1. Explain how a recent decision you recently made was affected by a wider social force beyond your control, such as the economy, the legal system, the educational system, or another social institution or cultural pattern, such as expectations about gender.

*Correct answers will specify a decision that the student made, identify a social force that shaped that decision, and explain how that social force shaped the decision.*

1. Describe a real-life case of someone who resisted larger social forces by acting in a way that changed or challenged the social structure they faced. You may write about an example from your own life or an example from history.

*Correct answers will identify a real-life situation, either from their personal life or from history, in which a person resisted the social structure; the student will describe what the social structure was and specify how the action of the individual challenged it.*

1. You are a sociologist who studies immigration. Working from the macrosociological perspective, propose a research question on this topic and describe the methods to investigate the question you propose.

*Correct answers will state a research question about immigration that examines the topic from a macrosociological perspective—that is, focusing on structures, not individuals or small groups. Examples include: “What is the role of warfare in driving people from their nations of origins?” or “Do politicians introduce more restrictive immigration legislation during times of economic downturn?” Correct answers will propose methods that are systematic and social-scientific.*

1. You are a sociologist who studies immigration. Working from the microsociological perspective, propose a research question on this topic and methods to investigate the question you propose.

*Correct answers will state a research question about immigration that examines the topic from a microsociological perspective—that is, focusing on individuals or small groups. Examples include: “What training did recent graduates of a state university’s ESL teaching program receive to help them understand the cultural diversity of the immigrant children they will be teaching?” or “What reasons do members of an anti-immigrant hate group give for their decision to participate in this group?” Correct answers will propose methods that are systematic and social-scientific.*

1. Compare and contrast how a person using a sociological approach and a person relying on everyday knowledge would try to understand how gender roles have changed in the US in the past 50 years.

*Correct answers will stress that sociological approaches are systematic and aim to reduce confirmation bias. Everyday knowledge is haphazard and dependent upon which social phenomena the observer happens to encounter, which itself introduces bias. For example, a sociological researcher would look at data from the BLS to see if a higher percentage of women work outside the home in full-time jobs now than in the past. In contrast, a person making observations from their own life might observe that their mother worked outside the home part-time while their grandmothers didn’t—and that the women of their generation mostly work full-time outside the home.*

1. Why does sociology encompass multiple research methods?

*Correct answers will stress that sociology investigates a wide range of topics—politics, economics, race, gender, religion, sexuality, culture, environmentalism, aging, childhood and adolescence, social problems, and more—and it studies the intersections between different dimensions of social life. Flexible research methods allow sociologists to study these intersections and confront novel problems as they emerge.*

1. The city where you live has money to hire a new employee. Argue for why they should hire a sociologist. Specifically name a public project that would benefit from the insights and skills of a sociologist and explain how employing a sociologist could be helpful.

*Correct answers will identify a social problem, such as environmental degradation, poverty, unemployment, crime, or drug trafficking, that is likely to occur in a city. Sociologists can address these problems by defining them clearly, measuring their scope, identifying their sources, and suggesting policy solutions.*

1. Your local high school is considering adding a sociology requirement for graduation. Argue for this proposal.

*Correct answers will stress information literacy and data literacy and may connect these to future employment, media consumption, political activity, or civic engagement, among other benefits.*

1. How does privilege contribute to the problem of inequality?

*Correct answers will note that privilege rewards those who are already advantaged, drawing resources away from those who are already disadvantaged and thus both advancing the haves and further disadvantaging the have-nots, thus widening the gap between them and contributing to inequality.*

1. Describe an example from the history of a person who worked to change the social structure by exercising contingency.

*Correct answers will detail an event or series of events from the life of a real person. They will describe the social structure the person faced and detail how their choices demonstrated agency that was meant to—even if it did not successfully or thoroughly—create change*