Answer Key for In-Text Questions
Chapter 11

Title: Chapter 11 Questions for Review

Question/Prompt: 1. Differentiate between the ways in which conflict theory and symbolic interactionism approach education.

Correct Answer Example(s):
According to conflict theory, the most important (and least discussed function) of schools is to teach students obedience—the essential qualification for most work in our society. In this sense, schools prepare them to be passive citizens, willing workers, and eager consumers.

In contrast, the symbolic interactionist approach focuses on how schools and universities build cultural capital. For example, schools teach students how to dress and behave in ways that suit their social roles based on their gender or class. At the higher educational levels, especially in professional schools, schools teach people how to dress and behave for success as lawyers, doctors, accountants, business managers, and so on.

Question/Prompt: 2. What is the hidden curriculum?

Correct Answer Example(s):
The school's hidden curriculum teaches students their "proper" place in society according to their gender and their social class.

Question/Prompt: 3. Explain how credentialism has led to a focus on research at Canadian universities.

Correct Answer Example(s):
Credentialism is the belief in or reliance on academic or other formal qualifications as the best measure of a person's intelligence or ability to do a particular job. This has led to a focus on research at Canadian universities in an effort to increase their funding and raise their international profile. In this system of research universities, professors become widely known to their peers through publication, conferences, and grants.

Increasingly, these professors—mainly concerned with research and graduate teaching—also control the character of undergraduate education. They ensure the university pours more time and money into faculty research and graduate training than into undergraduate education. Universities compete with one another for the best national and international students, basing admission on measured ability (usually, the results of standardized testing). In doing so, they control access to rare and desirable elite credentials.

Question/Prompt: 4. How has corporatization affected higher education?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Today, due to little growth in public funding for higher education, universities increasingly rely on private endowments and high tuitions to pay their bills. Such developments have resulted in a concern about the growing corporatization of the universities—the gradual change of publicly funded but independent organizations into economically dependent organizations that use corporate management techniques to achieve and show profitability.

As a result, schools increasingly integrate teaching and research roles into the profit-making activities of national and multinational private corporations. Further, large graduate programs continue to pump out new PhDs, many of whom can't find suitable jobs upon graduation. The humanities departments, lacking enough funds, must increase their class sizes, denying students the better learning opportunities one finds only in small, seminar classes. Under these conditions, many students get an education they don't need and can't use while putting themselves in debt for the next 10 or so year.

Question/Prompt: 5. What are some sociological factors in educational attainment?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:
- Women face difficulties in educational attainment mainly because they often have more family duties than men do. In marrying and having children, women enter an unequal bargain in which their spouse typically takes on fewer domestic chores and responsibilities than they do.
- Many racialized groups face language and financial barriers to their educational advancement, Also, Canadian employers often do not accept foreign credentials and hire only job candidates with Canadian working experience. This often forces educated immigrants to go back to school even if they can't afford it or to take jobs for which they are overqualified.
- Indigenous people face significant structural barriers to higher education, such as discrimination, which segregates and under-rewards them. Part of this disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people is a lasting effect of residential schooling. As a result, there is a deep mistrust of mainstream educational institutions, which may be seen as a further assimilative assault on Indigenous culture, language and traditions.
- Schools on First Nation reserves are underfunded and far below the quality of Canadian public schools. Further, the lack of employment opportunity on reserves is another factor that influences the educational gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. People—Indigenous or not—often aren't inclined to seek a postsecondary education if they don't feel it will be useful professionally.

Question/Prompt: 6. Describe how technology has changed education.

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:

- In this digital age, teachers incorporate technology into the classroom because it makes teaching more manageable. Equally important, educators feel that children must develop computer literacy at an early age to succeed in their education and future careers.
- Schools in low-income districts are less able than other schools to provide ICTs in the classroom. This reinforces inequalities, and low socioeconomic status passes from one generation to the next.
- One of the most significant changes to education that has come about because of technological development is e-schooling. Online classes are held on the internet in a virtual classroom rather than in a physical one. This method of instruction has many advantages and has grown in popularity over the years. Online courses offer flexibility and allow students to learn at their pace.
- Many universities, colleges, and companies now offer massive open online courses (MOOCs). MOOCs are typically free, not for credit, and open to anyone with internet access.
- Despite the many benefits of online courses, students complain the isolated and unstructured environment of an online class is less conducive to their learning than a traditional class.

Title: Chapter 11 Questions for Critical Thought

Question/Prompt: 1. In your own words, what is the difference between education and training?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Although education and training are related terms, they have important differences. Education is the process of learning something to acquire knowledge. In contrast, training is the process of learning something to be able to perform or apply a specific skill or behaviour. Training can be thought of as the application of knowledge that is gained through education.

Question/Prompt: 2. Who benefits most from research universities? As a university student, what do you think are some disadvantages of this institution?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:
- Increasingly, universities are being corporatized and allocate more time and money into faculty research and graduate training than into undergraduate education. More and more, the research university offers a narrowly specialized curriculum, a heavy research agenda, and an all-PhD faculty.
- Research universities often have large class sizes that deny students the better learning opportunities that are found in small, seminar classes. This system also urges professors teaching undergraduate classes to move students through more quickly, using checklists and standardized measurements that can show quantifiable results.
- Large graduate programs continue to pump out new PhDs, many of whom can't find suitable jobs upon graduation. Under these conditions, many students get an education they don't need and can't use while putting themselves in debt for the next 10 or so years.
- The commodification of education does not consider non–job-related benefits or to hard-to-quantify benefits such as better citizenship, more life satisfaction, or more critical thinking skills.
- Under neoliberalism, governments have continually and increasingly challenged equal access to education, mainly by increasing tuition and making higher education harder to gain. In this view, the goal of formal education is not to ensure everyone has the same knowledge, skills, and credentials. It is to ensure that schools test and rank everyone competitively.
- There are barriers to educational attainment for low-income people, rural people, Indigenous Peoples, and other disadvantaged groups.

Question/Prompt: 3. What are the positive and negative effects of ability grouping (also known as streaming or tracking)?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:
- Ability grouping allows pupils to advance according to their abilities, adapts instructional techniques to the needs of the group, reduces failures, and helps to preserve interest and incentive. Bright students are not bored by the slower learning of others, and slower pupils engage more deeply when brighter students do not overshadow them. This also makes teaching easier, since it allows teachers to pay special attention to small groups with specific abilities. In an age seemingly obsessed with self-esteem, perhaps the most appealing argument is that streaming is less likely to confront students with their personal inadequacies.
- However, a stigma attached to lower sections or classes in the school can discourage students in these categories. Some students may feel uncomfortable about being in a group that their peers consider "lower" or less demanding. As well, students put in a lower grouping may come to think they aren't smart enough to achieve at a higher level. They may work down to the teacher's low expectations.
- There is evidence that streaming or tracking reproduces existing social inequalities. Minority and lower-income students are more likely to end up in the lowest streams because, statistically, they perform worse than children from upper-class families. For example, they are more likely to present lower school readiness, such as the ability to read and a general wish for learning. They also may not have the same learning resources as students from higher socioeconomic backgrounds.

Question/Prompt: 4. Canada has private, public, faith-based, and same-sex schools, and even home-schooling. What are the benefits of each? Which do you think is most helpful for educating Canada's citizens, and why?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:
- Some parents think that private schools offer a better education than public schools and that their children will be better prepared to compete for top university and professional positions. Further, they think their children will learn suitable values and religious dogma as well as academic material.
- Some parents think that public schools expose students to peers of different backgrounds and promote acceptance, inclusivity, and tolerance.
- Some parents think that same-sex schools foster better relationships and a sense of empowerment and community. They also think that there are fewer distractions and that students feel more confident and comfortable during class discussions.

- Some parents think that faith-based schools promote a strong understanding of religion and community. Some parents choose these schools because they do not want to expose their children to secular, scientific ideas that conflict with their religious beliefs.
- Home-schooling parents often see themselves as resisting formal control. Some parents say they want to avoid the socialization that happens at schools. For example, they may want their children to develop critical thinking skills, rather than becoming "good" obedient citizens. Other parents choose home-schooling because they do not want to expose their children to ideas of multiculturalism, the equality of all peoples, and secularism.
- However, such single-ethnicity (or single-religion or single-race or single-gender) schools minimize contact with students of different demographics. This gives students less chance of becoming familiar with different groups than at a mixed school. As well, segregated or separate schools limit public visibility and accountability. At the extreme, this makes children in separate schools more vulnerable to the harm and neglect associated with total institutions.
- Whatever the benefits, educational separation keeps people apart, and this fails to teach young people how to deal with others who are different. This is true whether we are talking about segregation in public schools, private schools, religious schools, same-sex schools, or at home. Worse, it does this among young students who may already have trouble dealing with differential treatment based on sex, class, and racialized identity.

Question/Prompt: 5. To what degree, and for what reasons, are costs a barrier to higher education, even among people who have the ability and desire to attend?

Correct Answer Example(s):
Your answer should include or relate to the following points:
- Higher education is expensive and many students have to work a part-time or full-time job to afford school. However, working during school is difficult and often unsustainable. Students have trouble finding the time to attend classes and do homework, let alone time for recreation or rest.
- Many students take out a loan to pay for their education, which may take decades to pay off. How long it takes depends on how big the loan is and the job a student gets after graduating. It will also depend on the amount the student can put aside after paying taxes, rent, or a mortgage. Then, there are the expenses associated with raising children (if the student has any), and everyday living expenses like food, clothes, and transportation.
- Unequal access to education means that children in high-income families have more access to better jobs and better incomes than children in low-income families, reducing the chances for social mobility.
- Students' experiences of formal education differ according to their socioeconomic class. Schools in poor neighbourhoods are less likely to enjoy a satisfactory supply of computers, laboratories, audiovisual equipment, library books, school supplies, or teachers. Thus,

students from lower-income families are less likely to get support for higher educational attainment than students from wealthier families.

- Middle- and higher-income children also tend to do better in school because they learn the noncognitive ways of behaving as part of their training in cultural capital.
- Fundraising in schools creates a funding gap between public schools, preserving the already-existing inequalities between children from different class backgrounds. Ironically, schools in poorer neighbourhoods, which have the greatest need for extra resources, are the schools that have difficulty fundraising. Local fundraising also takes the burden off governments to ensure that schools are receiving the funds they need.
- Credentialism has strengthened the link between educational and class position. Today, children from higher-income families are still more likely to get more and better education than children from lower-income families.
- Under neoliberalism, governments have continually and increasingly challenged equal access to education, mainly by increasing tuition and making higher education harder to gain.
- Many racialized groups continue to face obstacles to their educational and occupational advancement. For some, these obstacles include language difficulties and little money for tuition.
- When it comes to accessing and using technology, the gap in today's society is widening. Low-income families are less likely to have information and communication technologies (ICT) for children to use at home. As well, schools in low-income districts are less able than other schools to provide ICT in the classroom. This reinforces inequalities, and low socioeconomic status passes from one generation to the next.