After Hours

Five sociological ideas in one library decision

SS24.S.1b "Identify and explain tenets of sociology, including functional integration, power, social action, social structure, and culture."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in the passage that shows each of these ideas, then label it in the margin: functional integration, power, social action, social structure, and culture.

Who Gets to Stay Late?

1 When a public library extends its evening hours, sociology offers more than one way to study the change. Social structure means the organized roles and rules that shape relationships. The library director sets schedules, librarians manage loans, and visitors follow checkout rules. Culture includes shared values and habits. In this neighborhood, families value quiet study, and teens usually give up seats for older visitors. Social action focuses on what people do and the meanings they give their choices. A teen who stays late to tutor a friend acts partly because helping classmates matters to her.

2 Functional integration examines how parts of a society work together and depend on one another. Longer library hours are possible because a bus route brings visitors, a school tells students about the service, and a city budget pays staff. If the bus stops running before closing time, fewer students can use the extra hours. The library might then adjust its schedule, while the school may look for another place where students can study. This does not mean every part of society benefits equally. It shows that a change in one institution can affect the work of others.

3 Power asks who can make decisions, whose interests count, and who controls resources. At a public meeting, the city council votes on the library budget, but a group of working parents argues for later hours so their children have a safe place to study. The council approves a trial schedule after hearing from both librarians and families. Still, residents who cannot attend evening meetings have less chance to influence the decision. The five ideas connect: rules shape when people can enter, local values shape what they expect, and choices about money affect whether the library can serve them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do social structure and culture explain different parts of what happens at the library? Use one passage detail for each.

2. Why is the teen tutoring a friend an example of social action rather than just an activity?

3. How does the bus route help explain functional integration in the library's extended hours?

4. How does power shape the decision about library hours, and whose influence may be limited?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a school or community event not described in the passage. In one paragraph, explain how functional integration, power, social action, social structure, and culture each shape what happens, using a specific detail for each idea.

After Hours

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in the passage that shows each of these ideas, then label it in the margin: functional integration, power, social action, social structure, and culture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do social structure and culture explain different parts of what happens at the library? Use one passage detail for each.	**Social structure explains organized roles and rules, such as the director setting schedules. Culture explains shared values and habits, such as families valuing quiet study.**
2	Why is the teen tutoring a friend an example of social action rather than just an activity?	**The teen gives her choice a meaning: helping classmates matters to her.**
3	How does the bus route help explain functional integration in the library's extended hours?	**The library depends partly on the bus route to bring visitors. If the bus stops before closing, fewer students can use the extra hours, and the library might change its schedule.**
4	How does power shape the decision about library hours, and whose influence may be limited?	**The city council controls the budget and approves the trial schedule after hearing from librarians and families. Residents who cannot attend evening meetings have less chance to influence the decision.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At our school's weekend repair fair, social structure appears in the rule that student volunteers check in with a teacher before using tools. Culture appears when families share a habit of fixing items instead of throwing them away. Social action appears when Maya teaches a neighbor to mend a jacket because she wants to reduce waste. Functional integration links the event to the school's room schedule, the community tool bank, and the bus route that brings visitors. Power appears when the principal decides which groups can reserve the room, leaving the bike club without a space.

Accept different passage details when the explanation matches the named idea. For Part 3, look for an original event and a distinct, accurate explanation of all five ideas.