Comprehensive Examination
in
Theory

PART 1

Answer one of the following questions:

1. George Simmel complained of the "one-sidedness of all the great philosophies." Discuss the biases and assumptions of the theories in the major sociological schools of thought. In what ways are they flawed as a consequence of the social contexts in which they were constructed?

2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of focusing on global structures such as capitalism or the world system, rather than on the meaning of individual action in understanding social change. Use both classical theories and contemporary ones to illustrate the different approaches.