SOCIOLOGY · STUDY GUIDE

Exam 4 Study Guide

This guide covers chapters 7 and 8. First you will see how groups draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable, the theories that explain why people cross it, and how a society counts and punishes crime. Then you will look at how whole societies sort people into layers, how the great theorists explained those layers, and what the evidence says about poverty and mobility. Read the "what to know" paragraphs, copy the tables by hand, and work each case with the steps covered. Each chapter ends with ten self-test items, and the cram sheet holds every name and term.

WHAT THIS GUIDE COVERS

- Chapter 7 · deviance and norms, deviance as relative, sanctions and social control, Durkheim's functions and anomie, Merton's five adaptations, Cohen and Cloward and Ohlin, conflict theory, labeling, primary and secondary deviance, stigma, types of crime, UCR and NIBRS, NCVS, self-report surveys, the dark figure, police, courts, corrections and the four justifications for punishment.
- Chapter 8 · stratification, closed and open systems, slavery, estate, caste and class, meritocracy, Davis-Moore and Tumin, Marx, surplus value and false consciousness, Weber's class, status and power, the Gilbert-Kahl class model, income, wealth and cultural capital, absolute and relative poverty, who is poor, and types of social mobility.

CHAPTER 7

Deviance, Crime and Social Control

Read it in full: **Chapter 7 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **What Is Deviance?** and **The Label That Sticks**.

What to know

Deviance is any behavior, belief or condition that violates a social norm and draws a negative reaction. It is defined by **reaction**, not by harm, and it can even be admired (the whistle-blower, the saint). Norms run from **folkways** (etiquette) to **mores** (morals) to **taboos** (the sacred) to **laws** (codified by the state). Deviance is **relative**: killing is murder in an alley and heroism on a

battlefield, and acts once treated as deviant, such as left-handedness, are now ordinary. What matters is time, place, culture, situation and audience.

Social control is the machinery that encourages conformity. It works through **sanctions**, which are **positive** (a smile, a medal) or **negative** (a frown, a fine), and **informal** (peers, family) or **formal** (police, courts, schools). Most conformity is informal and internalized: people police themselves long before any officer arrives.

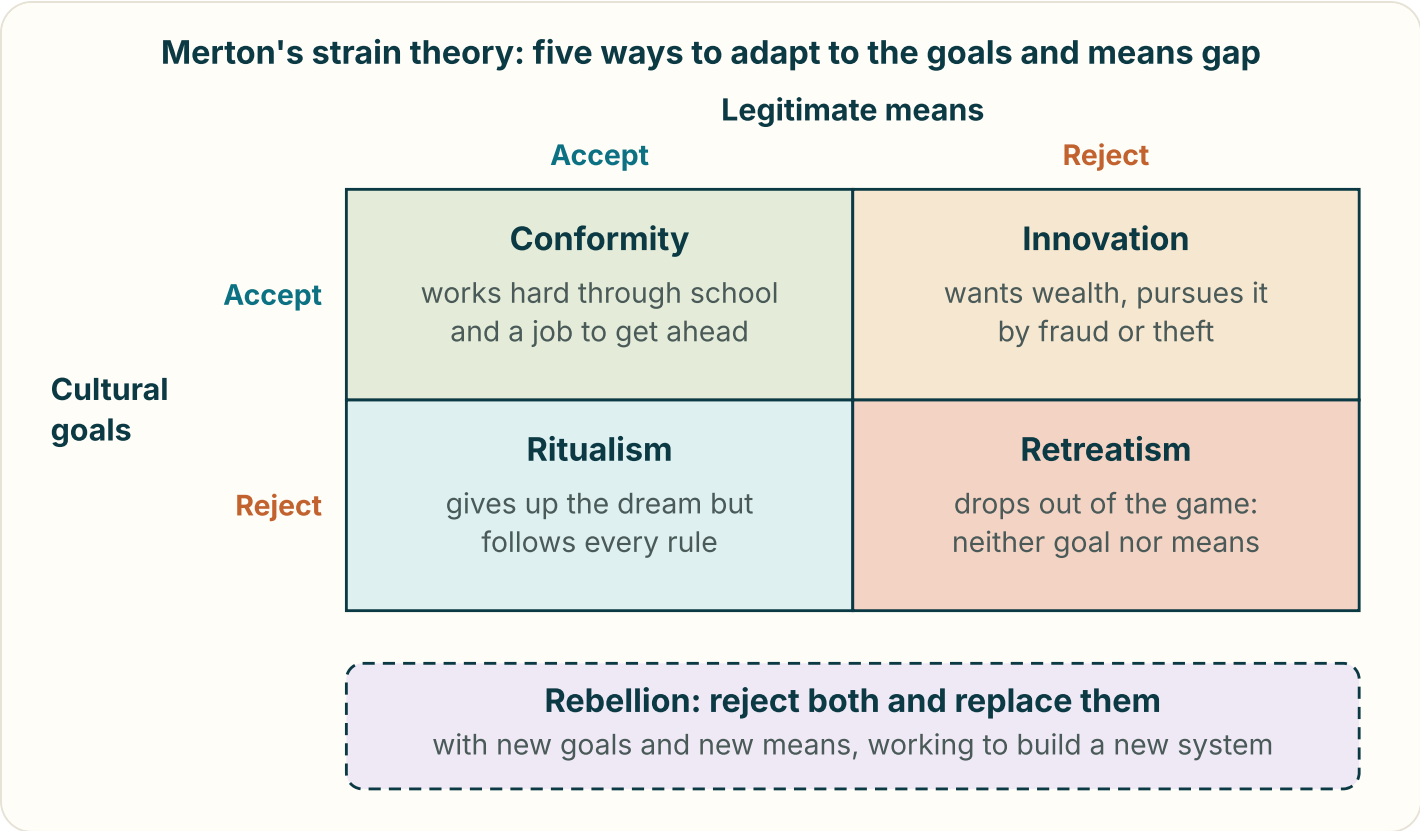
Functionalists start with Durkheim: deviance is **normal** and **functional**. It affirms norms, clarifies moral boundaries, builds cohesion against the offender and can spur change. Even a "society of saints" would find faults to punish. **Anomie** is normlessness during rapid change. Merton's **strain theory** says society promotes cultural goals (success) but spreads the legitimate means unequally. The five adaptations: **conformity** (accept both), **innovation** (accept goals, reject means), **ritualism** (reject goals, keep the rules), **retreatism** (reject both) and **rebellion** (replace both). Albert Cohen described **status frustration** among boys judged by a "middle-class measuring rod," and Cloward and Ohlin's **differential opportunity** theory noted that illegitimate opportunity is unequal too.

Conflict theory (from Marx) asks who benefits from defining deviance. Laws reflect powerful interests, so "street crime" is policed hard while costlier "suite crime" gets fines. **Labeling theory** (interactionist) says deviance is created by the reaction: Howard Becker wrote that groups create deviance by making rules and applying them to particular people. Edwin Lemert split **primary deviance** (an early act with little reaction and no change in self-concept) from **secondary deviance** (after a label, the person reorganizes identity around it). Goffman's **stigma** is a spoiled identity, and a deviant label can become a **master status** and a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Crime is deviance that breaks a law. Types: **violent** (homicide, assault, robbery), **property** (burglary, larceny, arson), **white-collar** (Edwin Sutherland: high status people at work; it costs more than all street crime combined), **corporate**, **organized**, and **consensual** or "victimless" crime. Three measures each have blind spots. The **UCR**, now giving way to **NIBRS**, counts crimes reported to and recorded by police. The **NCVS** surveys households about victimization; it captures unreported crime but omits homicide and crimes against businesses. **Self-report surveys**

ask people to admit offending. The **dark figure of crime** is everything that never reaches official statistics.

The **criminal justice system** has three branches. **Police** use **discretion** and act as gatekeepers. **Courts** are adversarial with **due process**, but most convictions come through **plea bargaining**. **Corrections** carries out sentences through prison, probation, parole or fines. Four justifications for punishment: **retribution** (deserved for the past act), **deterrence** (specific for the offender, general for the public), **incapacitation** (confinement for safety now) and **rehabilitation** (reform for the future). **Mass incarceration** and high **recidivism** raise hard questions about whether prisons reform or merely confine and label.



Merton's strain grid. Every adaptation is a pairing of cultural goals and legitimate means. Only conformity accepts both; rebellion is the one that throws both out and offers replacements.

LOCK THESE IN

- Deviance is defined by reaction, not harm; it is relative to time, place and audience.
- Sanctions: positive or negative, informal or formal; most control is informal and internalized.
- Durkheim: deviance is normal and functional; anomie is normlessness.
- Merton: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, rebellion.
- Labeling (Becker, Lemert): primary deviance, label, secondary deviance.
- White-collar crime (Sutherland) costs most and is punished least.
- UCR and NIBRS: police records. NCVS: victim survey, no homicide. Dark figure: the uncounted.
- Punishment: retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation.

Key terms and comparisons: Merton's five adaptations

Adaptation	Cultural goals	Legitimate means	Example
Conformity	Accept	Accept	Works through school and a job to get ahead
Innovation	Accept	Reject	Wants wealth but pursues it through fraud or theft
Ritualism	Reject	Accept	The burned-out clerk who follows every rule
Retreatism	Reject	Reject	Drops out of the game entirely
Rebellion	Replace	Replace	Works to build a new system

Three paradigms and three measures

Item	Main idea	Key names or blind spot
Functionalism	Deviance is normal; strain from goals and means	Durkheim, Merton
Conflict theory	The powerful define deviance	Marx and successors
Labeling	The reaction creates deviance	Becker, Lemert, Goffman
UCR / NIBRS	Crimes reported to and recorded by police	Misses unreported crime
NCVS	Household victimization survey	Omits homicide; relies on memory
Self-report surveys	People admit their own offending	Depends on honesty

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · NAME THE ADAPTATION

Use Merton's grid on three fictional people who all grew up hearing that success means wealth.

STEP 1 · DEV SELLS COUNTERFEIT SNEAKERS TO GET RICH

He accepts the goal but rejects legitimate means: **innovation**.

STEP 2 · ROSA HAS GIVEN UP ON GETTING AHEAD BUT NEVER MISSES A RULE AT HER DESK JOB

She drops the goal but keeps the means: **ritualism**.

STEP 3 · CAL REJECTS BOTH MONEY AND ORDINARY WORK AND DRIFTS OUT OF SOCIETY

He rejects both: **retreatism**.

CONTRAST

A rebel also rejects both, but replaces them with new goals and means and works to build a new system.

WORKED CASE 2 · PRIMARY TO SECONDARY DEVIANCE

Jaylen, a fictional 15 year old, is caught shoplifting a phone charger.

STEP 1 · THE FIRST ACT

Many teens break a rule once; with little reaction, it stays **primary deviance** and does not change his self-concept.

STEP 2 · THE REACTION

Here the school expels him and neighbors call him "a thief." A label is applied.

STEP 3 · THE REORGANIZED SELF

Shut out of school and jobs, he starts to see himself as a thief and offends again: **secondary deviance**.

STEP 4 · NAME THE LINK

The label became a master status and a self-fulfilling prophecy. Labeling theory says the reaction, not the act, produced the deviant career.

WORKED CASE 3 · WHICH CRIME MEASURE?

A fictional city reports that assaults are "up 20 percent" in police records, while a household survey shows assault victimization flat.

STEP 1 · IDENTIFY THE SOURCES

Police records are **UCR/NIBRS** style data. The household survey is like the **NCVS**.

STEP 2 · THINK ABOUT REPORTING

If more victims now trust police and report, recorded assaults can rise even when real assaults do not.

STEP 3 · CHECK THE SURVEY

The victim survey captures crimes never reported, so a flat line suggests offending did not rise.

STEP 4 · CONCLUDE

Crime statistics measure both offending and institutional response. The rise likely reflects reporting, and the gap between real and recorded crime is the **dark figure**.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying some acts are naturally deviant.** No act is deviant in itself; reaction and context define it.
- **Thinking deviance is always bad.** It can be positive or admired; it only needs to break a norm and draw a reaction.
- **Swapping innovation and ritualism.** Innovators keep the goal and drop the means; ritualists drop the goal and keep the means.
- **Thinking Durkheim wanted to end deviance.** He said deviance is normal and functional, and a group will always find someone to punish.
- **Reversing primary and secondary deviance.** Primary comes first with little reaction; secondary follows the label.
- **Thinking the NCVS counts homicide.** The victim cannot answer, so homicide is omitted.
- **Treating crime figures as pure offending.** They also measure reporting and recording.

- **Mixing deterrence and incapacitation.** Deterrence discourages; incapacitation removes the ability to reoffend.

Chapter 7 self-test · ten items

1. Which statement reflects the sociological view of deviance?

A. An act is deviant because of the reaction it draws in context
B. An act is deviant because a gene drives the person to do it
C. An act is deviant only when it is listed in a criminal code
D. An act is deviant because it always causes physical harm

A. An act is deviant because of the reaction it draws in context Deviance is relative and defined by reaction, not by harm.

2. A coworker's eye roll at someone who talks loudly on the phone is a(n):

A. Informal positive sanction
B. Informal negative sanction
C. Formal negative sanction
D. Formal positive sanction

B. Informal negative sanction It punishes and comes from everyday interaction, not an official body.

3. Which is one of Durkheim's functions of deviance?

A. It ends the need for any rules at all
B. It lets the powerful avoid every law
C. It clarifies moral boundaries for the group
D. It proves offenders are biologically different

C. It clarifies moral boundaries for the group Durkheim said deviance affirms norms, clarifies boundaries, builds cohesion and can spur change.

4. A student wants top grades and buys finished essays online. In Merton's terms this is:

A. Retreatism
B. Rebellion
C. Ritualism
D. Innovation

D. Innovation The goal is accepted, the legitimate means rejected.

5. Merton's strain arises from the gap between:

A. Police discretion and the plea bargains that courts accept
B. Folkways and the mores that a culture holds most dear
C. Primary deviance and the secondary deviance that follows
D. Cultural goals and the legitimate means to reach them

D. Cultural goals and the legitimate means to reach them Society promotes success while spreading the means unequally.

6. According to labeling theory, secondary deviance begins when:

A. A person first breaks a rule that no one notices
B. A person is born with traits that lead to crime
C. A person reorganizes identity around a deviant label
D. A person reports a crime to the police for the first time

C. A person reorganizes identity around a deviant label Lemert: the reaction and label produce the durable deviant career.

7. Who coined the term "white-collar crime"?

A. Albert Cohen
B. Edwin Sutherland
C. Edwin Lemert
D. Howard Becker

B. Edwin Sutherland Sutherland named crime by respectable, high status people in their occupations.

8. Why does the NCVS leave out homicide?

A. The victim cannot answer the survey
B. Police already count all homicides fully
C. Homicide is too rare to show up in data
D. Families refuse to talk about any deaths

A. The victim cannot answer the survey It is a victim survey, so homicide cannot be reported by the victim.

9. In practice, how do most U.S. criminal cases end in a conviction?

A. Jury trials
B. Plea bargaining
C. Grand juries
D. Bench trials

B. Plea bargaining The dramatic trial is the exception; most defendants plead guilty in exchange for a lighter sentence.

10. Keeping an offender in prison so he cannot commit new crimes for now is the logic of:

A. Incapacitation
B. Retribution
C. General deterrence
D. Rehabilitation

A. Incapacitation Incapacitation removes the ability to reoffend; it aims at public safety now.

CHAPTER 8

Social Class and Stratification

Read it in full: **Chapter 8 in the textbook**. Practice it in the lab: **Explaining Stratification: Davis-Moore, Marx & Weber** and **Tracing Social Mobility**.

What to know

Social stratification ranks whole categories of people into layers with unequal resources, power and prestige. Four ideas: it is a trait of **society**, not individuals; it **persists across generations**; it is **universal but variable**; and it rests on **belief**, an ideology that makes it seem natural or fair. Systems run from **closed** (little movement, based on **ascribed status**) to **open** (movement possible, weight on **achieved status**).

Closed systems include **slavery**, the medieval **estate** system (nobility, clergy, commoners, ranked by law and birth), and the **caste** system. India's traditional caste system ranked the varnas of Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras, with Dalit communities placed outside and below. Caste is ascribed and permanent, marriage is **endogamous**, and occupation is often inherited. Apartheid South Africa ran a racial caste system by law. A **class system** blends birth and achievement, has blurred edges and permits **social mobility**; it is justified by **meritocracy**, the belief that position reflects talent plus effort.

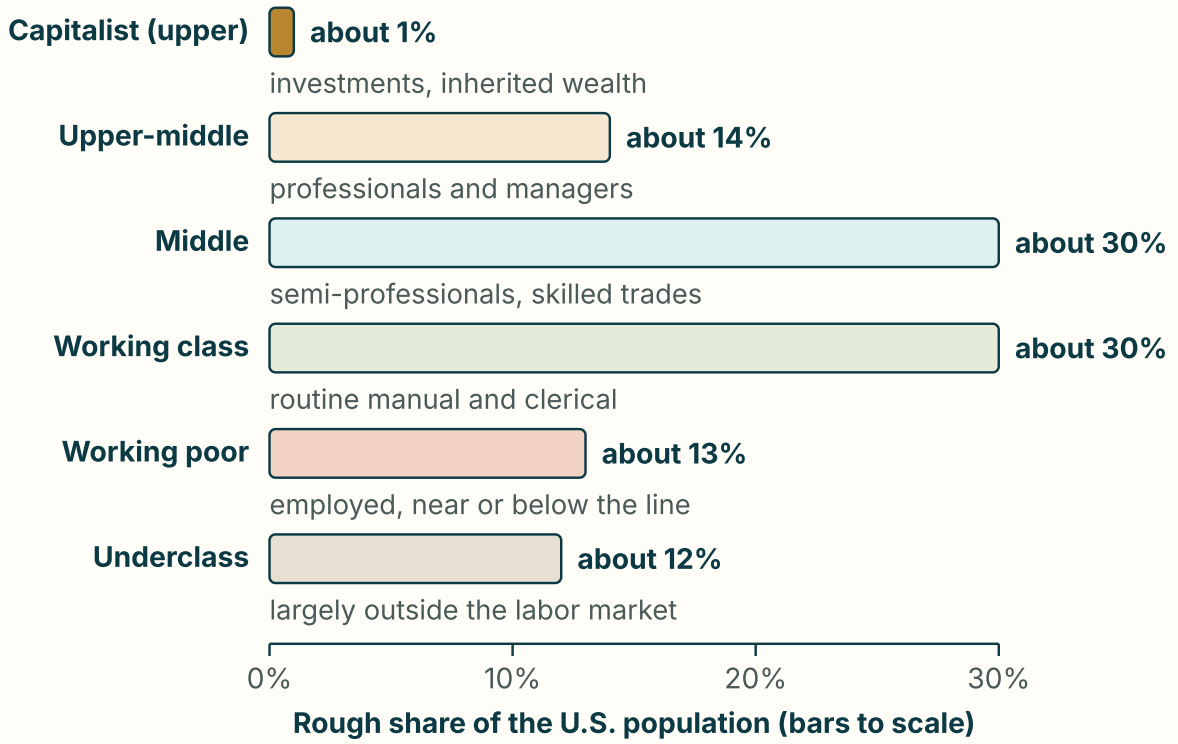
The **Davis-Moore thesis** (1945, functionalist): some positions are more important and harder to fill, so unequal rewards motivate the ablest to train for them. Melvin **Tumin** objected that ascription blocks fair sorting, that "importance" is hard to measure, and that inequality reproduces itself. **Marx** defined class by relation to the **means of production**: the **bourgeoisie** own them, the **proletariat** sell labor. Profit is **surplus value**. **False consciousness** keeps workers from revolt; **class consciousness** would unite them. His revolution prediction failed, but his insight about ownership and ideology endures.

Weber split stratification into **class** (economic position and **life chances**), **status** (honor or prestige) and **power** (party). They usually cluster but can diverge: a member of the clergy may have high status and modest income; a lottery winner may have wealth with little prestige. Weber did not use the phrase socioeconomic status; later researchers built **SES** (income, education, occupational prestige) from his idea.

The **Gilbert-Kahl** model names about six U.S. classes: capitalist (about 1%), upper-middle (about 14%), middle (about 30%), working (about 30%), working poor (about 13%) and underclass (about 12%). **Income** is money received over time; **wealth** is net worth, everything owned minus debts. Wealth is far more concentrated because it compounds and is inherited. Pierre Bourdieu's **cultural capital** (tastes, manners, know-how) is rewarded by schools as if it were talent.

Absolute poverty is lacking what you need to survive (a fixed standard). **Relative poverty** is falling below your society's normal standard (a moving line that almost never reaches zero). The U.S. line, from Mollie Orshansky in the 1960s, is a minimum food budget times three, adjusted for inflation and household size; the **Supplemental Poverty Measure** adds benefits, taxes and local costs. Poverty falls hardest on children, female-headed households (the **feminization of poverty**), racial and ethnic minorities and the **working poor**. Oscar Lewis's **culture of poverty** blames values; structural accounts, which most evidence favors, point to wages, schools, discrimination and policy. **Mobility** can be **intergenerational** or **intragenerational**, **vertical** or **horizontal**, and **structural** (the economy moves whole groups) or **exchange**. U.S. mobility is relatively low for a rich nation; the **Great Gatsby Curve** links more inequality to less mobility, and the top and bottom rungs are the stickiest.

The Gilbert-Kahl model of the U.S. class structure



Six blurred classes. Bar lengths show each class's rough share of the population. The tiny capitalist class holds a share of wealth far out of proportion to its 1 percent.

LOCK THESE IN

- Stratification is a trait of society, persists across generations, varies, and rests on belief.
- Closed systems (slavery, estate, caste) rest on ascribed status; open class systems add achieved status.
- Davis-Moore: unequal rewards fill vital jobs. Tumin: ascription blocks fair sorting.
- Marx: means of production, bourgeoisie and proletariat, surplus value, false consciousness.
- Weber: class, status, power; life chances.
- Income is a stream; wealth is a reservoir, and far more concentrated.
- Absolute poverty: survival. Relative poverty: belonging. U.S. line: food budget times three.
- Mobility: inter- versus intragenerational, vertical versus horizontal, structural versus exchange.

Key terms and comparisons: three explanations of stratification

Question	Davis-Moore	Marx	Weber
What is it?	A functional necessity	Exploitation through ownership	Layering on three axes
Why does it exist?	To motivate the ablest into vital jobs	Owners extract surplus value	Class, status and power are unequally held
Key concept	Functional importance; reward	Bourgeoisie, proletariat; false consciousness	Class, status, power; life chances
Main criticism	Ignores ascription (Tumin)	The revolution never came	Hard to reduce to one measure

Caste and class; poverty and mobility

Term	Meaning	Example
Caste	Closed; ascribed; endogamous	Traditional Indian varnas; apartheid
Class	Open; birth plus achievement	Meritocracy as its ideology
Absolute poverty	Cannot meet survival needs	Fixed standard
Relative poverty	Below society's normal standard	Moving line
Intergenerational	You versus your parents	Child of laborers becomes a physician
Intragenerational	Across your own career	Clerk retires as a manager
Horizontal	Sideways at the same level	Nurse becomes a paralegal
Structural	Whole groups move with the economy	Industrialization creates new jobs

Worked cases

WORKED CASE 1 · WEBER'S THREE LADDERS

Place three fictional people on Weber's dimensions.

STEP 1 · PASTOR RUTH: MODEST SALARY, DEEPLY RESPECTED IN TOWN

High **status**, low to middle **class**.

STEP 2 · VIC, A LOTTERY WINNER WHOM NEIGHBORS MOCK AS FLASHY

High **class** (wealth), low **status**.

STEP 3 · ANA, A MID-LEVEL OFFICIAL WHO CONTROLS PERMITS

Ordinary class and status but real **power**.

WHY IT MATTERS

The three dimensions usually move together but can come apart, which a single money scale would hide.

WORKED CASE 2 · INCOME OR WEALTH?

Two fictional households. The Parks earn $140,000 a year but owe $90,000 in loans and own little. The Okoros earn $45,000 but own a paid-off house worth $300,000 and savings of $60,000.

STEP 1 · COMPARE INCOME

The Parks' income stream is larger: $140,000 versus $45,000.

STEP 2 · COMPUTE PARKS WEALTH

Owned assets near $0 minus $90,000 debt gives a net worth of about **−$90,000**.

STEP 3 · COMPUTE OKORO WEALTH

$300,000 + $60,000 = **$360,000** net worth, with no debt.

STEP 4 · CONCLUDE

The Okoros have far more wealth, a cushion that compounds and can be passed on. That is why wealth is the truer measure of class advantage.

WORKED CASE 3 · CLASSIFY THE MOBILITY

Maribel's parents picked fruit. She becomes a pharmacist, then later moves to a hospital administrator job at about the same level.

STEP 1 · COMPARE WITH HER PARENTS

Her move from farm labor family to pharmacist is **intergenerational** and **upward vertical**.

STEP 2 · HER LATER CHANGE

Pharmacist to administrator at the same level is **horizontal** and **intragenerational**.

STEP 3 · STRUCTURAL OR NOT?

Her rise is individual. **Structural** mobility would be a whole group lifted or sunk by economic change.

EVIDENCE CHECK

Such rises happen, but U.S. intergenerational mobility is relatively low, and the bottom and top rungs are the stickiest.

TRAPS PEOPLE FALL INTO

- **Saying stratification is just differences in talent.** It is a feature of society that exists before anyone is born.
- **Calling caste "open" because some people move.** Caste is closed: ascribed, endogamous and nearly immobile.
- **Treating Davis-Moore as proven.** Tumin showed ascription blocks the fair sorting it assumes.
- **Saying Weber invented "socioeconomic status."** His terms were class, status and party; later researchers built SES.
- **Using income and wealth as synonyms.** Income is a flow; wealth is net worth, and far more concentrated.
- **Thinking relative poverty can be wiped out by growth.** Its line rises with the society.
- **Assuming the poor do not work.** The working poor hold jobs yet earn too little to clear the line.
- **Calling one person's rise structural mobility.** Structural mobility moves whole groups because the economy changed.

Chapter 8 self-test · ten items

1. Which feature marks a closed stratification system?

A. Position depends mostly on a person's effort
B. Position is fixed at birth with little movement
C. Marriage across layers is common and expected
D. Boundaries between layers are blurred and loose

B. Position is fixed at birth with little movement Closed systems rest on ascribed status.

2. A rule that people must marry within their own caste is called:

A. Exogamy
B. Meritocracy
C. Endogamy
D. Mobility

C. Endogamy Endogamous marriage is a hallmark of caste.

3. The Davis-Moore thesis says stratification exists because:

A. Owners take the surplus value that workers make
B. Prestige and power never line up with money
C. Children inherit cultural capital from parents
D. Unequal rewards draw able people into vital roles

D. Unequal rewards draw able people into vital roles It is the functionalist claim that inequality fills important, hard to train positions.

4. For Marx, what defines a person's class?

A. Their relation to the means of production
B. Their prestige and the respect they receive
C. Their level of schooling and their skills
D. Their political party and voting habits

A. Their relation to the means of production Owners are the bourgeoisie; those who sell labor are the proletariat.

5. Workers who defend a system that exploits them show what Marx called:

A. False consciousness
B. Cultural capital
C. Life chances
D. Class consciousness

A. False consciousness A distorted view that keeps workers from seeing shared exploitation.

6. A respected small town pastor with a modest salary ranks high on Weber's dimension of:

A. Wealth
B. Status
C. Class
D. Party

B. Status Status is honor or prestige, which can diverge from economic class.

7. Which statement about wealth is correct?

A. It is the same thing as income for most households
B. It ignores debts and counts only what people earn
C. It is net worth and is more concentrated than income
D. It is yearly pay and is spread more evenly than income

C. It is net worth and is more concentrated than income Wealth is assets minus debts; it compounds and is inherited.

8. A child raised with museum visits and confident talk with teachers is rewarded at school as if gifted. Bourdieu calls this advantage:

A. Surplus value
B. Life chances
C. Structural mobility
D. Cultural capital

D. Cultural capital Schools reward inherited know-how as if it were talent.

9. The official U.S. poverty line was first built from:

A. The average rent in large cities
B. The cost of college tuition each year
C. Half of the national median income
D. A minimum food budget multiplied by three

D. A minimum food budget multiplied by three Mollie Orshansky's 1960s measure, adjusted since for inflation and household size.

10. Industrialization moves millions of farm families into new factory jobs. This is:

A. Exchange mobility
B. Intragenerational mobility
C. Structural mobility
D. Horizontal mobility

C. Structural mobility Whole groups move because the economy changed.

Cram sheet

Everything from chapters 7 and 8 in one place. Cover the right column and see if you can rebuild each row.

Deviance and crime

Name or term	Idea	Remember
Deviance	Norm violation that draws a reaction	Relative; can be positive
Sanctions	Positive or negative; informal or formal	Most control is informal
Durkheim	Deviance is normal and functional; anomie	Society of saints
Merton	Strain: goals versus means	Conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, rebellion
Cohen; Cloward and Ohlin	Status frustration; differential opportunity	Deviance is learned in groups
Becker; Lemert	Labeling; primary and secondary deviance	The reaction creates the career
Goffman	Stigma, spoiled identity	Label as master status
Sutherland	White-collar crime	Costs most, punished least
Measures	UCR/NIBRS, NCVS, self-report	Dark figure of crime
Punishment	Retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation	Recidivism; mass incarceration

Stratification

Name or term	Idea	Remember
Closed and open	Ascribed versus achieved	Caste versus class
Davis and Moore (1945)	Inequality is functional	Tumin's critique
Marx	Means of production; surplus value	False and class consciousness
Weber	Class, status, power	Life chances
Gilbert-Kahl	About 1, 14, 30, 30, 13, 12 percent	Six blurred classes
Bourdieu	Cultural capital	Advantage looks like merit
Orshansky	Poverty line: food budget times 3	SPM adds benefits, taxes, local costs
Who is poor	Children, female-headed homes, minorities, working poor	Feminization of poverty
Lewis	Culture of poverty	Structural accounts fit the evidence better
Mobility	Inter-, intra-, vertical, horizontal, structural	Great Gatsby Curve

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