22.ASSESSMENT

Self-check Questions

1. According to the Marxist view, what is considered the fundamental determinant of social structure?

a) Cultural values and shared norms

b) The mode of production and relations of production

c) Individual psychology and personality

d) Legal systems and political institutions

2. Which of the following best describes a society characterized by Universalistic-Ascriptive pattern variables, according to Talcott Parsons?

a) Roles are based on universal rules, and status is achieved through performance.

b) Roles are based on particularistic ties, and status is achieved through individual effort.

c) Roles are based on universal rules, but status is inherited or given by birth.

d) Roles are based on particularistic ties, and status is inherited or given by birth.

3. In Marx's analysis of social structure, the "superstructure" primarily refers to:

a) The economic base of society, including forces and relations of production.

b) The dominant class that owns the means of production.

c) Institutions like the state, law, religion, and culture that reflect the economic base.

d) The collective consciousness and shared values of society.

4. Which of Parsons' pattern variables emphasizes that interactions are based on specific tasks or roles, rather than diffuse, all-encompassing relationships?

a) Affectivity vs. Affective-neutrality

b) Self-orientation vs. Collectivity-orientation

c) Universalism vs. Particularism

d) Specificity vs. Diffuseness

5. According to the Marxist perspective, what is the primary engine of social change in capitalist social structures?

a) Technological innovation

b) The evolution of moral consensus

c) Class struggle and internal contradictions

d) Gradual adaptation to environmental changes

6. The Marxist view holds that the state and law are neutral institutions that stand above class interests.

7. A society primarily governed by Universalistic-Achievement patterns would typically value individual merit and competence in determining social roles and rewards.

8. According to Marx, the "bourgeoisie" refers to the working class who sell their labor for wages.

9. Talcott Parsons' pattern variables are primarily used to classify societies based on their level of technological development.

10. The Particularistic-Ascriptive pattern variable implies that social roles and statuses are determined by individual effort and universal rules.

Answers to Self-Check Questions

1. b) The mode of production and relations of production

2. c) Roles are based on universal rules, but status is inherited or given by birth.

3. c) Institutions like the state, law, religion, and culture that reflect the economic base.

4. d) Specificity vs. Diffuseness

5. c) Class struggle and internal contradictions

6. False

7. True

8. False

9. False

10. False

Short Answer Questions

Q1. Briefly explain the Marxist distinction between the 'base' and the 'superstructure' in understanding social structure.

Q2. Define and provide an example of a social situation where the Universalistic-Ascriptive pattern variable might be prominent, according to Talcott Parsons' classification.

Q3. In what fundamental way does the Marxist view of social structure as a system of class conflict differ from Talcott Parsons' focus on social integration and equilibrium?

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Elaborate on the Marxist view of social structure, detailing the concepts of mode of production, relations of production, class struggle, and how these elements drive social change within a capitalist society.

Q2. Explain Talcott Parsons' classification of social structure using the four patterns (Universalistic-Ascriptive, Universalistic-Achievement, Particularistic-Ascriptive, Particularistic-Achievement). Discuss how these patterns describe the fundamental nature of social interactions and role expectations in different types of societies or social contexts.