

**CONCEPTS IN THREE CENTRAL CHAPTERS OF *INVITATION TO SOCIOLOGY* BY PETER BERGER**

	<u>THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY</u>	<u>SOCIETY INSIDE THE INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>SOCIETY AS DRAMA</u>
	The Individual in groups: (each person is inside of and surrounded by many overlapping groups).	Groups <i>inside</i> the individual (groups shape people's thoughts and feelings all the time.)	Group life as drama. Despite the power of groups, human beings are free choice-making individuals
key concepts in each chapter	<u>SOCIAL CONTROL</u> (violence, economic pressure, face-to-face controls)	<u>ROLES</u> (including socialization and internalization)	<u>CHOICE. FREEDOM, SURPRISE, CREATIVITY</u>
other important concepts in each chapter	Institutions, Stratification	Reference Groups, Sociology of Knowledge and Ideology	rebellion, revolt, crime, revolution sabotage, withdrawal Bad Faith
social power -- power of groups, other people	Social or group power as <u>external</u> forces, external power, coercion from outside the individual	social or group power as <u>inside</u> the individual, as internal; Internalization; socialization;	Individuals can choose to obey or disobey the external rules and powers, and they can choose to accept or reject the rules they have been socialized to accept and that they have internalized Social power is real but people can choose to go against that power
What sociology studies	Social facts, things that exist whether we know about them or not; institutions, economic class, police, policies, rates	People's beliefs, ideas, feelings, passions, desires, wishes, wants – what is inside of their heads and hearts.	The choices that individuals and groups make (whether expected or surprising).
key historical thinker for each chapter	Emile Durkheim	Max Weber	Jean Paul Sartre (and the philosophy of Existentialism)
key image for each chapter	<u>SOCIETY AS A PRISON</u>	<u>SOCIETY AS A PUPPET SHOW</u>	<u>PEOPLE AS FREE, CHOICE-MAKING INDIVIDUALS</u>

## KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS FROM

### “INVITATION TO SOCIOLOGY” – THE SECOND READER

#### 1. Sociology as an Individual Pastime

- Sociology as a Science, a Scientific Field (and an effort to understand social life and to truly see, describe and understanding what is happening in any situation)
- The Curiosity of Sociologists and Sociology (about groups and social life)
- Things Are Not As They Seem (there is more going on than people say or know)

#### 2. Sociology as a Form of Consciousness (awareness)

- Meanings of the words: *Society* and *Social* (*emphasis in both terms is groups and other people*)
- Seeing Through, Looking Behind what is going on in each social environment as central to sociological perspectives

Four Motifs (Themes) in much sociological writing

- *Debunking* (unmasking, revealing the hidden truth about something)
- *Unrespectability* (looking at the world from the perspective of unrespectables or underdogs, the lower status and less powerful individuals and groups)
- *Relativizing* (understanding that everything depends on context)
- Cosmopolitanism (appreciation for the city and cultural diversity and variety)

#### 3. Sociological Perspective—The Individual in Society

[The Individual in groups: each person is inside of and surrounded by many overlapping groups. The chapter focuses on social power – the power of groups -- as an external force and power outside the individual which pushes, forces, rewards and punishes individuals]

Key concepts:

- Social Control (Three kinds: Violence; Economic pressure; Face-to-Face -- persuasion, ridicule, gossip and ostracism)
- Stratification (four forms of stratification in US discussed in lecture: class, race, gender, age)
- Institutions (groups or organizations that live beyond the life of the people in them: governments, businesses, corporations, non-profits, the family and many others)

The classic sociologist most identified with this perspective: Emile Durkheim (who said that “social facts are things”)

IMAGE IN THE CHAPTER: Society as a Prison, The Individual as Prisoner

#### **4. Sociological Perspective—Society in the Individual –**

[Groups inside the individual. The chapter and perspective focuses on how groups shape people's thoughts and feelings all the time. Social power – group power -- as inside the individual, as internal; Internalization; socialization.

Key concepts:

- **Social Roles** (like actors in a theater or movie, we play parts every day and throughout our lives: child, sibling, student, worker, relatives, friend, date, co-worker, soldier, teacher, and infinite other roles)

- **Sociology Of Knowledge** – (looks at the social context, background, position of ideas and knowledge and of the people who offer the knowledge and information).

- **Reference Groups** (role models that we choose and like and seek to be like)

The classic sociologist most identified with this perspective: Max Weber

IMAGE IN THE CHAPTER: Society as a Puppet Show, individual as a hand puppet or marionette

#### **5. Sociological Perspective—Society as Drama (and Sociology as a Humanistic Discipline)**

[Despite the power of group around us to control, reward, and punish us – and despite the power of groups to shape our thoughts, beliefs and feelings by socializing us to roles – we are free human actors who can choose to obey or not the external and internal group pressures and forces]

**Key concepts: Choice, Freedom, Surprise, Creativity**

Ways individuals reject the external and internal pressures and powers of groups.

- Rebellion, Crime, Revolution

- Sabotage (to undermine so as to weaken or even destroy something)

- Withdrawal (including into subcultures, subworlds, underworlds)

- Manipulation (impersonation, fakery, trickery)

Ultimately, we are free and make choices (though sometimes we fool ourselves to think that we have no choice – which Berger, following the philosopher Sartre, calls “bad faith” because we always have some choice, always.

Thinker (a philosopher) most identified with this perspective: Jean-Paul Sartre (and existentialism)

IMAGE IN THE CHAPTER: Human beings as free choice-making individuals.

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR THE DEC 11 EXAM ON "INVITATION TO SOCIOLOGY"

- Title of the chapter which is about the power of groups all around us and how we are inside of society and groups. \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the chapter where social control is the most important concept \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the chapter where roles are the most important concept. \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the chapter that emphasized the importance of rebellion, revolt and withdrawal in social life.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What is the name of the key thinker (a philosopher) that Berger links with the perspective that society is a drama and that people always have choices. \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the chapter that emphasized the importance of choice, freedom and surprise in social life  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the chapter and perspective that looks at how sociology studies things that exist whether we know about them or not. \_\_\_\_\_
- Title of the chapter about the power of groups to shape our thoughts, beliefs, feelings, ideas, hopes, dreams.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The title of the chapter where the image is of "society as a puppet show." \_\_\_\_\_
- The title of the chapter where an important concept is "the sociology of knowledge." \_\_\_\_\_
- The title of the chapter that focuses on the real, hard to stop or change power of groups, whether we are aware of it or not. \_\_\_\_\_
- The title of the chapter that focuses on the power to punish and reward us of groups, organizations, and institutions like police, prisons, and corporations. \_\_\_\_\_
- The title of the chapter that discusses *stratification* \_\_\_\_\_
- The second, common form of social control is \_\_\_\_\_
- The phrase "my mother will kill me" was discussed in class as an example of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words).
- The most important concept in the chapter where the image is "society as a prison." \_\_\_\_\_
- The most important concept in the chapter where the image is "society as a puppet show." \_\_\_\_\_
- The most important concept in the chapter that emphasizes the power of socialization. \_\_\_\_\_
- The most important concept in the chapter that discusses gossip, ridicule and persuasion. \_\_\_\_\_
- The last name of the famous sociologist that Berger names whose view of the power of groups over the individual is like a prison. \_\_\_\_\_
- The key image in the chapter Society as Drama \_\_\_\_\_
- The key (most important) concept in the chapter that looks at social power (the power of groups) as an external force and power outside the individual \_\_\_\_\_
- The first, basic, fundamental form of social control is \_\_\_\_\_
- The classic sociologist identified with the perspective that Society is Inside of People is named: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sabotage and rebellion are concepts in the chapter titled \_\_\_\_\_
- Lectures suggested that "reference groups" be thought of as a kind of \_\_\_\_\_ (one word, an important concept)
- In which chapter is debunking (unmasking, revealing the hidden truth about something) an important concept \_\_\_\_\_.
- Impersonation, trickery and withdrawal are concepts discussed in which chapter (title)  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Berger calls fooling or tricking ourselves to believe we have no choices \_\_\_\_\_ (two words).
  - Being a student, employee, friend, neighbor, co-worker, parent, aunt, are examples of what concept about the power of groups to shape our thoughts, beliefs, feelings and ideas. \_\_\_\_\_
  - According to lectures, roles that we choose and seek to be like are called \_\_\_\_\_
  - Title of the chapter that emphasizes the power of *institutions* to punish and reward us. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Gossip, ridicule, persuasion, the cold shoulder are all forms of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Which chapter says that to see better what is happening in any social situation sociologists often look from the perspective of the low status and less powerful people, the underdogs \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Which chapter says that the first wisdom of sociology is that things are not as they seem to be. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Which chapter emphasizes that sociology is an effort to understand group life and power and it is a science using information and data \_\_\_\_\_

Nearly all answers on the exam on Dec 11 will come from the chart and two page chapter-by-chapter list of key terms (attached).

Also, for answering questions, regard chapter 1 and 2 as one chapter – called Chapter 1 & 2.