Revision
Worksheet on Max Weber

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This worksheet relates to the article on Max Weber. If you keep both the article and your answers to the questions, you will have a useful revision guide on Weber for relevant exam questions on sociological theory and methods.

Read the following questions carefully and write reasonably full answers that will make sense to you when you read them later in your course.

Questions

1. With which other ‘founders of sociology’ is Weber associated?
2. In which period did Weber’s main writing take place?
3. Why did Weber believe that Marx’s arguments about the importance of economic features were ‘rather one-sided’?
4. What, apart from economics, did Weber see as important in shaping social life?
5. Why are Weber’s ideas ‘hard to dismiss’?
6. Did Weber believe that social science could show what kind of society would be best?
7. What was Weber’s stance on ‘values’ in sociology?
8. Explain briefly what is meant by ‘objectivity’.
9. At what stage in research did Weber believe that ‘objectivity’ was important?
10. Did Weber accept the idea that there were ‘laws’ in social life?
11. What were Weber’s views on ‘historical events’?
12. What did Weber mean by ‘adequacy at the level of meaning’?
13. What did Weber mean by ‘verstehen’?
14. How did he apply this concept to Calvinism?
15. Explain the difference between theories of ‘structure’ and ‘action’.
16. Did Weber put more emphasis on social structure or social action?
17. In what way did Weber acknowledge ‘social structure’ as important in the context of individual choices?
18. Briefly summarise the differences in the way that Marx and Weber viewed ‘social class’.
19. What did Weber mean by ‘status’?
20 Briefly summarise what is meant by traditional, affective and rational action.

21 What is the link between rational action and secularisation?

22 What is the link between rational action and bureaucracy?

23 Briefly outline the three types of criticism that have been levelled at Weber — about class, rationality and secularisation. (This would be very important for evaluation.)

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