

ESSAY REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR EXAM #1

One of the following 3 questions will be randomly selected on the day of the exam to constitute the essay section of Exam #2. NOTE: In each of the questions, your answer will be stronger if it includes:

- (a) relevant theoretical ideas and concepts
- (b) factual evidence and/or everyday examples to support and/or illustrate your discussion
- (c) critical thinking that demonstrates that you understand the ideas you present at some depth and scope (e.g., how and why concepts work, as opposed to simply summarizing text material)

1. The text suggests that there are fundamental differences between primary socialization and later socialization.(a)Compare and contrast the basic objectives and processes of primary socialization and those of later socialization (adolescent, adult). Provide examples illustrating your discussion.
 - (b) The text suggests that there are 4 major perspectives on socialization (developmental, social learning, interpretive, social structure). Summarize and contrast these major perspectives, and discuss the distinctive contributions each perspective makes to our understanding of how socialization works.
 - (c) Contrast the nature and distinctive contributions to the socialization process of the following "agents of socialization": family, peers, school. Provide concrete examples illustrating similarities and/or differences in the content or processes associated with each "agent."
 - (d) Four basic outcomes of socialization are particularly important: gender roles, linguistic and cognitive competence, moral development, and work orientations. Summarize the major research findings for at least 2 of these outcomes of socialization.
2. We all have a "self-schema" or "self-concept" that forms the core of our personal identity. It has important effects on how we view and feel about ourselves, and how we interact with others.
 - (a) Summarize the major ideas, processes, and/or concepts that relate to the development of the "self". In this part of the question you are dealing with these ideas at a general level. That is, what are the main theories, concepts, and issues social psychologists have found useful in understanding how the self is developed and maintained?
 - (b) Discuss how the information you have discussed in the previous section applies to you personally.
 - (1) How have these processes of self-development affected who you are as an individual today? Provide examples. Be specific, and relate examples to theoretical ideas.
 - (2) How-would you describe your "self-concept" (e.g., attribution of characteristics, self-image, level of self-esteem), how have particular "significant others" influenced this description, and how does your conception of self influence your interaction with others?
 - (c) Sometimes we engage in "tactical impression management," or self-presentation that is designed to accomplish some goal other than an accurate representation of our self-concept (e.g., to make a sale, get a job, etc.). Discuss some of these main types of tactical impression management techniques, and provide examples showing how they work.
3. Using any major theoretical orientation we have covered in text or lectures (e.g., reinforcement theory/behaviorism/social learning, cognitive/cognitive consistency, symbolic interactionism, role theory). give a brief overview of the major processes and concepts of the theory, suggest a hypothesis which describes the expected relationship between 2 variables, and tell in some detail how you would use one of the major research methods (e.g., survey, experiment, naturalistic observation) to collect data to test your hypothesis. More specifically, you would want to discuss at least the following areas:
 - (a) An overview of the theory you have chosen
 - (b) A hypothesis derived from the theory
 - (c) The independent and dependent variables of your hypothesis
 - (d) How each variable would be measured (i.e., the operational definitions)
 - (e) The type of research method you think would be most appropriate for your study, why it would be most appropriate, and the specific procedures you would go through to produce data to test your hypothesis.
 - (f) Outcomes that would support and disconfirm your hypothesis
 - (g) Any methodological or ethical problems you think might be associated with your study