

## **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

Select one (1) of the following questions and answer it to the best of your ability. You may bring in one standard sheet of paper (8.5 x 11) into the exam room and it can contain whatever information you need to answer the question. Be prepared to hand it in with your written answer to the exam question. Make sure your name is on all of your work.

1. Child poverty is recognized as a major social problem in Canada. Why is there child poverty and what can we do about it?
2. Compare and contrast the functionalist, conflict, and feminist positions on the decline of the family.
3. Outline the three sets of social forces that influence whom you are likely to fall in love with and marry.
4. What factors underlie marital satisfaction?
5. What are the economic and emotional effects of divorce?
6. What is a religious ritual? How does ritual affect social life?
7. What is a civil religion and how does it function?
8. What is the future of religion in Canada?
9. Quite a few sociologists argue that education reproduces the existing stratification system. What do they mean by this?
10. Conduct a global analysis of the relationship between education and national wealth.
11. Discuss the way in which Aboriginal peoples in Canada relate to the educational system, as far as success and lack of success are concerned.
12. What do we learn about the influence of the mass media through popular films and television?
13. Compare and contrast mass media and face-to-face interaction.
14. From a sociological perspective, what are some of the positive and negative aspects of the growing concentration of media ownership and their vertical and horizontal integration?

15. Do you think the United States is culturally imperialistic? Why or why not?
16. Discuss how deviance has become medicalized in the twentieth century. What role did professionalization play in this development?
17. What makes social isolation a big problem for a significant proportion of the elderly? What are the consequences of social isolation?
18. Compare and contrast the health care that men and women receive in Canada.
19. What social policies can a modern North American country adopt to maintain a stable population size?
20. Compare and contrast a rural city, an urban city, a corporate city, and a postmodern city. What is the style of life in each?
21. What is the theory of gentrification, and how has this process transformed the landscape of many North American cities?
22. Compare and contrast resource mobilization, political opportunity, and social control theories. What do we learn about social movements from these perspectives?
23. What accounts for the comparatively high level of unionization in Canada as compared to the United States?
24. Explain how frame alignment differs from resource mobilization and political opportunity theories.
25. Discuss Greenpeace as an example of the potential of new social movements to become global.