## **TOPIC: HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY**

◆ Sociology began incentury Europe, where society was undergoing rapid changes:		
Industrial Revolution	Urbanization	Political Changes
People began working away from home.	▶ People forced to move to cities for work.	▶ belief in divine right of kings.
Economic inequality	► social probems (disease,	• focus on self-interest, personal
► Traditions	pollution, crime, homelessness).	liberty, and individual rights.
<ul> <li>The first sociologist was French philosopher Auguste Comte (1798 – 1857).</li> <li>Positivism: The scientific study of social patterns, based on rather than philosophical speculation.</li> <li>Comte believed that society operates on (similar to physics).</li> <li>Ex: The Law of Three Stages → argues that human society evolved in 3 distinct stages:</li> </ul>		
1	2	3
The slewing l Change	Metaphysical Stage	Scientific Stage

Beginning of human history

European Middle Ages Ended 14<sup>th</sup> Century

**Theological Stage** 

Society viewed as an

expression of God's will.

The Renaissance Began 14-16<sup>th</sup> Century

Society viewed as the product of human

nature. Influenced by philosophers like

Locke, Rousseau, & Hobbes.

The Enlightenment Began 17-18<sup>th</sup> Century

Scientific approach to understanding

the world. Influenced by work of

Copernicus, Galileo, & Newton.

## **EXAMPLE**

Which of the following statements best represents Comte's goal?

- a) Comte wanted to explain how individual emotions and cognitions shape society.
- b) Comte wanted to study the rise and fall of religious institutions.
- c) Comte wanted to use scientific principles to study society.
- d) Comte wanted to create a classification system for different cultures.

## **PRACTICE**

Which famous sociologist is considered to be the founder of sociology?

a) Karl Marx

c) Max Weber

b) Auguste Comte

d) Émile Durkheim