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A Soc 235 Midterm Study Guide Answer Sheet

1. Mills Sociological Imagination is a paradigm or a lens utilized to observe the world. It allows one to see the connection between biography and history and personal troubles and social issues and that individuals are simultaneously shaped and shape the structures that define their period. Four Characteristics Include: The ability to locate oneself within their period ,The ability to grasp the relationship between history and biography
The ability to transfer from space to space and levels of analysis, i.e., its transpose-ability and The ability to obtain the position of the stranger. People are trapped within their own “close-up scenes” because they are only familiar with the period they are living in socially economically and politically. “Visions and their powers are limited to the close-up scenes of job family, neighborhood, in other milieu (social environment), the move vicariously and remain only spectators” (p.3)
3. Dualism of subject(in mind) and object(empirically out there), according to Kant, means that we observe the world with our five senses (empiricism),we have selectivity, reason mediates our sensory data, but senses and reason can deceive you leading to retroactive interpretation. They arise simultaneously and can never equal each other. Hegel utilizes this to form his dialectic by suggesting that Kant’s perspective is too static. He further proves his point by stating that knowledge is created dialectically...it is a dynamic progress in which contradiction and struggle lead to progress. Marx turned Hegel’s concept “right side up” by stating that the material world processes ideas and then those ideas are put into action. Marx says history is produced dialectically each successive synthesis (new material social formation) is more complex, increases social productivity, and class conflict rises as a result.
4. A) Marx feels that the perspective of political economists because he states that private property is a result, necessary consequence of alienated labor and a history of both exploitation and alienation. B) The Primordial Fictitious Condition doesn’t involve “actual existing economics”, but states how private property is a result of alienated labor and a history of both exploitation and alienation. C) He suggests that Adam Smith and other political economists begin with private property because the economist assumes in the form of a fact of an event, what he is supposed to deduce” that is, private property and exchange!
5. Key elements of Marx’s Theory of Alienation (or “estranged labor”) include a worker’s alienation from the product, the work itself, the essence of man, and from others including the workers and the owners. In order to abolish alienation, we need to abolish private property. The film Norma Rae illustrated this concept because it demonstrated how people gave up their lives for factories, before unions were formed to change devastating working conditions there. And the alienation of self from the work environment as well.
6. The defining characteristics of the working class include being the bourgeoisie, in the sense that their work is their living. The defining characteristics of the capitalists or proletariat are that they are rich and own all the work and resources that the working class uses to make their own living. He means that capitalism produces its own end because it leads to

- overproducing above what is demanded causing recessions and depressions. The bourgeoisie play a revolutionary role because of capitalism's downfall leading them to overthrow it. Four steps for the overthrow of capitalism include : a) role of the dissatisfied bourgeoisie and intellectuals b) realization that compromises do not work c) recognition that the bourgeoisie control the state and will use it if necessary d) realization that the revolution must be global
7. Weber by *Methodenstreit* means that there is dispute over methods of inquiry and that there is a major split between the natural sciences and the cultural sciences. Historicism is more favorable because he is skeptical about the natural sciences (positivism). He realizes that pure objectivity is impossible because reality is limitless, and if objectivity means knowledge without preconceptions than it does not exist. If truth means faithful reproduction of reality, then it does not exist. Ideal Types, value freedoms, and value relevance. Value Freedom- The Conclusions of ones research and data should not be shaped by the researchers values. Value relevance is framing the question and topics of inquiry as well as their selection is value laden. The researcher must know this and understand their subjective position- i.e. why they study what they study and what biases they might have. *Verstehen* is understanding how history involves attempting to see the world through the lenses of those who lived it. Important because it allows us to see an elective affinity between materialism and idealism.
 8. The spirit of capitalism is an ethos, code, or way of life exemplified by Ben Franklin. Different from economic traditionalism, work for sustenance (economic rationalism). Work is one's duty and working to live becomes living to work. Ben Franklin personified this spirit because he wanted to show how economic rationalism unlike economic traditionalism would leave a young man with money by the time he retired. Time is money, pay your debt, and never spend! Protestant Lutheranism and Calvinism contributed to the demise of economic traditionalism because both promote that if you work and don't spend you will be viewed as living a good life in the eyes of God. The Protestant Ethic becomes worldly Asceticism because of secularization. Every moment is disciplined, there is no time for self-reflecting/critical thinking, and the systemization of every action occurs.
 9. Characteristics of modern bureaucracy include a) jurisdictional areas clearly defined, b) clear office hierarchy, c) written documents become prevalent, d) management training, e) all work is expected to be finished, f) know the rules. Characteristics serve the larger goals of rationalization by creating Objectivity, Impersonality and Professionalism, Rational Calculation of Action, Efficiency. Bureaucracy is technically superior because of specialization (leads to productivity and innovation), more procedural fairness, better recruitment of talent, allows for much larger scale organizations. Bureaucracies might be problematic for individuals or society because a) it doesn't work as the ideal type (red tape and not really unbiased), b) in contrast to people powered politics... bureaucrats are always on top c) rules and procedures become ends in and of themselves d) mimicry- bureaucracy grows infinitely e) *gehausen*-rationalization and the iron cage of bureaucracy
 10. Weber defined power as something nested in social interaction. Power is divided into class power (economic power), status power (social power), and party power (organizational/leader power). a) class power is defined as having shared economic interest b) status power is defined as social standing prestige c) party power is defined as leadership of an organization. They are different in the sense that party power supports the characteristics of bureaucracy and it is on the rise in modernity. Another difference is that during economic crisis class

power becomes the norm and during times of stability status power becomes the norm. Class power on its own is unstable because it eventually leads to a coup d'etat...aka revolution!

Vocabulary!!!!

The "Three Revolutions" - a) Intellectual-The Enlightenment b) Political-The French Revolution c) Technological-The Industrial Revolution

Three "Views/Styles" of Social Theory- a) Scientific social theory-science uncovers general principles or social laws b) Philosophical Approach to Social Theory- Conceptual thinking on the nature of social life leading to overarching theories of human behavior and evolution c) Moral vision of social theory- Illuminate a social danger in order to prompt or guide social and political action

Structure- a pattern of organization that constrains human behavior

Agency- a thing or person that acts to produce a particular result- Purposive Action

Objectivity and Subjectivity- a) objectivity-value free, impartial, unbiased b) subjectivity- result from an individual's perspective

Pre-modernity, modernity, Post-modernity-

Materialism: material reality (physical environment) leads to ideas, "being determines consciousness"

Idealism: ideas lead to reality, the world is only a reflection of ideas,

Sociological Imagination- it is a paradigm or lens used to observe the world, it allows one to see the connection between biography and history and personal troubles and social issues and that individuals are simultaneously shaped and shape the structures that define their period.

Biography and History: see the sociological imagination above

Personal Troubles and Social Issues: see the sociological imagination above

Ontology- the nature of being

Division of Free Labor (DOL)= selling oneself to the market, increases specialization (skill and dexterity, less time wasted, innovation), and increases production and employment

Dialectic-observe the world with the five senses and retroactive interpretation

Historical Materialism- methodological approach of Marx which says material conditions create our social environment

Epistemology- the study of knowledge