I. WHAT ARE OUR MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS TODAY?
What is Sociology? The study of human ___________ and social ______________
What is a social Problem? A ___________ condition that a part of society views as harmful to
members of society and in need of ______________.
Objective Element of a social problem: the existence of a ___________ condition.
______________ Element: the belief that the condition is harmful to society. Examples:

II. ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND CULTURE – a brief review of basic
sociological concepts

A. SOCIAL STRUCTURE: How a society is organized! – includes the following parts:

Institutions
Groups
Statuses
Roles

B. CULTURE: The meanings and ways of life that characterize a society! - includes the
following parts:

Beliefs
Values
Norms
Sanctions: + or -, Formal or informal
Symbols

III. SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION
Sociological Imagination is the ___________ to see the connections between our personal lives
and the _______________ in which we live. It helps us make sense of society regardless of
our own situation.
Does one need a Global (______________) Imagination for understanding our own society?

IV. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES a ____________ is a viewpoint; a way of seeing
society. They are often also called theories. The 3 major Soc. perspectives are:

A. _______________ Perspective: (Macro level) Definition: ____________ is a stable, orderly
system brought about by consensus. Types of Functions: ______________: Intended results,
Latent Functions: ______________ & often not recognized. Dysfunctions--
consequences. Some parts of society like ____________ can be both functional and dysfunctional.
How is that possible? Can you come up with two examples?
The Social Pathology and the ____________ Disorganization models grew out of the Structural-Functional perspective. Criticism of the functional perspective: Tends to go along with the ____________ and emphasize the status quo.

B. Conflict Perspectives: (Also Macro level) These look at power ____________ including a.) Marxist Conflict emphasizes $ and ____________, b.) Non-Marxist Conflict perspectives emphasize differing ____________ between groups. Alienation means: a feeling of ____________ & meaninglessness.

The ____________ perspective developed from the Conflict perspective. Criticism: Utopian, can’t explain cohesion and ____________ that sometimes happens between differing groups.

C. Symbolic Interactionist Perspective: (Micro level) Society is the sum of the ____________ of individuals and groups. Symbols are used in ____________ type of communication; try to imagine communicating w/o symbols!

Criticism: Too “__________” and “valueless”

V. SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH Often a researcher chooses something that holds ____________ interest. This can be good...or bad! Theory & ____________ is a continuous cycle.

Quantitative Research- the goal is scientific objectivity. Results can be measured in _____________.

__________ Research-the goal is to understand meanings and patterns. Results are descriptive ____________.

Stages of Conducting a Research Study
Formulate a Research Question, ____________ the Literature, Define the Variables, Formulate a Hypothesis, Collect and sort the ________, Draw Conclusions, and Publish the Results

These are some of the various methods of research/data collection:

A. Experimental Research:
The researcher manipulates the independent variable to see how it affects the ____________ dependent ____________ variable. Experiments have a control group and ____________ experimental groups.

Representative Sample: has the essential characteristics of the ____________ group.
Random Sample: each member of the group has an ____________ chance of being selected.

One criticism of experimental research in the ____________ sciences is that it does not take place in a natural setting.

B. ____________: Polls done to gather facts. Self-administered or interview are two ways to conduct them

One difficulty with Surveys is getting an adequate ____________ rate. Some topics are notoriously inaccurate, like surveys on ____________ topics. Using computers to gather this type of information is seen as a way to get ____________ accurate results.

C. Field Research. Observe a ____________ interacting. Participatory Observation- you ____________ in the activities, Non- participatory- observe but do not become a ____________ of the society. When would each be more effective?

D. ____________ of data: analyzing data already collected by someone else (government, census, education, ____________, or other researchers.).

E. Triangulation: Research done using more than one ____________; seen as more accurate for most research questions than single-method research.