Assessment Questions for SOC 150

1. A 6’8” basketball player for the University of Arkansas, sporting collar-length hair and a long drooping mustache, fouled out of three straight games. Before his next one, against Baylor, he decided to trim his hair and shave his mustache. In the Baylor game he was called for only two fouls. Two nights later, against Texas Tech, the neat, trim player played forty minutes and was still around at the end of a 93-91 double-overtime victory that knocked Tech out of the Southwest Conference lead.
   The haircut? The shave?
   “I think they helped,” the player stated. “I hate to say it, but I guess the hairstyle did affect the refs.”
   The paragraph above is an example of which theoretical perspective?

2. We live in a youth oriented society that indoctrinates us with the idea that the elderly are different and inferior to the young. In fact, American society treats the elderly with institutionalized discrimination which in turn benefits youth by making the older population retire before they want to, often refuses to hire them, and pays them less when they do get a job.
   The paragraph above is an example of which theoretical perspective?

3. Religion provides a way for people to deal with the unknown; it supplies some measure of certainty in an uncertain world. It also enables people to adjust to situations by providing a sacred, supernatural being or object to explain the unknowable. Religion provides people with a way of looking at the world by giving meaning to life, and it may also provide solidarity. People with similar beliefs and viewpoints are drawn together and are more unified than those without this common experience.
   The paragraph above is an example of which theoretical perspective?

4. ___________ theorists view society as a working unit, while ___________ theorists see society as comprised of groups competing for scarce resources.
   a. symbolic interactionist – functionalist
   b. functionalist – symbolic interactionist
   c. conflict – functionalist
   d. functionalist – conflict
5. Symbolic interactionists primarily:
   a. see society as composed of various parts, each with a function that contributes to society’s equilibrium.
   b. conduct macro level analyses of society as a whole.
   c. analyze how our definitions of others and ourselves underlie our behaviors.
   d. analyze statistical data to determine its underlying symbolic meaning.

6. The perspective that contends that the competition for power and wealth in society is the cause of social behavior and change is:
   a. material
   b. symbolic interaction
   c. functional
   d. conflict