



MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO

FUNDAÇÃO JOAQUIM NABUCO

Diretoria de Formação e Desenvolvimento Profissional

Rua Henrique Dias, 609 | Derby | 50010100 | Recife - PE

Fone: (81) 3073.6706 | Fax: (81) 3073.6561 | CNPJ: 09.773.169/0001-59

www.fundaj.gov.br | formacao@fundaj.gov.br

PROVA DE CONHECIMENTO DE LÍNGUA INGLESA

Read the excerpt below, taken from Charles Wright Mills's "The Sociological Imagination" (1959). You will find a few questions below which you may choose to answer in Portuguese. This choice will in no way affect your final mark.

The sociological imagination enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of a variety of individuals. It enables him to take into account how individuals, in the welter of their daily experience, often become falsely conscious of their social positions. Within that welter, the framework of modern society is sought, and within that framework the psychologies of a variety of men and women are formulated. By such means the personal uneasiness of individuals is focused upon explicit troubles and the indifference of publics is transformed into involvement with public issues.

The first fruit of this imagination – and the first lesson of the social science that embodies it - is the idea that the individual can understand her own experience and gauge her own fate only by locating herself within her period, that she can know her own chances in life only by becoming aware of those of all individuals in her circumstances. In many ways it is a terrible lesson; in many ways a magnificent one. We do not know the limits of humans' capacities for supreme effort or willing degradation, for agony or glee, for pleasurable brutality or the sweetness of reason. But in our time we have come to know that the limits of 'human nature' are frighteningly broad. We have come to know that every individual lives, from one generation to the next, in some society; that he lives out a biography, and lives it out within some historical sequence. By the fact of this living, he contributes, however minutely, to the shaping of this society and to the course of its history, even as he is made by society and by its historical push and shove.

(...)

What we experience in various and specific milieus, I have noted, is often caused by structural changes. Accordingly, to understand the changes of many personal milieus we are required to look beyond them. And the number and variety of such structural changes increase as the institutions within which we live become more embracing and more intricately connected with one another. To be aware of the idea of social structure and to use it with sensibility is to be capable of tracing such linkages among a great variety of milieus. To be able to do that is to possess the sociological imagination.



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1. Choose one of the three paragraphs above and provide a translation into Portuguese.
2. Answer the following three questions based on the elements provided in the quoted paragraphs.

~~You have a limit of 100 words for each answer.~~

- a) What does Mills mean by sociological imagination?
- b) How does Mills understand the relationship between the individual and her circumstances?
- c) What does the idea of social structure enables us to do, according to Mills?