SDSU administration adopted a “business model” as a means of operation.

a. administration manages a product “ (degrees). b. students are considered customers

c. student demand has created a sellers market d. business model guarantees a better education

e. none are exceptions

the end

65.(m/c) According to the California Master Plan for Higher Education, the CSU function is: a. teaching b. research

66.(t/f) The assumption behind the California Master Plan for Higher Education is that education is a public good; the public benefits as a whole from a high quality affordable educational system.

67.(m/c) All of the following are administrative solutions to the current financial crisis EXCEPT:

a. larger classes b. firing faculty and staff c. guaranteed full funding of CSU

d. furloughs e. suppressed classes

25.(t/f) Compared to other industrialized nations, women in the U.S. make a higher percent of men’s wages.

26.(t/f) The “glass ceiling” refers to the invisible barrier that prevents women workers from advancing into upper management positions.

27.(t/f) One of the factors that contributes to the gender wage gap is that women workers are concentrated in lower paying occupations.

55.(t/f) The trend in all areas of media is for greater concentration of ownership.

56.(m/c) All of the following are examples of media concentration EXCEPT:

a. shared monopoly b. shared ownership c. interlocking directorates d. none are exceptions

57.(m/c) All of the following are the goals of corporate-owned, advertising-sponsored news EXCEPT:

a. make a profit b. entertainment c. propaganda d. inform the public e. none are exceptions

58.(m/c) All of the following should be functions of the press in a democracy EXCEPT:

a. inform b. seek the truth c. advocate for the people

d. never question the government during war e. none are exceptions

59.(t/f) One of the cost reduction measures in which corporations have engaged is eliminating investigative reports.

60.(m/c) Cost cutting measures have made corporate news dependent upon:

a. press conferences b. government experts c. VNRs and GNRs d. a and b e. all of above

61.(m/c) All of the following dominate the content of news stories EXCEPT:

a. violence b. natural disasters c. personalities d. workers’ vital needs e. none are exceptions

62.(m/c) Which of the following are examples of news as entertainment from the Daily Show?

a. Reporter getting tased with 50,000 volts b. Reporters demonstrating how windy a hurricane is

c. Reporter canoeing in flood water d. b and c e. all of above

67.(m/c) The number of guest speakers at the teach in were: a. two b. three c. four

68.(m/c) Professor Choi spoke of the transformation of the educational system in the U.S. from one based on progressive education (educating the whole person) to one that is science based. Which of the following did he give as a major reason?

a. the success of the Japanese educational system b. Sputnik c. digital revolution

d. Cold War arms race e. none of above

69.(m/c) Student activism saved which of the following programs at CSU San Marcos?

a. DSS b. EOP c. Women’s swimming d. ethnic studies e. multi-cultural center

53.(m/c) In a democracy, the citizens are responsible when the country goes to war, so it is important that the press:

a. informs the public. b. pursues the truth. c. supports the government no matter what. d. a and b

e. all of above

54.(m/c) The Saving Private Lynch story was:

a. based on a single anonymous Pentagon official. b. reported in one newspaper and then picked up by others.

c. an example of how the media can be used by the government. d. a propaganda story.

e. all of the above

55.(t/f) Pre-War coverage by the corporate media, even the liberal NY Times, adopted the Bush Administration position on Iraq.

56.(m/c) All of the following are ways that the corporate-owned press violated its responsibilities during the war in Iraq EXCEPT:

a. Accepted forged documents and unreliable sources. b. Never informed Americans about the cost of going to war.

c. Embedded reporters with the military who signed agreements not to report on certain things.

d. Accepted without challenge statements made at the “Hollywood” briefing center in Centcom.

e. None are exceptions

57.(m/c) If the media were fulfilling its function as an advocate for the people and an adversary of the government, it would be pursuing all of the following stories EXCEPT:

a. the true human cost of the war. b. who was responsible for the torture in Abu Gharib.

c. “worlds largest embassy” d. whether bombing countries is the best way to fight the so-called “war on terror.”

e. none are exceptions

58.(t/f) The toppling of the statue of Saddam Hussein was an example of how the U.S. was greeted as liberators.

59.(m/c) All of the following are examples of the war as entertainment (militainment) EXCEPT:

a. Centcom briefings b. music and video introducing news shows c. saving private Lynch

d. human interest stories e. none are exceptions

60.(m/c) All of the following stories were not good for the corporate media’s coverage of war as entertainment EXCEPT:

a. white phosphorus b. depleted uranium c. mercenaries d. Falluja e. none are exceptions

61.(t/f) The second largest military force in Iraq is mercenaries, private soldiers fighting for money.

62.(t/f) The corporate media coverage of the political campaign focuses on the campaign as a “horse race.”

63.(t/f) A Republican strategy was to attack Barrack Obama for being intelligent. This is successful in America because Americans associate intelligence with elitism and arrogance.

64.(t/f) According to your professor, “balance,” also called “objectivity,” or interviewing representatives from both sides of an issue is the best way to inform the American public.

65.(m/c) According to the text, the most destitute minority group in the U.S. is:

a. Asian Americans b. African Americans c. Native Americans d. Latino Americans

66.(t/f) African Americans and Latino Americans with graduate and professional degrees are able to narrow the income gap with white Americans who have equivalent degrees.

70.(t/f) Because America has a liberal media, many more Democrats than Republicans are presented as sources

for news shows.

The early sociological studies of social problems focused on a person blame approach.