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Chapter 1 Learning Goals Objective

Directions: Based on your reading of the chapter, provide responses to the following:

1. How does an understanding of conventional wisdom affect your understanding of sociology?

2. What is sociology?

3. How is the sociological perspective different from the psychological perspective?

4. Why do patterns interest sociologists?

5. Explain how Emile Durkheim used bronze to illustrate sociology's assumption that the behavior of a group cannot be predicted from knowledge about individual members.

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6. How can using your sociological imagination, a term introduced by C. Wright Mills, make a difference in your life?

7. Who is the father of sociology, and why is he recognized as such?

8. What is the difference between social statics and social dynamics?

9. Why is Harriet Martineau considered an important person in the origin of sociology?

10. How did Herbert Spencer use the human body to explain the functioning of a society?

11. How did the theory of social change called Social Darwinism reflect Charles Darwin's theory of evolution?

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12. How did the ideas of Karl Marx, who did not consider himself a sociologist, affect the field of sociology?

13. What is the difference between mechanical and organic solidarity?

14. What did Durkheim's suicide statistics reveal about human social behavior?

15. What was Max Weber's contribution to sociological research?

16. Briefly summarize the development of sociology in the United States.

17. What were the contributions of early American sociologists Jane Addams and W.E.B. DuBois?

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18. Identify the three major theoretical perspectives in sociology today.

19. How did Robert Merton divide functions?

20. What is the best theoretical perspective to use in sociology, and why?

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