

**HOW DO SOCIETIES PASS ON INFORMATION?** 265

through education and religion

**HOW DOES RELIGION AFFECT SOCIETY?** 274*functionalism*: religion binds people together through ritual and tradition*conflict theory*: religion legitimizes social inequalities; for example, the practice of owning slaves was accepted in part because some churches condoned the practice*symbolic interactionism*: everything in the world can be interpreted as profane or sacred, but the setting influences the reverence of objects or acts**WHAT SOCIAL POLICIES HELP CHILDREN GET A BETTER EDUCATION?** 277

school voucher policies that allow low-income parents to select a participating school to send their child

**get the topic: HOW DO SOCIETIES PASS ON INFORMATION?**

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**Theory****FUNCTIONALISM** 275

- religion strengthens norms and values
- rituals unite the group when they celebrate or perform actions
- created social stability that supports governmental authority
- acts as a means of social control by influencing a person's actions

**CONFLICT THEORY** 275

- religion strengthens the inequalities of social classes
- dogma created to benefit the wealthy and condemn the poor
- Marx: religion promotes capitalism because churches often support the idea that the wealthy deserve privileges that the poor do not

- religion promotes obedience and legitimizes governments that are not in the best interest of everyone

**SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM** 274

- everything is either sacred or profane
- system of beliefs define meaning and morals to specific actions
- organization that supports belief system ensures continuation and effectiveness of the religious experience

**Key Terms**

**education** is the formal system in which society passes its information and values from one generation to the next. 265

**teacher expectancy effect** is the impact of a teacher's expectations on a student's performance. 267

**grade inflation** is the trend of assigning higher grades than previously assigned to students for completing the same work. 268

**human capital** is a person's combination of skills, knowledge, traits, and personal attributes. 269

**credentialism** is an emphasis on educational degrees in assessing skills and knowledge. 269

**religion** is a unified system of beliefs and practices, relative to sacred things, that is to say, things set apart and forbidden—beliefs and

practices which unite into one single moral community called a Church, all those who adhere to them. 270

**theism** is the belief in a god or gods. 270

**monotheism** is the belief that there is only one god. 270

**polytheism** is the belief in multiple gods and demigods. 270

(continued)

**philosophies of life** are ways of life that focus on a set of ethical, moral, or philosophical principles. 270

**totemism** is the practice of honoring a totem or a sacred object. 271

**simple supernaturalism** is the belief in a variety of supernatural forces that affect and influence people's lives. 271

**animism** is the belief that recognizes that animate spirits live in natural objects and operate in the world. 271

**cults** are new religious movements led by charismatic leaders with few followers. 272

**sects** are religious groups that have enough members to sustain themselves and go against society's norm. 272

**church** is a large, highly organized group of believers. 272

**theocracy** is a state religion that is formed when government and religion both work together to shape society. 272

**sacred** means connected to God or dedicated to a religious purpose. 272

**profane** means related or devoted to that which is not sacred or biblical. 272

**rituals** are established patterns of behavior closely associated with experience of the sacred. 272

**secularization** is the overall decline in the importance and power of religion in people's lives. 273

**civil religion** is a binding force that holds society together through political and social issues. 274

**intermarriage** is marriage between people of different religions. 274

**postdenominationalism** is a recent trend that stretches religious boundaries. 274

**system of beliefs** relates sacred objects to religious rituals, and defines and protects the sacred from the profane. 274

**organization of believers** is a group that ensures the prosperity and effectiveness of the religious experience. 274

## Sample Test Questions

These multiple-choice questions are similar to those found in the test bank that accompanies this textbook.

- Which of the following is *not* a myth associated with education?
  - Society is the primary unit.
  - A nation is merely a group of individuals.
  - Childhood socialization leads to adult character.
  - Learning increases individual and national future progress.
- Some parents decide to homeschool their children because they are concerned with
  - school size.
  - lack of resources.
  - school segregation.
  - academic instruction.
- Which of the following statements is *true*?
  - Improvements in student performance are directly related to religious practice.
  - Religious students from all backgrounds are apt to perform well in school.
  - Intensely religious students do not perform as well on standardized tests.
  - Religious practice only benefits poor students.
- A type of religious organization is a
  - synagogue.
  - mosque.
  - temple.
  - church.
- What is Max Weber's view of religion?
  - Scientific advancement weakens religion.
  - Protestant teachings laid the foundation for capitalism.
  - Religion is a way to unite people and answer questions.
  - Elementary forms of religion express the importance of social groups.

## ESSAY

- What is the hidden curriculum?
- How can a country's socioeconomic status affect education?
- What factors affect educational attainment?
- How do religions become integrated into society?
- How can religion be related to capitalism?

## WHERE TO START YOUR RESEARCH PAPER

To look at more educational statistics, go to <http://nces.ed.gov>  
<http://www.uis.unesco.org>

To learn more about grade inflation, go to <http://www.gradeinflation.com/>

To learn more about homeschooling in the United States, go to <http://www.census.gov/>

To learn more about college costs, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

To learn more about education and religion, go to <http://www.ed.gov/Speeches/04-1995/prayer.html#1>

To learn more about Robert Bellah's views about the United States having a civil religion, go to [http://www.robertbellah.com/articles\\_5.htm](http://www.robertbellah.com/articles_5.htm)

Remember to check [www.thethinkspot.com](http://www.thethinkspot.com) for additional information, downloadable flashcards, and other helpful resources.

ANSWERS: 1. a; 2. d; 3. b; 4. d; 5. b