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Critical Thinking #2- Question 3

The book *Ten Questions: A Sociological Perspective* investigates the power of society over human thinking and actions. Within chapter 5, Joel M. Charon explores whether free thought is necessary for free action. Charon's perspectives are based on his studies within psychology and sociology. He believes that freedom is important for society to obtain and maintain. Society establishes who we are as individuals such as our language, selfhood and our minds are all included within our frames of freedom. Charon is sure that it is hopeless for humans to be free, it cannot be proved through evidence or reasoning. He also states there is no absolute freedom for anyone, though there are limited levels some are freer than others. There are two types of freedoms such as freedom of thought and of action (p96).

Charon defines freedom as a person's authority over their own choices. To be free we are considered active and not passive. An active mind is one who directs themselves and acts in their own life and decisions. Those who are aware of what is going on in the world and do not assume what is going on around them but is sure of it. A passive mindset is one who thinks they know mostly everything (p 95). Being a free thinker can be described as a nonconformist. Charon explains freedom has much to do with the way an individual thinks, we control our behavior through thinking. This is where our choices stem from. Our experiences play a role as well our previous actions. When we act without thinking we are abandoning our own freedom. However, when thinking becomes revolved around other limitations or ideas and beliefs' we limit

ourselves. When society shapes our goals, morals, and outlook, we become subjected to being controlled by others (p99).

Action is described as a movement within the environment or society that we take on within different situations. Charon explains unless we have full freedom, we will always be dictated as to what decisions we make in society. For example, if one should want to go without clothing, unfortunately in society there are boundaries and consequences for their actions. Our freedom being limited on all levels can include political, personal, and religious. Deciding who we will become in society will be the easy part in our lives until we realize the type of education that is needed as well, the financial aspect that plays a role. We must consider our abilities and ask ourselves do they match our goals and desires. We cannot accomplish our goals without effort, hard work and clear decision making (p99).

When we consider the thought and the belief of God, we come to ask has this been passed down or is this a belief of our own? Does God truly reveal Himself to a person or is this the influence of the church I we grew up in? As Charon explains it is fine to believe in different ideals and have faith, but it is another to be highly influenced by the falsehood of other opinions and experiences. The media plays a large role in what we believe also, peers, family, and our communities. It is important we look at reality and consider the sources. We should interpret, debate, and critically think on certain subjects within society. Its crucial we investigate the information we are given through newspapers, books, and media. By making assessments we can establish our own free thinking as opposed to what is being fed to us (p101).

I personally agree free thought is necessary for free action. When we live as a free thinker in society, we reject opinions and establish our own thinking and doing. We form opinions off reason and those reasons will be applied to our personal lives and set us apart from following the

crowd and society. We gain a certain level of independence and though we maybe led to form certain ideas, our free thinking will always challenge us to consider the odds in any situation. As a free thinker I understand my thinking is not limited within society but as a believer of Jesus Christ I realize I have been set certain boundaries by God. Though I am given free will and the mind to make choices within my life, I realize I am conflicted with certain choices and there are sometimes difficult outcomes based on the decisions I make.

The actions we take can affect us in the moment as well long term. For example, it is easy for a person in the American society to obtain credit and shop to purchase material items. Eventually if this individual does not think to be responsible and pay that credit card, they will have to pay high interest rates and, in the end, create a debt they will be stuck with. This debt can hinder them from obtaining other credit cards, and even lower their credit score. Thus, creating a hardship and someday down the line challenge them to gain a home, business, and vehicles. This lack of thinking without action can lead to trials in the long run.

When we consider free thought we know different organizations in society develop our thinking. It is important to surround ourselves with others who seek deeper understanding. It is imperative to our growth in American society, as well to obtain other sources of information besides just one. We can analyze past truths, current events as well what and whom we are surrounded by to play important roles in our free thinking and the actions followed behind them. As individuals it is key to understand what our values and goals are within society, this will also play a major role into our thinking and actions as we move forward into our positions within society.