1.4 Interactionism and the Social Construction of the Self: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Where a question refers to Item F, use both the Item and your own knowledge of interactionist ideas in your answer.

1 Interactionist sociologists focus mainly on which level of social life?

- ☐ A) Small-scale, face-to-face interaction between individuals
- ☐ B) The economic structure of whole societies
- ☐ C) The legal system of a whole country
- ☐ D) Global patterns of trade between nations

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 For each description below, state whether it best matches Mead's, Cooley's or Goffman's ideas.

(a) A person imagines how they appear from another person's point of view, especially significant individuals in early play. **(1)**

(b) A person's self-image is shaped by imagining how others judge them. **(1)**

(c) A person behaves formally in front of an audience but relaxes once away from it. **(1)**

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain one way Mead's concept of the 'generalised other' helps explain why people can behave appropriately even among strangers.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Sociologists sometimes ask whether people have one true, fixed self, or many different selves shown in different situations. State how Goffman's approach differs from Mead's and Cooley's approaches on this issue.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.4 Interactionism and the Social Construction of the Self: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

A (small-scale, face-to-face interaction) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

(a) mead **B1**

(a) Answer: Mead

(b) cooley **B1**

(b) Answer: Cooley

(c) goffman **B1**

(c) Answer: Goffman

Question 3

identifies that the generalised other represents shared social expectations that a person has internalised, not just the expectations of specific known individuals **B1**

development, e.g. this means a person can predict how a stranger might expect them to behave, and act accordingly, without needing a personal relationship with that stranger **B1**

Answer: Because the generalised other represents shared, internalised social expectations rather than only the expectations of specific known people, a person can predict how a stranger might expect them to behave and act accordingly.

Question 4

identifies that Goffman's approach suggests people present different versions of themselves in different settings, rather than having one single fixed self **B1**

development, e.g. Mead's and Cooley's approaches, in contrast, describe a self that develops through interaction but is still experienced as a single, continuous identity by the individual **B1**

Answer: Goffman's approach suggests people present different versions of themselves in different settings, while Mead's and Cooley's approaches describe a self that develops through interaction but is still experienced as a single, continuous identity.

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