Study Questions, Week 4

*Topic for the Week:* Socialization

*Readings for the Week:*

*Society: The Basics*, Chapter 3

*Sociological Footprints*, Chapters 6 & 10

*Questions:*

1. Sociologists sometimes say “society makes us human.” Explain what this means. What types of evidence and examples can we draw upon to understand this notion?

2. What might happen to a child that lacks contact with other humans at early ages? Can such children be considered “human?”

3. Identify the contributions of the following theorists to our understanding of processes of socialization:
   - Sigmund Freud
   - Jean Piaget
   - Lawrence Kohlberg
   - Carol Gilligan
   - George Herbert Mead
   - Erik Erikson

4. Explain how each of the following might contribute to Bill’s socialization:
   - Bill’s parents
   - Bill’s elementary school teachers
   - Bill’s childhood friends
   - Bill’s university professors
   - The mass media

5. Are the effects of our childhood (primary) socialization locked in? What evidence can you cite to support your response?

6. Explain how perceptions of what is normal affect socialization at different stages of the life course.

7. What is the product of socialization?

8. What is a *total institution*? Do you believe total institutions can be effective agents of resocialization? Why or why not? Support your response with evidence.
(10) Define the following terms:

socialization  behaviorism       ageism  cohort
personality     hidden curriculum gerontocracy  resocialization

(11) What was unusual about the lives of Anna and Isabelle, as described in the article by Kingsley Davis? What can this article teach us about socialization?

(12) Why are eating disorders more common in females than in males? Identify several agents of socialization that contribute to eating disorders, and for each, explain the processes through which socialization occurs.