TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.

1) Sociology is the systematic study of social behaviour and the study of individual personality differences. 1) _____

2) An effective sociological theory may have both explanatory and predictive power. 2) _____

3) One of Erving Goffman's most significant contributions to sociology was the attempt to merge the micro- and macro-level approaches to the study of society. 3) _____

4) John Porter conducted a well-known Canadian study on social inequality and ethnicity. 4) _____

5) Despite their differences, functionalists, conflict theorists, and interactionists would all agree that there is much more to sports than exercise or recreation. 5) _____

6) As a discipline, sociology emerged in the nineteenth century. 6) _____

7) Women are more talkative than men. 7) _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

8) To what does the term anomie refer? 8) _____
   A) A classification scheme containing two or more categories.
   B) A model that serves as a measuring rod against which actual cases can be evaluated.
   C) A type of suicide that is based on depression.
   D) A loss of direction that is felt in a society when social control of individual behaviour has become ineffective.

9) According to C. Wright Mills, is a private trouble? 9) _____
   A) a problem that can be explained wholly by an individual's personality
   B) a problem that is not discussed with anyone
   C) a problem that affects an individual
   D) a difficulty related to a cultural taboo

10) Which of the following would be an example of the use of the sociological imagination? 10) _____
   A) a study that concentrates on the behaviour of people listening to a religious service compared to those listening to a rock concert
   B) an analysis of the powers of the Prime Minister of Canada to declare war
   C) an analysis of the content of dreams
   D) a study of an individual's sleeping patterns
11) What is the awareness that allows people to comprehend the link between their immediate, personal social settings and the remote, impersonal social world called?
   A) anthropology  B) anomie
   C) a theory  D) the sociological imagination

12) Which of the following is NOT included in Max Weber’s theory of power?
   A) anomie
   B) ownership of the means of production
   C) organizational resources
   D) social status

13) The systematic study of the relationship between the individual and society and of the consequences of difference is called what?
   A) political science  B) psychology
   C) anthropology  D) sociology

14) Which of the following academic disciplines is classified as a social science?
   A) anthropology  B) astronomy  C) biology  D) theology

15) What is the term for a condition in which members of society have differing amounts of wealth, prestige, or power?
   A) social psychology  B) applied sociology
   C) social inequality  D) pure sociology

16) Throughout sociology’s history, a recurring theme common to all perspectives has been the idea that sociological theory and research should contribute to:
   A) positive social change  B) pure science
   C) applied sociology  D) basic sociology

17) Which of the following statements does NOT represent how the study of sociology can affect social policy?
   A) sociology can be used to evaluate the success of public policy programs and the impact of the social changes felt by the policies.
   B) sociological concepts enhance critical thinking skills which help us to better understand current public policy debates.
   C) applying the sociological imagination to enhance our understanding of current social issues globally.
   D) studying the physical features of society and nature together, focusing on how they interact can lead to social policy change.
18) A key element in the sociological imagination is the ability to view one's own society, how?
   A) from the perspective of cultural biases
   B) from the perspective of personal experience
   C) as an outsider
   D) as an insider

19) In Karl Marx's analysis, by what is social inequality determined?
   A) The religious and the non-religious who clash in pursuit of their own interests.
   B) Men and women who clash in pursuit of their own interests.
   C) Ownership, or lack thereof, of key material resources.
   D) Blacks and Whites who clash in pursuit of their own racial interests.

20) Which sociologist established Europe's first university department of sociology?
   A) Auguste Comte
   B) C. Wright Mills
   C) Max Weber
   D) Émile Durkheim

21) Karl Marx was concerned about loss of control over our creative human capacity to produce, separation from the products we make, and isolation from our fellow workers. What did he call this?
   A) alienation
   B) anomie
   C) capitalism
   D) segregation

22) Which social scientists would be most interested in comparing the damage done by the 2009 Manitoba floods to that of other twentieth century floods in the same watershed?
   A) geologists
   B) historians
   C) anthropologists
   D) civil engineers

23) In his research on suicide, what did Émile Durkheim find?
   A) Civilians had higher suicide rates than soldiers.
   B) Protestants had higher suicide rates than Catholics.
   C) Married people had higher suicide rates than unmarried people.
   D) Suicide rates were higher during periods of war and revolution than during periods of peace.

24) Which of the following countries rates HIGHEST on the Happiness Index?
   A) Norway
   B) United States
   C) Burundi
   D) Columbia

25) Which of the following terms refers to the freedom individuals have to choose and to act?
   A) autonomous power
   B) agency
   C) conditioned resourcefulness
   D) social statics
26) In many Third World nations, the pace of social change is very rapid and there is significant hunger and starvation, unemployment, and family disruption. Individuals who live in Third World nations are likely to suffer from which of the following?
   A) anomie   B) dramaturgy   C) dialecticism   D) displacement

27) Many sociologists tend to favour one sociological perspective over the others because:
   A) it is not possible to utilize more than one theory at a time when doing research.
   B) a theoretical orientation influences a sociologist's approach to a research problem in a number of ways.
   C) focusing on one particular theoretical orientation gives researchers the broadest understanding of an issue in society.
   D) each theoretical orientation supports certain issues and cannot be utilized in studying all social issues.

28) Which of the following academic disciplines would most likely explore the ways in which people produce and exchange goods?
   A) philosophy   B) sociology   C) economics   D) psychology

29) Which of the following sociologists popularized the dramaturgical approach, which compares everyday life to the setting of the theatre?
   A) Jane Addams   B) Erving Goffman
   C) C. Wright Mills   D) Émile Durkheim

30) One of the main tasks of sociology is to reveal and report the degree of which of the following?
   A) genetic influences   B) social inequality
   C) mental disturbance   D) individual inferiority

31) The discipline of sociology was given its name by which French theorist?
   A) Émile Durkheim   B) Marcel Mauss
   C) Auguste Comte   D) Harriet Martineau

32) Which sociologist translated the works of Auguste Comte into English and introduced the significance of inequality and power into the discipline?
   A) Talcott Parsons   B) Harriet Martineau
   C) Jane Addams   D) Émile Durkheim

33) Why was Émile Durkheim's explanation of suicide scientific?
   A) He worked in a university setting.
   B) He divided suicide into four distinctive categories.
   C) He developed conclusions based on systematic examination of data.
   D) He carefully studied the personalities of hundreds of suicide victims.
34) Which sociological perspectives are most concerned with macro level analysis?
   A) functionalist and interactionist  B) interactionist and feminist
   C) conflict and interactionist  D) functionalist and conflict

35) Émile Durkheim is an example of a sociologist guided by which perspective?
   A) conflict perspective  B) feminist perspective
   C) functionalist perspective  D) interactionist perspective

36) Which sociological perspective views society as a living organism in which each part of
    the organism contributes to its survival and stability?
   A) interactionist perspective  B) feminist perspective
   C) conflict perspective  D) functionalist perspective

37) Inequality, capitalism, and stratification would most likely be key concepts of which
    theoretical perspective?
   A) functionalist perspective  B) interactionist perspective
   C) dramaturgical perspective  D) conflict perspective

38) Which sociological perspective would suggest that if an aspect of social life does not
    contribute to a society's stability, then it does not serve a useful function?
   A) conflict perspective  B) feminist perspective
   C) interactionist perspective  D) functionalist perspective

39) Which sociological perspective would be most likely to argue that the existence of
    big-city political machines suggests that these political organizations satisfy certain basic
    social needs?
   A) functionalist perspective  B) feminist perspective
   C) interactionist perspective  D) conflict perspective

40) In examining any aspect of society, which sociological perspective emphasizes the
    contribution that aspect makes to overall social stability?
   A) feminist perspective  B) conflict perspective
   C) interactionist perspective  D) functionalist perspective

41) Which sociological perspective emphasizes the distribution of power and the allocation
    of resources?
   A) global perspective  B) functionalist perspective
   C) interactionist perspective  D) conflict perspective
42) Critics of television often suggest that executives of major television networks and movie corporations are wealthy White males who decide which programs or movies will be produced and which directors and actors will obtain jobs in the industry. Which perspective does this analysis reflect?
   A) dramaturgical perspective  B) interactionist perspective  
   C) conflict perspective      D) functionalist perspective

43) A study that examines the relationship between income and early education, which finds that children who attended schools with a maximum class size of 25 from grades K - 6 have higher average lifetime earnings than those who went to schools with larger class sizes, and which concludes by advocating educational funding reforms, is likely done from which perspective?
   A) interactionist perspective  B) feminist perspective  
   C) functionalist perspective  D) conflict perspective

44) Which sociological perspective generalizes about everyday forms of social interaction in order to understand society as a whole?
   A) interactionist perspective  B) conflict perspective  
   C) postmodern perspective     D) functionalist perspective

45) Which sociological perspective would most likely argue that the social order is based on coercion and exploitation?
   A) conflict perspective       B) interactionist perspective  
   C) functionalist perspective  D) global perspective

46) Which sociological approach would view sports as an agent for defining people's social positions as players, coaches, and referees as a result of their performances and reputations?
   A) feminist perspective      B) functionalist perspective  
   C) interactionist perspective D) conflict perspective

47) Which sociological perspective would view sports as a form of big business in which profits are more important than the health and safety of athletes?
   A) conflict perspective      B) interactionist perspective  
   C) postmodern perspective    D) functionalist perspective

48) Which sociological perspective would view sports as promoting an overall feeling of unity and social solidarity?
   A) interactionist perspective B) feminist perspective  
   C) functionalist perspective  D) conflict perspective
49) Which sociological perspective would most likely suggest that sports socialize young people into such values as competition and patriotism?
   A) feminist perspective  B) interactionist perspective
   C) functionalist perspective  D) conflict perspective

50) Which sociological perspective would suggest that sports participants may work together harmoniously, and abandon previously held stereotypes and prejudices despite class, racial, and religious differences?
   A) functionalist perspective  B) interactionist perspective
   C) feminist perspective  D) conflict perspective

51) The view that sports serve as an "opiate" that encourages people to seek a "fix" rather than focus on personal problems and social issues would most likely be held by which group of theorists?
   A) interactionists  B) postmodernists
   C) functionalists  D) conflict theorists

52) What is the term for the worldwide integration of government policies, cultures, social movements, and financial markets through trade and the exchange of ideas?
   A) pluralism  B) globalization
   C) modernization  D) internationalism

53) Which of the following is NOT true of sociology?
   A) It can be used to predict the behaviour of individual members of social groups.
   B) It focuses on how major social institutions and individuals interact.
   C) It focuses on how social relationships influence people's behaviour.
   D) It is the systematic study of the relationship between the individual and society and of the consequences of difference.

54) Which of the following is most closely associated with the concept of the sociological imagination?
   A) Karl Marx  B) Max Weber
   C) C. Wright Mills  D) Émile Durkheim

55) Into what category do sociological studies that focus on large-scale phenomena or entire civilizations fall?
   A) macrosociology  B) microsociology
   C) interactionism  D) dramaturgy

56) A sociologist studies drug-use patterns among small groups of college students in a New Brunswick College. Of what would this be an example?
   A) macrosociology  B) conflict theory
   C) functionalism  D) microsociology
57) Who introduced the concept of anomie into sociology?
   A) Auguste Comte  B) Émile Durkheim  C) C. Wright Mills  D) Max Weber

58) Judge the following statement based on the following criteria: In applying the sociological imagination to the issue of unemployment, it can be stated that a country’s unemployment rate is a public issue while an individual who loses her job is experiencing private trouble. Thus we can assume that the relationship between the society and an individual is a reciprocal one.
   A) Good (the statement is correct, but the assumption about the concept is incorrect)
   B) Excellent (the statement is correct, with a clear and correct assumption about the concept)
   C) Mediocre (the statement is correct, and the assumption about the concept is irrelevant)
   D) Unacceptable (the statement is incorrect and the explanation is unclear and irrelevant)

59) According to the textbook, which of the following is true?
   A) Men speak more during the course of a day than women do.
   B) Men speak more to other men than women do to other women.
   C) Women speak more during the course of a day than men do.
   D) Men and women speak about the same amount during the course of a day.

60) The study of divorce rates among the populations of Canada, England, the United States, and France is an example of which of the following?
   A) macrosociology  B) alienation  C) microsociology  D) anomie

61) Which of the following stresses the study of small groups?
   A) middle-range sociology  B) macrosociology  C) conflict theory  D) microsociology

62) Which of the following statements about Canadian sociology and sociologists is true?
   A) Erving Goffman, though born in the United States, spent most of his research career working in Canada.
   B) French Canadian sociology has historically been more politically engaged than that done in English Canada.
   C) Much of the work in early Canadian sociology focused on distinguishing between Canadians and Americans.
   D) John Porter is best known for his groundbreaking work on inequality between men and women in Canada.
Sociologists argue that, unlike scientific knowledge, common sense conclusions are not politically correct, easily disseminated, not published, or not reliable.

Which of the following academic disciplines investigates personality and individual behaviour?
- A) political science
- B) psychology
- C) history
- D) sociology

Which of the following academic disciplines is classified as a natural science?
- A) biology
- B) history
- C) political science
- D) sociology

Which of the following would a natural scientist be most likely to study?
- A) The interaction between men and women on a college campus.
- B) Food preparation among a tribal group in New Guinea.
- C) The clothing patterns of a group of people during a 100-year period.
- D) Rock formations and composition in the Grand Canyon.

What is the body of knowledge obtained using methods based upon systematic observation called?
- A) ideal type
- B) theory
- C) hypothesis
- D) science

Which of the following statements is an example of a sociological theory?
- A) John’s suicide was probably the result of the stress he was feeling at work.
- B) Social groups must have three or more members.
- C) Betting on horse races increases on sunny days.
- D) Suicide rates are a reflection of whether people are, or are not, integrated into the group life of a society.

Why is sociology considered a science?
- A) Sociologists receive government funding for research projects.
- B) Sociologists teach at respected universities.
- C) Sociologists engage in organized and systematic study of phenomena to enhance understanding.
- D) Sociologists construct middle-range theories to explain social behaviour.

Which of the following academic disciplines emphasizes the influence that society has on people’s attitudes and behaviour and the ways in which people shape society?
- A) economics
- B) physics
- C) anthropology
- D) sociology
71) Which social science would be interested in conducting research on the cost of the damage from the 2009 Manitoba floods?
   A) political science  
   B) sociology  
   C) economics  
   D) history

72) Harriet Martineau argued that we could learn a lot about a culture by analyzing the ideas, themes, and images reflected in which cultural product?
   A) television shows  
   B) popular songs  
   C) bestselling books  
   D) children's toys

73) The example of preparing a hamburger, given in the textbook, best illustrates which of the following?
   A) The ingenuity necessary to live independently.  
   B) The benefits of vegetarianism.  
   C) The precarious nature of civilization.  
   D) The reliance of human beings on cumulative knowledge and collective resources.

74) Émile Durkheim's study of suicide related suicide rates to which of the following?
   A) climatic conditions (e.g., oppressive heat, heavy rain, cold winters)  
   B) personal stress  
   C) the extent to which people were integrated into the group life of a society  
   D) cultural values

75) Which of the following statements best outlines the interrelationship between the feminist, functionalist and conflict perspectives?
   A) the functionalist and conflict perspectives both focus on maintaining stability in society and consensus among members of the society, while the feminist perspective emphasizes the distribution of power and the allocation of resources among the members of a society.  
   B) the feminist perspective shares the conflict perspective's attention to inequality, going beyond its focus on social class to address the role of gender in creating and sustaining inequality. In this regard, feminist theory has little in common with the functionalist perspective which shares the conflict perspective's focus on analyzing large-scale, society-wide patterns of social behaviour.  
   C) the conflict perspective focuses on an analysis of social order, the functionalist perspective focuses on an analysis of social inequality, and the feminist perspective incorporates each of these themes into its perspective with an extended focus addressing the role of gender inequality.  
   D) both the feminist and functionalist perspectives generalize about everyday forms of social interaction in order to explain society as a whole, while the conflict perspective considers how the status quo is established and maintained, and who benefits and who suffers from the existing system.
76) Which of the following is NOT a key component of the definition of sociology?  
A) the individual and society  
B) the hierarchy of needs  
C) the consequences of difference  
D) systematic study  

77) What would a sociologist observing behaviour at a college football game most probably focus on?  
A) what books the coach of the team has read during the past year  
B) a "fan" who has fallen asleep during the game's fourth quarter  
C) the cleanliness of the rest room facilities in the stadium  
D) the interaction among fans during the pre-game ritual of tailgate parties  

78) Which of the following would a social scientist be most likely to study?  
A) The composition of a meteorite discovered in a remote area of Siberia.  
B) The newest procedure in heart transplant surgery.  
C) The reasons for the decreasing birth rate in Canada.  
D) The possibility of life on Mars.  

79) Which of the following statements about the sociological imagination is true?  
A) The sociological imagination is indifferent towards individual experience.  
B) The sociological imagination factors social issues into the explanation of individual psychological perspectives.  
C) The sociological imagination factors individual psychological perspectives into the explanation of social issues.  
D) The sociological imagination is relevant only to what is experienced collectively by a whole society.  

80) Which statement about the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami is true?  
A) The foreign aid received was more than adequate to rebuild.  
B) Because it occurred in a poor part of the world, global stock markets were heavily impacted.  
C) The tsunami disaster cannot be related to globalization.  
D) More men than women survived.  

81) Which of the following subject areas is an example of a natural science?  
A) philosophy  
B) British literature  
C) geology  
D) theology  

82) What is the term for a set of statements that seeks to explain problems, actions, or behaviour?  
A) ideal type  
B) theory  
C) typology  
D) science
83) Why would it be beneficial for a nursing student to take a sociology course?
   A) To provide knowledge and information to justify and validate political and corporate agendas.
   B) To use sociology in a way that provides practical knowledge relevant to human behaviour and organizations.
   C) To research the limits of social engineering.
   D) To develop a theoretical model of "the good society".

84) Sociology, anthropology, economics, and history study various aspects of human society and are therefore considered to be what?
   A) natural sciences
   B) social sciences
   C) psychological categories
   D) typologies

85) Astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, and physics study various aspects of the physical features of nature and are therefore considered to be what?
   A) typologies
   B) natural sciences
   C) social sciences
   D) psychological categories

86) Which sociologist said that "Sociology teaches how groups function and how to make use of the laws governing the way they function so as to try to circumvent them"?
   A) W. E. B. Du Bois
   B) C. Wright Mills
   C) Pierre Bourdieu
   D) Max Weber

87) The work of Max Weber links to that of Karl Marx in which of the following ways?
   A) Weber, building on Marx's basic "laws of society" introduced the significance of inequality and power into the understanding of sociology.
   B) Weber argued that Marx's concept of alienation or an individual's loss of control over his world, led to an experience Weber called anomie, the loss of direction felt in society when social control of individual behaviour has become ineffective.
   C) Weber theorized that there are a number of determinants of power which based on Marx's concept of social class, extended to include both social status, and organizational resources.
   D) Weber extends Marx's work beyond the study of social class to an analysis of how issues like social class, gender, race, ethnicity, nationality and age influence the opportunities of individuals in society.

SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

88) Describe what C. Wright Mills meant by the term sociological imagination.

89) Discuss what separates sociology from common sense. Be sure to give some examples of how sociological research might dispel commonly accepted views.
90) Summarize the contributions of Émile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Karl Marx to the field of sociology. Be sure to note any theoretical differences they may have had with one another.

91) Different sociological perspectives ask different questions of the social world. In what way are the different approaches complementary, and how can combining the insights of different perspectives lead to a more thorough knowledge and understanding of a phenomenon?

92) Explain the similarities and differences between the three major sociological perspectives of functionalism, conflict theory, and interactionism. Identify which perspectives use a macro level or a micro level of analysis.

TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.

93) The third step in the scientific method is reviewing the literature.
94) In the statement, "the more a person exercises, the longer he or she will live", longevity is the independent variable.
95) Correlations are an indication that causality is always present.
96) Selection of a research design will influence both the cost of a research project and the amount of time needed to collect the results of the research.
97) A magazine asks its readers to complete a survey that questions them about their sexual practices. Based on the responses that it receives, the magazine publishes an article entitled "The Sexual Practices of Men and Women in Canada". This magazine has conducted a valid random sample to support its article.
98) An interviewer is likely to obtain a higher response rate than a printed survey form would.
99) Content analysis of recent films has been used to demonstrate an increase in the amount of smoking shown in motion pictures.
100) Validity refers to the degree to which a measure or scale truly reflects the phenomenon under study.

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

101) Which number would be considered the mode of the following:
10-10-9-9-8-8-7-7-7-6-5?
A) 8    B) 10    C) 5    D) 7
102) What is the term for the relationship between a condition or a variable and a particular consequence, with one event leading to the other?

A) observation  B) a correlation  C) causal logic  D) an index

103) A sociologist who is interested in examining racism in sports might determine what percentage of team owners, general managers, coaches, and managers are members of each racial group. This would be an example of developing what?

A) a theory  B) a hypothesis  C) a research design  D) an operational definition

104) Secondary analysis is considered by sociologists to be which of the following?

A) A nonreactive form of research.  
B) More valid than other forms of research.  
C) An outdated mode of research.  
D) More reliable than other forms of research.

105) The statement "Women who receive welfare are less likely than other women to have babies" is an example of which of the following?

A) causal logic  B) a research design  C) an operational definition  D) a hypothesis

106) Interviews have the advantage of a better response rate than self-administered questionnaires. Interviews have disadvantages as well. Which of the following is a disadvantage of an interview?

A) The gender, race, appearance, or other characteristics of the interviewer may influence responses of the research subjects.  
B) Interview results are more difficult to interpret than self-administered results.  
C) A research subject is more likely to share underlying feelings and reasons when completing a written questionnaire than when being interviewed by a skillful interviewer.  
D) A research subject is more likely to complete a written questionnaire than accept a personal request for an interview.

107) What do social scientists call the variable that is hypothesized to cause or influence another variable?

A) an independent variable  B) a spurious variable  
C) an operational variable  D) a dependent variable

108) To conduct a cross-cultural study of job discrimination against women, a sociologist interviews 75 women between the ages of 20 and 40 in an American city, and 75 women in the same age group in a Canadian city. What would this study be classified as?

A) participant observation  B) a secondary analysis  
C) a survey  D) a content analysis
109) Which of the following is NOT incorporated into the basic principles of the code of ethics for sociology?
   A) respect for subjects’ privacy
   B) acknowledgment of research collaboration
   C) disclosure of sources of financial support
   D) a required number of data sources

110) The statement “People who live in poverty have shorter life expectancies than wealthier citizens” is an example of which of the following?
   A) a correlation
   B) the Hawthorne effect
   C) an independent variable
   D) causal logic

111) The statement "Eating fewer fats and carbohydrates will lead to weight loss" is an example of which of the following?
   A) causal logic
   B) an independent variable
   C) a correlation
   D) a dependent variable

112) What is a research design?
   A) A detailed plan or method for scientifically obtaining data.
   B) An explanation of an abstract concept that is specific enough to allow a researcher to measure the concept.
   C) An indicator of attitudes, behaviour, or characteristics of people or organizations.
   D) A speculative statement about the relationship between two or more variables.

113) The statement "Most homeless people are not mentally ill" is an example of which of the following?
   A) an operational definition
   B) a variable
   C) an experiment
   D) a hypothesis

114) What is the term for the relationship between two variables whereby a change in one coincides with a change in the other?
   A) a correlation
   B) an index
   C) an operational definition
   D) a scale

115) The greater likelihood of a person who is less integrated into society committing suicide illustrates which of the following?
   A) an undefined variable
   B) causal logic
   C) a social fact
   D) a defined variable
Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

Analysis of the data suggests that the more hours a student works, the less they feel pressured by their peers to party. This is an example of which type of relationship?

A) reliability  B) hypothetical  C) causal logic  D) correlation

Which of the following statements represents a valid hypothesis in which to begin the research study?

A) Students' academic success may be affected by either the amount of peer pressure or hours of employment
B) The higher the peer pressure and the more hours a student works negatively affects his/her academic success
C) College and university students' academic success is dependent upon the amount of peer pressure they feel or the distance they travel to work.
D) The amount of peer pressure and number of hours of employment affect a student's academic success

Which perspective has had the greatest influence on the current generation of social researchers?

A) conflict perspective  B) functionalist perspective
C) interactionist perspective  D) feminist perspective

What is the term for a factor held constant to test the relative impact of the independent variable?

A) hypothesis  B) dependent variable
C) correlation  D) control variable
120) If you were interested in studying the relationship between date and acquaintance rape victims and the characteristics of the rapist, what would be your first step?  
A) choose a research design  
B) create a hypothesis  
C) define the problem  
D) review the literature on date and acquaintance rape

121) What is the term for a research measure that provides consistent results?  
A) reliable  
B) dependent  
C) valid  
D) independent

122) Sociology, at its core, represents a conversation between what?  
A) reliability and validity  
B) dependent and independent variables  
C) application and understanding  
D) theory and research

123) Sociological studies have indicated that people who are married are less likely to commit suicide than people who are divorced. In this example, what is marital status?  
A) independent variable  
B) dependent variable  
C) index  
D) hypothesis

124) The race of a criminal offender is associated with the frequency with which capital punishment is administered. In this example, what is capital punishment?  
A) index  
B) independent variable  
C) hypothesis  
D) dependent variable

125) Surveys most often collect and report data primarily in numerical form. What kind of data is this?  
A) qualitative  
B) ethnographic  
C) quantitative  
D) descriptive

126) What is the initial challenge faced by participant observers such as William F. Whyte?  
A) Maintaining their objectivity when studying people face-to-face.  
B) Formulating the sequence of questions in an interview.  
C) Gaining acceptance into an unfamiliar group.  
D) Determining which group will be the experimental group.

127) Religiosity is a term for how religious an individual is. Why might it be difficult for researchers to construct a valid measure of religiosity?  
A) Not all religions have the same view of the divine.  
B) Most people in modern society are not religious.  
C) Different religions impose different requirements on a pious adherent.  
D) Different religions have different sacred texts.
128) Why was Russel Ogden, a graduate student at Simon Fraser University, initially found to be in contempt of court by the Vancouver coroner's office?
   A) Disagreements with university administrators over the management of sensitive research data.
   B) Refusal, when subpoenaed, to break the confidentiality promised to his research subjects.
   C) Collection of personal information from vulnerable persons.
   D) Concealing information about a suspicious death.

129) Which of the following terms is used to describe a systematic, organized series of steps that ensures maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem?
   A) social science
   B) scientific method
   C) experiment
   D) value neutrality

130) What kind of research relies on what sociologists see in the field and naturalistic settings, often focusing on small groups and communities?
   A) exploratory
   B) qualitative
   C) descriptive
   D) quantitative

131) Sociologists, like Peter and Patricia Adler, systematically gather our stories together through research and make sense of them with which of the following?
   A) feminism
   B) theory
   C) anomie
   D) globalism

132) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

   The class has decided that they would like to determine if there is a relationship between academic success, peer pressure and employment among their school's 15,000 students. What is the most effective research design?
   A) have a random sample of students meet for a face-to-face interview
   B) design an experiment that compares students who are employed and students who claim to feel peer pressure
   C) observe groups of students' behaviour at a party
   D) have a random sample of students complete a survey questionnaire

133) Which of the following best describes the notion that the higher the level of one's education, the higher one's income level will be?
   A) correlation
   B) independent variables
   C) hypothesis
   D) operational definition
134) In which type of sample does each member of the entire population being studied have the same chance of being selected?
   A) Roper sample  B) quota sample
   C) random sample  D) index sample

135) Which group of sociologists has been most influential in broadening the scope of sociological research to include traditionally marginalized groups?
   A) functionalist theorists  B) interactionist theorists
   C) conflict theorists  D) feminist theorists

136) Which of the following is true of secondary analysis?
   A) It is easier to customize than a questionnaire.
   B) It relies more heavily on personal relationships than do other forms of analysis.
   C) It is more reliable than other forms of research.
   D) It is more cost-effective than generating original data.

137) Which of the following is true of participant observation research?
   A) It tends to be less useful than interviews.
   B) It tends to be more expensive than large-scale survey research.
   C) It relies less on personal relationships than other research techniques do.
   D) It tends to be more time consuming than secondary analysis.

138) Which of the following sociologists conducted an examination of suicide using secondary analysis?
   A) William F. Whyte  B) Max Weber
   C) Émile Durkheim  D) Jane Poulsen

139) By whom was "value neutrality" in social science research initially advocated?
   A) William Zellner  B) W. E. B. Du Bois
   C) Max Weber  D) Émile Durkheim

140) Erving Goffman's pioneering exploration of how advertising portrays women as dependent upon men is an example of what kind of research?
   A) ethnography  B) media analysis
   C) survey research  D) content analysis

141) What is the term for the number calculated by adding a series of values and then dividing by the number of values?
   A) mode  B) percentage  C) mean  D) median

142) What is the term for the single most common value in a series of scores?
   A) median  B) percentage  C) mode  D) mean
143) What is the term for the midpoint, or number that divides a series of values into two groups of equal numbers of values?
   A) median    B) mean    C) percentage    D) mode

144) Individuals who have divorced parents are more likely to divorce than individuals who have parents who did not divorce. Of what is this statement an example?
   A) theory    B) social fact    C) natural law    D) correlation

145) What is one of the major challenges of participant observation?
   A) Finding a group to study.    B) Preparing results.
   C) Maintaining a degree of detachment.    D) Obtaining university approval.

146) A group of researchers designs a study to examine the effect of homeschooling on the academic performance of students in university. The researchers control for parental income and for gender. What is the independent variable in this study?
   A) gender    B) parental income
   C) academic performance    D) homeschooling

147) Information on the top names for newborns in Canada and Quebec illustrates which of the following?
   A) Most of the names popular for babies in Quebec are also popular in the rest of the country.
   B) Information collected by institutions is of little use for purposes other than those for which it was produced.
   C) Given names in most of the country show patterns of ethnic distinctiveness.
   D) Parents in Quebec gravitate to culturally distinctive names for their children.

148) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

   Identify from the following list which represents the independent and dependent variable respectively.
   A) peer pressure; academic success    B) employment; academic success
   C) academic success; employment    D) academic success; tuition

149) What is the conventional operational definition of education given by the textbook?
   A) IQ
   B) years of schooling completed
   C) performance score on standardized tests
   D) average grade/grade point
150) **What was the source of the data collected in the research example, given in the text, on education and income?**
   
   A) city directories  
   B) the Census of Canada  
   C) internet surveys  
   D) phone surveys

151) **Secondary analysis includes a variety of research techniques that use which of the following?**
   
   A) participant observation  
   B) questionnaires and interviews  
   C) control groups  
   D) previously collected and publicly accessible information and data

152) **Which of the following is NOT included in the code of ethics for sociology?**
   
   A) maintaining confidentiality  
   B) non-disclosure of sources of financial support and sponsorship  
   C) objectivity and integrity in research  
   D) protection of research subjects from personal harm

153) **A sociologist attends meetings at all the schools and churches in his community over several years, and meets as many residents as he can for the purpose of exploring all facets of the community's social life. He then compiles a detailed description of the community. What kind of research is he doing?**
   
   A) quantitative study  
   B) secondary analysis  
   C) content analysis  
   D) ethnography

154) **If researchers wanted to examine the opinions of people listed in a city directory, they might call every tenth or fiftieth or hundredth name listed. What would this constitute?**
   
   A) scale  
   B) quota sample  
   C) control variable  
   D) random sample

155) **What is the term for an artificially created situation that allows the researcher to manipulate variables and to introduce control variables?**
   
   A) research design  
   B) survey  
   C) experiment  
   D) replication

156) **People may behave differently in artificial situations than they would in the "real world". This poses a particular problem for researchers using which of the following techniques?**
   
   A) questionnaires  
   B) replication  
   C) laboratory experiments  
   D) content analysis
157) A researcher conducts a study and the results support neither his hypothesis nor his moral standpoint. Because of this, he decides to suppress his findings. This runs contrary to which of the following principles?

A) value neutrality  
B) research design  
C) confidentiality  
D) informed consent

158) What is commonly the second step in the scientific method?

A) collecting and analyzing data  
B) defining the problem  
C) selecting the research design  
D) reviewing the literature

159) What is the term for a testable statement about the relationship between two or more variables?

A) sample  
B) hypothesis  
C) research design  
D) correlation

160) What is the term for a study, generally in the form of an interview or a questionnaire that provides researchers with information concerning how people think or act?

A) an experiment  
B) observation research  
C) a survey  
D) secondary analysis

161) What is the term for research that collects information about a group through direct researcher participation?

A) an experiment  
B) observation  
C) a survey  
D) secondary analysis

162) Your class is doing a research study on the academic success of college and university students. It has been suggested that two of the issues that many students face today which may affect their level of academic success are being employed in order to pay tuition, and peer pressure to party. Answer the following five questions designed to assess your ability to apply steps in the research process.

Which of the following methods would feminist researchers suggest best allows the voice of the subjects to be heard?

A) observation  
B) secondary analysis  
C) experimental  
D) questionnaires

163) Which sociologist argued that sociological research should focus on social change and on relevant research developed by non-sociologists?

A) Shulamit Reinharz  
B) Jane Poulson  
C) Karen Barkey  
D) Joyce Ladner
164) Which of the following is NOT true regarding actions by the Exxon Corporation after the 1989 Valdez disaster?

A) Exxon offered research money for sociologists doing research on jury deliberations.
B) Some of the research funded by Exxon was published in peer-reviewed journals.
C) Exxon bribed sociologists to produce research favourable to their cause.
D) Exxon solicited sociologists to do research on jury deliberations.

165) Which of the following would be considered the independent variable in the text research example on impact of a post-secondary education on income?

A) level of education
B) level of income
C) occupation
D) sources of income

166) A researcher studies adolescent attitudes about senior citizens by analyzing depictions of the elderly in the lyrics of popular music and the content of teen magazines. Of what is this an example?

A) survey research
B) an experiment
C) replication
D) content analysis

167) What is the most common type of qualitative research?

A) surveys
B) secondary analysis
C) observation
D) ethnography

168) Sociologists do research, primarily, to do what?

A) Prove their theories correct.
B) Test their hypotheses.
C) Disprove the research of others.
D) Develop operational definitions.

169) By whom was the code of ethics for the discipline of sociology in Canada developed?

A) the Canadian Sociological Association
B) the Auditor General for Canada
C) the Canadian Association of University Professors
D) John Porter.

170) What term do sociologists use to describe the phenomenon whereby subjects deviate from their typical behaviour because they realize they are under observation?

A) the spurious response
B) the Hawthorne effect
C) skewing
D) the control group effect

171) A sociologist decides to study the interaction among students in the college's computer centre. When the students realize they are under observation, they become shy and reserved in their interactions. Of what is this an example?

A) secondary analysis
B) the Hawthorne effect
C) value neutrality
D) replication
172) Selecting a research design is important because it may affect both the amount of time needed to collect the data and which of the following?

A) The reliability of the study.  
B) The cost of the project.  
C) The scale of the project.  
D) The validity of the study.

173) Which of the following is an inherent problem in using secondary sources of data?

A) The researcher may not find the exact data needed for his or her own research.  
B) The researcher may be more careless when using someone else's data.  
C) All of the analysis has been completed by an initial research team.  
D) The data are plagued with statistical errors.

174) In an experiment, what is the group that is not exposed to the independent variable called?

A) the control group  
B) the representative group  
C) the study group  
D) the experimental group

175) What is an operational definition?

A) A relationship between two variables whereby a change in one coincides with a change in the other.  
B) The transformation of an abstract concept into indicators that are observable and measurable.  
C) A speculative statement about the relationship between two variables.  
D) The extent to which a measure provides consistent results.

176) What is a variable?

A) A measurable trait or characteristic that is subject to change under different conditions.  
B) A speculative statement about the relationship between two traits.  
C) The extent to which a measure provides consistent results.  
D) The unintended influence that observers or experiments can have on their subjects.

177) Which of the following is true of valid research measures?

A) they are ethical standards that are followed by sociologists  
B) they provide consistent results  
C) they are always independent, rather than dependent, variables  
D) they accurately measure the phenomenon under study
Which of the following is true of most sociologists performing research?

A) They frequently use laboratory experiments because they are a very accurate way of examining human behaviour.
B) They often do not rely on experiments because they generally do not give accurate representations of group behaviour.
C) They do not re-create experimental conditions in the field.
D) They often do not rely on experiments because the presence of a social scientist may affect the behaviour of the people being studied.

Which of the following statements is NOT true about the contributions of feminist scholars?

A) They tend to involve and consult their subjects more than other researchers.
B) They have drawn attention to researchers' tendency to overlook women in sociological studies.
C) They have increased global awareness.
D) They do not factor the influence of men into their research.

Income, religion, race, gender, and marital status can all be examples of which of the following?

A) indices  
B) operational definitions  
C) scales  
D) variables

Which of the following survey questions will likely give the researcher the best results?

A) What was your personal income last year?
B) What was your personal income, before taxes, last year?
C) What was your income last year?
D) What was your personal income, before taxes, in the tax year ending December 31st, 2008?

What was one finding of Devah Pager's research on criminal records and employment prospects?

A) White ex-convicts have a harder time becoming employed than Blacks with no criminal records.
B) White ex-convicts have an easier time becoming employed than Blacks with no criminal records.
C) most convicts released from prison each year are White.
D) gender is still a significant factor in employment opportunities.

SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

Define the term scientific method and the five basic steps used in the scientific method.
184) Discuss how a researcher might select a random sample of subjects for a research study. Which sample selection methods should researchers use, and which methods should be avoided?

185) Describe the various types of research designs and discuss the strengths and weakness of each design. Which type of research design is most commonly used by researchers, and which type of research design is the least reliable?

186) Discuss the issue of ethics and social research. Give examples of how research could be harmful to human life.

187) How have feminist researchers influenced the discipline of sociology?
Answer Key

Testname: UNTITLED1

1) FALSE
2) TRUE
3) FALSE
4) TRUE
5) TRUE
6) TRUE
7) FALSE
8) D
9) C
10) A
11) D
12) A
13) D
14) A
15) C
16) A
17) D
18) C
19) C
20) D
21) A
22) B
23) B
24) A
25) B
26) A
27) B
28) C
29) B
30) B
31) C
32) B
33) C
34) D
35) C
36) D
37) D
38) D
39) A
40) D
41) D
42) C
43) D
44) A
45) A
46) C
47) A
48) C
49) C
50) B
51) D
52) B
53) A
54) C
55) A
56) D
57) B
58) B
59) D
60) A
61) D
62) B
63) D
64) B
65) A
66) D
67) D
68) D
69) C
70) D
71) C
72) B
73) D
74) C
75) B
76) B
77) D
78) C
79) B
80) D
81) C
82) B
83) B
84) B
85) B
86) C
87) C
The sociological imagination is a way of understanding individual life by examining it within the context of the broad social forces that shape it. Mills refers to this as the intersection between history and biography. It focuses on the overlap between private troubles - those things that affect you as an individual, and public issues, which shape the experiences of many individuals within your society. For example, let us say that you are a recent retiree, and you are finding that your retirement income is not adequate to meet your retirement lifestyle. You could explain this as a private trouble, which would involve focusing on the defects in your savings pattern throughout your working career and the lavishness of your desired lifestyle. However, in the current economic climate, this is not an adequate or satisfactory explanation. The recent economic meltdown has meant substantial loss of value in many of the asset classes associated with savings for retirement - publicly traded stock, and mutual funds based on publicly traded stock. The low interest rate climate is good for borrowers, but many seniors have long since paid off their mortgages and for them, low interest rates mean dismal returns on investments such as GICs and government bonds. In addition, many companies have either gone into bankruptcy protection and are defaulting on their pension obligations, or they are seeking to re-negotiate their pension returns. All of these are extremely salient to an individual's retirement income, but none of these can be accounted for by what that individual did or did not do. One individual having trouble meeting their expenses is a private trouble, but seniors all over the country struggling to make ends meet is a public issue. As C. Wright Mills point out, these different explanations invoke different remedies, and so it is important to be able to place things in the appropriate context of broad social forces.

Common sense is anecdotal. It relies on culturally-transmitted stories about the way things are. These may be the product of collective wisdom, but they are not tested in a way that can conclusively demonstrate that what they assert conforms to reality. Common sense tends to see what confirms it, and ignore what refutes it. Sociological explanations are rooted in scientific analysis, that is they are based on systematic observation rather than anecdote. For example, one piece of common sense wisdom that has been called into question by social scientific research is "spare the rod and spoil the child" - that if children are not physically punished for transgressions, they will not come to embody the values and norms of society. In fact, research across a variety of fields, including cognitive science, sociology and psychology, using direct comparisons between children who were hit by their parents and children who were not hit, but were sanctioned in other ways, has demonstrated that violence begets violence. Children who are hit learn that hitting is appropriate in some circumstances, which gives a child mixed messages if they are also being socialized into the notion that it is not acceptable to hit others. This results in more hitting behaviour as the child tries to determine what the "appropriate circumstances" are. In addition, compliance through punishment in general results in less internalization of desirable norms and values because it shifts the focus from behaving appropriately to not being caught behaving inappropriately. Sociology also looks closely at the consequences of difference, where common sense explanations paint everyone in broad general strokes.
Durkheim's chief contribution to the field of sociology was to apply the rules of the scientific method to the society, which had heretofore been the domain of theologians and philosophers. In his well-known study of suicide, he developed a hypothesis about the relationship of suicide to social integration, and looked at data that had been compiled about suicide rates in order to test this hypothesis. Durkheim's focus throughout his career was on the process through which social order is maintained, he viewed it as considerably less benign that Durkheim did. For Marx, the chief issues were the ownership and control of productive resources. Marx focused on class struggle, pointing out that it is the struggle between opposing classes that leads to changes in social structure. In capitalism, which was the dominant economic system in Western Europe during his lifetime, some people had control over productive resources - land, factories, farms, mines, etc. - while other people, deprived of agricultural or artisanal self-sufficiency by the dawn of the Industrial Age, had only their labour power to sell. Because of this, this property-less class of people were forced to work for the property owners, who exploited them by appropriating the surplus value they produced. This, and the industrial mode of production, leads to a state Marx refers to as alienation, in which workers are alienated from the product they produce, from the process of production, from themselves as creative and productive beings, and from other worker. Weber was also interested in power and inequality, but unlike Marx, who believed power derived solely from differences in class position as defined by property ownership, Weber believed there were additional dimensions in which power could be gained and exercised. He introduced the triumvirate of class, status and party. Class, like in Marx, has to do with control over material resources. Status has to do with one's position within a group, and one's ability to gain respect and social standing. Party has to do with the ability to mobilize human resources, and is often associated with small "p" politics. Weber, unlike Marx and Durkheim, also had a foot in the interactionist camp, introducing the concept of verstehen, which emphasizes the importance of understanding the actor's perspective in making sense of the action.
91) Answers will vary.

Some sociological perspectives, such as the conflict and functionalist perspectives, take a macro level approach to society. Others, like the various forms of interactionism, take a micro level approach. Combining these insights can lead to a greater understanding of a social issue than the use of either in isolation. Macro level approaches look at the big picture - aggregates, trends across the whole society. They look at social structures and their relationships to one another in society. This is useful in identifying and mapping out what C. Wright Mills calls "public issues". It doesn't provide the whole picture, however, and policy and solutions based solely on macro level analysis are likely to fall short of meeting actually human needs. Micro level approaches look at the way in which issues are experienced by individuals - the contours the issue as a "private trouble". So, for example, let us say you are interested in unemployment. A macrosociologist studying unemployment might look at the national and regional unemployment rates, the rates of job loss and job gain in different economic sectors. They might look at if particular age, ethnic, or educational groups are more likely than others to experience unemployment. They might analyze the effects of a rising unemployment rate on the gross national product. A microsociologist studying unemployment would look at much different things than their macrosociological counterpart. A microsociologist would be interested in the experience of unemployment. How did the unemployed respond to their termination? How did they narrative it to themselves and others? How does the rhythm of their life and their Interactions with other people change? Is the experience of unemployment different in different regions? Different industries? Different classes? Different genders? How do those people working in other institutions, like social service agencies, experience an increase in unemployment in their region? How do their jobs change in order to meet the new demand? Any or all of these studies can produce information about how to develop better programs to limit the financial or psychological hardships facing both the newly unemployed and the chronically unemployed, but they will be most effective in those instances where both approaches are represented.
## Answer Key

### Testname: UNTITLED1

92) Answers will vary.

Functionalist and conflict theories are both macro level approaches, that is, they study social structures and relationships between them in society. They produce analyses that focus on the big picture, usually employing quantitative methods. However, the picture painted by these two perspectives of the way in which society is structured, and the view of social change are very different between the two. Functionalist theorists believe that the "normal" state of society is one of equilibrium. Each social system has its function, and supports the other elements of the social system. If something exists, it is because it is functional. If there is a change in one social system, there will be a period of readjustment while other social systems adapt to restore equilibrium. Functionalist theorists believe that social order is maintained through cooperation and value consensus, which are transmitted through successful socialization. Social change is a gradual process. Conflict theorists, on the other hand, believe not in one society that exists under a broad value consensus, but in many different groups, linked by social institutions, who compete for valued resources, including wealth, power, and status. So society is characterized by tension and struggle between groups. In every society, they argue, some groups are able to maintain dominance over others through their control of valuable resources. This dominant group is able to influence social institutions to then continue to benefit itself disproportionately. Because of the ongoing tension and struggle, conflict theorists argue that social change is occurring all the time. Rather than being socialized into widely accepted values as a means of maintaining social order, conflict theorists believe that people are shaped by power, coercion, and authority, either that they exercise, or that is exercised upon them. Interactionist perspectives, on the other hand, are micro level approaches. They focus on the ways in which society is humanly created and humanly maintained by looking at the experience of social structures and everyday interaction. In the interactionist viewpoint, individuals may be buffeted about by unseen social forces, but they are not defined by them. Rather, people manipulate symbols and create their social worlds through interaction. Their view of social order is that it is maintained by a shared understanding of everyday behaviour. People act in ways that reflect their own experiences. Social change is created by the activities of individuals, and the spreading influence of those activities - it is not created by social structures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>FALSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>FALSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>FALSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>TRUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>FALSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>TRUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>TRUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>TRUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answer Key
Testname: UNTITLED1

111) A
112) A
113) D
114) A
115) B
116) C
117) D
118) D
119) D
120) C
121) A
122) D
123) A
124) D
125) C
126) C
127) C
128) B
129) B
130) B
131) B
132) D
133) C
134) C
135) D
136) D
137) D
138) C
139) C
140) D
141) C
142) C
143) A
144) D
145) C
146) D
147) D
148) C
149) B
150) B
151) D
152) B
153) D
154) D
155) C
156) C
157) A
158) D
159) B
160) C
The scientific method is a systematic, organized series of steps that ensures maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem. Conducting sociological research in the spirit of the scientific method requires adherence to a series of steps designed to ensure the accuracy of the results. These are: first, defining the problem; second, reviewing the literature; third, formulating the hypothesis; fourth, selecting the research design and collecting and analyzing the data; and fifth, developing the conclusion.

A random sample is one in which every member of the study population has the same chance of being selected. This requires the researchers to have a complete list of names for members of the population. Once this has been acquired, a random number generator can be used to select the sample. Random samples maximize the likelihood that the sample will accurately mirror the population from which it is drawn. Random samples are not self-selected (express your views on our website!) nor are they haphazard (standing on a street corner grabbing people as they walk by).
Experiments are used more extensively in psychology than they are in sociology, because it is very difficult to conduct a true, controlled experiment on the social world. Experiments rely on controlling all factors in a situation except the variable one you want to study. In that way, any variation in response that you find must be due to the variable with which you are concerned, since all other variables have been held constant. Experiments are generally concerned with explaining and predicting. You can see, however, that they might be awkward to use for a great many of the questions in which social scientists are interested. No government is going to let you take two very similar communities, and increase the level of unemployment to 25% in one of them so that you can see what happens to the level of civic pride, or concern for the environment, or level of volunteerism. Social scientists are often interested in studying processes that it is either impossible or unethical to control. The second research strategy used in the social sciences is survey research. Researchers can do a variety of things with surveys. First, they can use them as a basis for beginning to describe a group, these are called "exploratory surveys". They are often done as the first stage of a larger project in order to help guide the researchers to the most important questions facing that group. Survey research can also be used to gauge the presence or absence of characteristics in a given population, or to get an idea about the extent to which people agree or disagree with things. Whereas experimental research needs to put their efforts into controlling as many extraneous variables as possible, survey research needs to worry about 'samples'. Researchers use samples because surveying entire populations, as the Census of Canada does, is costly, time-consuming, and not very practical for most research purposes. Surveys can be designed to describe, explain or predict. The next type of sociological data comes from fieldwork (or observation). Field research involves immersing yourself in a naturally occurring (rather than a 'staged') environment or set of events in order to gain a firsthand knowledge of the situation. Field research is a data-gathering technique most closely associated with anthropology, for which it is a mainstay, but it is also used extensively in sociology. Field research produces qualitative data and is microsociological. It usually aims to describe and understand rather than to predict and explain. Where experiments are limited by what they can control, and surveys are limited by their ability to sample, field research is primarily limited by ethical constraints involving the treatment of research subjects, and by the researchers' ability to bracket off their own preconceived notions about things, and to enter into the lived reality of those being studied. Research done in the field often takes longer than research done by other means. It is also very dependent on the personality of the researcher, since all the information they will be able to gather is dependent on people feeling comfortable with acting normally around them, and permitting them into the life of the community. The last form of data that social scientists use is called available data (secondary analysis). That means data that has already been collected by somebody else for some other reason. When people buy datasets from Statistics Canada, they are utilizing available data. When you go to the archives and look up letters written by trappers working for the Hudson's Bay Company in the 1700s, you are using available data. Available data is existing data produced for purposes not your own. Because 'available data' was not produced for your purposes, you have to be especially aware of the population for whom the data was produced, and in what ways that might bias the data. The type of research design used will depend on the questions the researchers wish to answer, and the resources they have available to them. Field research is the least reliable form of research, but it tends to produce more valid results than other techniques.
Codes of ethics in the social sciences are designed primarily to protect research subjects from harm, and sex to protect researchers from bias (such as disclosing funding from organizations that may have a vested interest in the results of your research). Research designs are required either to demonstrate no harm to subjects, or to provide a cost-benefit analysis of the harm, as well as the follow-up that will be provided to subjects to mitigate any harm caused. Researchers must explain to subjects how they are going to use the data that are collected, and what will happen to that data when the process is complete. Research requires the informed consent of subjects in order to proceed. Personal information about research subjects must be kept confidential unless it is otherwise agreed in advance. Protection is necessary because otherwise research might endanger its subjects. For example, let us say you are interested in studying the lives of male homosexuals in Iran. Male homosexuality in Iran is illegal and punishable by death. If the names of your subjects become known to authorities, these men stand a significant risk of losing their lives.

Feminist theory can be macro or micro in scope. What is required of it is that it focus on the particular important social process or institution on the lives of women. Feminist theory takes as its starting point women's experiences especially in areas where the experience of men is taken as 'normative'. Due to the interdisciplinarity of women's studies in general, the perspectives it generated seeped into more traditional departments and forced scholars who might have been content to ignore 'those flaky women's studies people', to engage in a dialogue with these competing perspectives. This is especially true in the social sciences, where the 'discovery' of sexism has led to questions not only about what we study, but also about how we study what we study. Many researchers who work within a feminist framework argue that the nature and process of research itself needs to be reconceptualized away from what they see as the objective-empirical hegemony brought about by the androcentric structure of academic discourse. What does that statement mean in practice? First, it means a move away from the researcher - subject dichotomy in research. Instead of an expert/data source relationship, many feminists believe that truly ethical research must make the two co-participants in the research project. This means giving former 'subjects' an active role in the project: finding out what they think are the most important questions, checking your interpretations with them, ensuring that what you produce brings some benefit to the community of participants, orienting your research towards creating change as well as creating knowledge. This model of academic research is usually referred to as 'participatory action research'. Second, it involves making yourself visible in the research report. Traditional conventions of academic reporting make the researcher invisible, both through considering the context in which the researcher approaches the study to be irrelevant and also by requiring that reports be written in a third person style. Feminist academics were among the first to insist that the context in which the research is conceptualized and the researcher's investment in and relationship to it is important to the reader who must interpret the research. Feminist theory also advocates gender sensitivity in all research, that is, the acknowledgement that the experiences of women as a group and men as a group are likely to differ, and therefore, it is not valid to generalize from one to the other.