

Study Questions
Week 4

- (1) What does the term *empirical* refer to? How does this concept relate to sociology?
- (2) What did Max Weber mean by *inconvenient facts*? Why are they inconvenient?
- (3) What is meant by the term *ethnocentrism*? Does ethnocentrism apply only to foreigners?
- (4) What are some indicators that suggest ethnocentric attitudes? What are some positive and negative consequences of ethnocentrism?
- (5) What does the term *culture shock* mean? Under what circumstances is one likely to experience culture shock? How would one know that she is experiencing culture shock?
- (6) Explain how a social scientist might address the issue of ethnocentrism in his own work.
- (7) What is meant by *cultural context*? How does cultural context affect behavior?
- (8) What does the Hacker reading tell you about the cultural context of the United States today? How does this context differ by social class?
- (9) How does the cultural context differ in rich and poor countries? What values are expressed in each context?
- (10) McIntyre notes that sociology may make those unwilling to question authority uncomfortable. Does modernization therefore make people more accepting of sociology's lessons?