



3.ASSESSMENT

Self-check Questions

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1. According to Robert Bierstedt, sociology is:
 - a) Purely a natural science
 - b) A science in its methods but humanistic in its content
 - c) Only concerned with quantitative data
 - d) A normative discipline
 2. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of sociology as per Bierstedt?
 - a) It is an independent science
 - b) It is a concrete science
 - c) It is a generalizing science
 - d) It is both rational and empirical
 3. Sociology differs from natural sciences because it:
 - a) Studies physical phenomena
 - b) Focuses on human behavior, meanings, and cultural contexts
 - c) Ignores empirical observation
 - d) Avoids theoretical frameworks
 4. Bierstedt emphasizes that sociology should avoid:
 - a) Over-positivism and rigid scientism
 - b) Interpretive methods
 - c) Ethical considerations
 - d) Generalizations
 5. Sociology is considered a bridge discipline because it:
 - a) Only uses qualitative research
 - b) Combines scientific methods with humanistic understanding



- c) Focuses solely on historical events
- d) Rejects empirical data

State whether following statement is True or False

- 6. Sociology is a normative discipline that prescribes how society should be.
- 7. Bierstedt argues that sociology should adopt a purely positivist approach like physics.
- 8. Sociology studies both the structural and symbolic aspects of human society.
- 9. According to Bierstedt, sociology is only concerned with abstract theories and not real-world applications.
- 10. Sociology can integrate both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Answers to Self-Check Questions

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- 1. b) A science in its methods but humanistic in its content
 - 2. b) It is a concrete science
 - 3. b) Focuses on human behavior, meanings, and cultural contexts
 - 4. a) Over-positivism and rigid scientism
 - 5. b) Combines scientific methods with humanistic understanding
 - 6. False
 - 7. False
 - 8. True
 - 9. False
 - 10. True

Short Answer Questions

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- 1. What does Bierstedt mean by saying sociology is “a science in its methods but humanistic in its content”?
 - 2. How does sociology differ from natural sciences in its approach to studying phenomena?
 - 3. Why is interpretation (Verstehen) important in sociological analysis?

Long Answer Questions

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- 1. Discuss Bierstedt's view on the dual nature of sociology, explaining its scientific and humanistic aspects with examples.
 - 2. Critically evaluate Bierstedt's argument that sociology should avoid over-positivism. How does this shape sociological research?