

Answer Key for Sociology 101-01 Midterm Exam

Section 1: Multiple Choice

1. C or D
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. D
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. D
11. D
12. A
13. D
14. A
15. A
16. C
17. C
18. A
19. A
20. B

Section 2: Fill in the blanks

1. Social differentiation
2. Social stratification
3. Class consciousness
4. Social capital or cultural capital
5. Attribution error

Section 3: Essay

Define social network as a set of links between people, places, groups or objects that exchange goods and resources like money, advice, love, hate, etc.

Define strong ties as those with very close friends and family, and characterize these as relationships with frequent contact, and high trust. They are likely to be of equivalent status. Can establish comparability to primary group. These ties pass information expeditiously, and are reliable. However, they also pass information that is likely to be redundant with information we already have because of the overlap in experience, worldview and other contacts.

Define weak ties as those with more distant friends, acquaintances, co-workers, etc. Characterize these relationships as those with less frequent contact, less intimacy, and relatively lower trust. Weak tie networks are more likely to include status differentials as

you do not share all attributes, worldview, experience, credentials, etc. Can establish comparability with secondary group. These ties are more likely to share new information, non-redundant information.

Strong ties don't typically help as much with providing information on job leads, because of the redundancy of information; they often can't do anything for a candidate they can't do for themselves. This is true, unless the candidate is an elite and/or the job market is tight—in these situations, close friends and family may hire you, or horde job tips for you, instead of spreading them/sharing them with their weak tie network. Weak ties help most job candidates—Erickson claims that 50% of Americans got job information from a weak tie member. These ties offer fresh leads on jobs. She finds that diverse tie holders get better jobs—jobs with a higher rank, and a higher income. However, it is not the case that “whom you know” is the only thing that matters on the job market—applicants must have the skills for the job.

The greater frequency of contact, trust and intimacy means that strong tie members are better than weak ties in providing general emotional support—and they may be of more assistance in a health emergency. However, Erickson reports that weak ties are better resources for all other health-related issues. People with more weak ties have to manage many more relationships. In the process, they develop a greater sense of control, which causes less depression, and allows individuals to cope with stress more effectively—and these positively impact health. Weak tie members offer new and often better information about health, and therefore, those with rich weak ties are better informed about health, and healthier as a result. Diversity of ties also means you increase your likelihood of knowing key useful people (again, unless you are already an elite); these useful people can connect you to specialists, special treatments, and cutting-edge technology, all of which can positively impact your health. Finally, diversity of ties is correlated with wealth, and wealth is correlated to health. Therefore, a rich weak tie network points to the fact that you are more likely to be healthy, and wealth is the intervening variable.

Section 4: Extra Credit

1. Lumpenproletariat
2. Gemeinschaft
3. 23%
4. Per capita gross national income (GNI)
5. Modernization