**Discussion Questions**

**Chapter 2**

1. If you were to examine the relationship between the government and the economy in the United States today, which of the four major theoretical perspectives outlined in the chapter would be most helpful? Why?
2. Imagine you would like to conduct a sociological study of the students with whom you attended the fourth grade, to determine what key factors influenced their academic achievements. Which of the four major theo­retical perspectives would you employ in your study? Why?
3. Why do research questions have to be asked in a pre­cise way? Give an example of a precise research ques­tion. How do precise questions make it possible for you to test and measure your topic?
4. Sociologists must be continually open to having their findings reexamined and new interpretations pro­posed. Describe a time when you changed your mind due to new information. Was it difficult for you to change your mind? Why or why not?
5. Why is the ability to be open to new ideas and inter­pretations so vital to the scientific perspective? Do you think you could carry this aspect of the scientific pro­cess out successfully—no matter how you feel about a topic? Why or why not?
6. If you were to conduct a study to measure student satisfaction with a particular academic department on campus, what research method(s) would you use? Why? How would the method(s) you select vary according to (a) the size of the department and (b) the type of information you sought?