

# **Introduction to Sociology**

## **Chapter 6: Groups**

### **Study Guide**

1. How does the division of labor in a bureaucracy allow an individual to become an expert in a limited area?
2. The chapter states that authority is the legitimate or socially approved use of power. Do you think this means that the use of authority is always moral? Why or why not? Give an example to support your answer.
3. Why can it be said that bureaucracies are actually designed to protect the rights of the individual?
4. Do you agree with Robert Michels's "iron law of oligarchy"? Why or why not?
5. How do you think groupthink might affect the verdict of juries in a court case?
6. What do you think might happen if a formal organization did not have a hierarchy of authority?
7. Sometimes it is difficult to determine the difference between coercion and cooperation. In fact, two people can see the same situation in an entirely different light. Think of a situation that one person may think is coercive while another might think it shows cooperation.
8. The chapter describes a social network as being a "web." Do you think the term "web" is an accurate term when describing this type of structure? Why or why not?
9. What does it mean to say that social exchange is based on the concept of reciprocity?
10. Why is it important to members of an in-group to also have an out-group?
11. Why do you think so many people dislike bureaucracies?
12. Using specific examples, define primary and secondary groups. Contrast their respective functions.
13. List examples of contemporary formal organizations and identify the probable goals of each.
14. Explain Max Weber's analysis of the nature of bureaucracy.