

Chapter 1: Diversity in the United States: Questions and Concepts

Multiple Choice

1. The fastest growing groups in the United States are:

- *A) Asian and Pacific Islanders
- B) Non-Hispanic white Americans
- C) Irish Americans
- D) African Americans
- E) Africans

2. The population of the United States is currently:

- A) Affected by long-standing unresolved minority issues
- B) Affected by rising immigration rates
- C) Increasingly diverse
- D) Increasingly multilingual
- *E) All of the above

3. Which of the following is NOT one of the defining characteristics of a minority group?

- A) Inequality
- B) A pattern of disadvantage or inequality
- C) Visible identifying traits or characteristics
- *D) Small group size
- E) Usually determined by birth

4. By definition, a minority group is always a group:

- A) Smaller in number than the dominant group
- B) Residentially segregated from the dominant group
- *C) Singled out for differential and unequal treatment
- D) Distinguishable from the dominant group by its racial characteristics
- E) Distinguished from the dominant group by its ethnic origins

5. Which of the following would be classified as primarily an ethnic minority group?

- A) African Americans
- B) Native Americans
- *C) Jewish Americans
- D) Asian Americans
- E) None of the above

6. The social or physical characteristics that mark the boundaries between groups are usually:

- *A) Highly visible
- B) Selected by the minority groups themselves
- C) Scientifically significant
- D) Selected for their biological importance
- E) All of the above

7. Which of the following is NOT an example of a cultural trait that may be associated with minority status?

- A) Language
- *B) Facial features
- C) Religion
- D) Types of foods eaten
- E) Speech patterns

8. Which of the following characteristics is NOT typical of ascribed status?

- A) It is usually acquired at birth
- B) It typically cannot be changed easily
- C) It is usually involuntary
- *D) It can be altered through hard work and motivation
- E) It is usually for life

9. Laws on miscegenation referred to laws that:

- A) Prevented people from passing as members of another race
- B) Prevented people of different races from eating together in public restaurants
- *C) Prevented members of different races from intermarrying
- D) Prevented members of different races from going to the same schools
- E) Prevented members of the same sex from marrying

10. Stratification is another term for:

- A) Prejudice
- B) Discrimination
- *C) The unequal distribution of valued goods and services
- D) Status symbol
- E) All of the above

11. Marxism is a complex theory of history and social change in which _____ is a central concept of concern.

- *A) Inequality
- B) Prejudice
- C) Fame or respect

- D) International war
- E) Consensus

12. "The most important source of inequality arises from a person's relationship to the means of production." This statement is most likely to be heard from a:

- A) Capitalist
- B) Weberian
- C) Libertarian
- *D) Marxist
- E) Republican

13. According to Marx, the means of production in an agricultural society would include:

- A) Factories
- B) Social class
- C) Wealth
- *D) Land
- E) Banks

14. In Marxist terms, the elite class in an industrial society would be the:

- *A) Bourgeoisie
- B) Proletariat
- C) Workers
- D) Minority groups
- E) Women

15. Max Weber thought that Marx's ideas about inequality were too:

- *A) Narrow
- B) Optimistic
- C) Complex
- D) Abstract
- E) Pessimistic

16. In opposition to Marx, Weber argued that there are _____ dimensions of inequality.

- A) One
- B) Two
- *C) Three
- D) Four
- E) Dozens

17. Gerhard Lenski is important because he linked the nature of inequality to the _____ of a society.
- A) Group structure
 - B) Amount of prestige
 - C) Wealth
 - *D) Level of development
 - E) Castes
18. According to Lenski, inequality in an agricultural society centers on control of:
- A) Education opportunities
 - B) Factories and mines
 - C) Colleges and universities
 - *D) Land and labor
 - E) Status and prestige
19. Which of the following individuals is most closely associated with the concept of a "matrix of domination"?
- A) Muzafer Sherif
 - *B) Patricia Hill Collins
 - C) Gerhard Lenski
 - D) Gunnar Myrdal
 - E) none of the above
20. Variations in human skin color:
- *A) Balance the dangers of exposure to sunlight with the need for vitamin D
 - B) Have no relationship to climate or geography
 - C) Are inversely related to the concentration of melanin: the greater the melanin, the lighter the skin
 - D) Are related to the distance from the equator: the closer to the equator, the lighter the skin
 - E) Have clear and definite points of demarcation
21. Women can be viewed as a minority group because:
- A) There are fewer women than men in the United States
 - B) They are physically identifiable as different from men
 - C) They have a consciousness of being "inferior" to men
 - D) They have less property, prestige, and power in our society
 - *E) Both b and d
22. An important trend in recent research on American minority groups is to consider _____ as an important factor in shaping the experiences of minority group members.
- A) Age

- B) Education
- C) Religion
- *D) Gender
- E) Sexual preference

23. The thinking aspect of prejudice is called the:

- A) Affective prejudice
- B) Emotional prejudice
- C) Behavioral prejudice
- *D) Cognitive prejudice
- E) Racist prejudice

24. Which of the following is NOT an example of affective prejudice?

- A) Fear and anger
- *B) Overgeneralization about a group
- C) Repulsion and hatred
- D) Contempt
- E) Distrust

25. The concept of social distance best reflects:

- A) Stereotypes
- B) Prejudice
- C) Economic factors
- D) How close we stand near to a person from another culture
- *E) The degree of intimacy we are willing to accept in his/her relations with members of other groups

26. A person refuses to hire a Mexican American. This is an example of:

- A) Prejudice
- B) Institutional discrimination
- *C) Individual discrimination
- D) Legal discrimination
- E) Prejudice leading to institutional discrimination

27. The Robber's Cave experiment supports the idea that prejudice can be caused by:

- A) Lax supervision of young people
- B) Extremely strict rules and regulations
- C) Conflict situations between groups
- *D) Competition
- E) Conflict between individuals

28. When entire groups are treated unfairly and unequally in the institutions of the larger society, this is called:

- *A) Institutional discrimination
- B) Prejudice
- C) Racism
- D) Society prejudice
- E) Personal discrimination

29. Michelle is a poor African American woman. Her race, class, and gender may combine to produce a unique kind of inequality. The concept that describes this phenomenon is known as:

- *A) Matrix of domination
- B) Marx's class oppression
- C) Minority group
- D) Triple discrimination
- E) Triple melting pot

30. Which of the following social thinkers argued that the most important source of inequality in society was the system of economic production?

- A) Emile Durkheim
- B) Auguste Comte
- *C) Karl Marx
- D) Max Weber
- E) Talcott Parsons

31. _Bogardus (1933) specified seven degrees of social distance. Which of the following is not one of these seven degrees?

- A) To close kinship by marriage
- B) To employment in my occupation
- C) To my club as personal chums
- D) To my street as neighbors
- *E) To my school as teachers

32. Prejudice and racism come to us through our _____ as package of stereotypes, emotions, and ideas.

- *A) cultural heritage
- B) racial heritage
- C) genetic inheritance
- D) biological imperative
- E) historical underpinnings

33. Research indicates that we generally become aware of group differences at what age?

- *A) As early as six months old
- B) When we enter elementary school
- C) As pre-adolescents
- D) When we enter high school
- E) As we enter adulthood

34. The new form of prejudice that is often expressed in seemingly neutral language is known as:

- A) new millennium racism
- B) blatant racism
- *C) modern racism
- D) status quo racism
- E) overt racism

35. The U.S. concept of race has its origins in

- A) Sub-Saharan Africa
- *B) Western Europe
- C) Native American lands
- D) the antebellum South
- E) Latin America

36. Which of the following states currently has a "majority-minority" population?

- A) Alabama
- B) Colorado
- C) Illinois
- D) New Jersey
- *E) Texas

37. It is projected that Non-Hispanic whites will cease to be a numerical majority by the year:

- A) 2020
- B) 2035
- *C) 2050
- D) 2070
- E) 2085

38. Which of the following is NOT a reason that group names have shortcomings, according to the textbook?

- A) Members of the group may have little in common with each other
- B) People do not necessarily use these labels when they think about themselves
- C) There is no clear placement for some groups within the current naming system
- *D) The names used are inherently racist

E) There is no clear placement for people who are members of more than one group within the current naming system

39. What percentage of the U.S. population is projected to identify as more than one race by 2050?

- A) 2%
- B) 13%
- *C) 21%
- D) 39%
- E) 52%

40. Which of the following would be classified as primarily an racial minority group?

- *A) African Americans
- B) Native Americans
- C) Jewish Americans
- D) Irish Americans
- E) None of the above

41. Recent advances in genetic research shows that

- A) there is less genetic variation within traditional racial groups than between groups
- B) there is an equal amount of genetic variation between and within traditional racial groups
- C) biology matters much more in thinking about race than previously known
- D) it is possible to group people in discrete and homogenous racial categories
- *E) there is more genetic variation within traditional racial groups than between groups

True/False

42. Over the past three decades, the number of immigrants arriving in the United States each year has significantly increased.

- *A) True
- B) False

43. Minority groups are disadvantaged usually as the result of the actions of another group or groups who benefit from the arrangement.

- *A) True
- B) False

44. The awareness of minority group members of their differentiation from the dominant group provides the basis for strong bonds and a sense of group solidarity.

*A) True

B) False

45. Interracial marriages were illegal in some states in the United States until the late 1960s.

*A) True

B) False

46. Marx believed that the ultimate result of class struggle would be the victory of the working class and a classless society.

*A) True

B) False

47. Marxism as a theory has been totally disproved and is no longer important as a source of insight into group relations.

A) True

*B) False

48. Max Weber distinguished three different sources of stratification in society.

*A) True

B) False

49. According to the text, Max Weber thought it was important to analyze stratification within the level of development of a society such as whether it is an agricultural or post-industrial society.

A) True

*B) False

50. In the United States, minority group status has been and continues to be one of the most important determinants of life chances.

*A) True

B) False

51. The major limitation of racial typologies is that they cannot provide clear dividing lines between racial groups.

*A) True

B) False

52. Jane is prejudiced if she treats a person in a negative way because of that person's membership in a particular group.

- A) True
- *B) False

53. Prejudice has at least two dimensions: an affective or “emotional” dimension and a cognitive or “thinking” dimension.

- *A) True
- B) False

54. Stereotypes are central to the affective dimension of prejudice.

- *A) True
- B) False

55. Research using social distance scales demonstrates that Americans rank other groups in similar ways across time and space.

- *A) True
- B) False

56. Discrimination and prejudice do not necessarily occur together.

- *A) True
- B) False

57. Ideological racism is a belief system that asserts that a particular group is inferior.

- *A) True
- B) False

58. Ideological racism is the societal equivalent to individual discrimination.

- A) True
- *B) False

59. Institutional discrimination is always obvious, overt, and consciously intended.

- *A) True
- B) False

60. The most important characteristic of a subordinate minority group is that a more powerful group dominates it.

- *A) True
- B) False

61. Unlike race, gender has both a biological and a social component.

A) True

*B) False

62. The state laws against miscegenation were declared unconstitutional in the late 1960s.

*A) True

B) False

63. According to the latest U.S. census, about 20% of the population is “mixed.”

A) True

*B) False

64. Marx expanded Weber’s view of inequality by identifying three separate stratification systems.

A) True

*B) False

65. The skin color of any group balances the need for vitamin D and the need for melanin to protect against UV rays.

*A) True

B) False

66. The trait that identifies minority group membership is an achieved status, and minority group status usually is involuntary and for life.

A) True

*B) False

67. There are no internal divisions, such as those based on class, power, race, or ethnicity, among members of the same minority group.

A) True

*B) False

68. Members of different groups in the United States evaluate political and other important decisions in different ways.

*A) True

B) False

69. Research shows that prejudice and racism have largely disappeared.

- A) True
- *B) False

70. Group relations in the U.S. are shaped by economic, social, and political forces beyond our borders.

- *A) True
- B) False

71. Racial and ethnic labels are always accurate labels for how members of those groups view themselves.

- A) True
- *B) False

Essay

72. What is a minority group? Cite and explain the defining characteristics, paying special attention to “patterns of disability and disadvantage” and “visible characteristics.” By this definition, are women a minority group? Why or why not? How about left-handed people? Americans with disabilities? Gay and lesbian Americans? Could these groups be defined as minority groups? Justify your decision.

Ans) Varies

73. “History generally has been and is written from the standpoint of the ‘winners.’” Explain this statement and provide detailed examples to support your essay.

Ans) Varies

74. Explain what is meant by stratification. Summarize some of the important theories regarding the nature of stratification. Why is stratification an important concept in the study of minority groups? What are the significant connections between stratification and minority group status?

Ans) Varies

75. “If people would just change their attitudes about minorities then would discrimination be a thing of the past.” Using concepts from your reading, explain why ending individual prejudice would not end racial inequality in society.

Ans) Varies

76. What is the “competition” approach to prejudice? What explanations of prejudice are included? What significant research has been conducted in this tradition, and what evidence has been established in support of these theories? What are the strengths and limitations of these theories?

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Ans) Varies

77. Explain the distinctions found within the approaches to inequality offered by Marx, Weber, Lenski, and Hill Collins.

Ans) Varies

78. Using concepts from your reading, explain why differences in skin color appear among human populations.

Ans) Varies

79. Explain what is meant when sociologists discuss statuses such as race and gender as social constructions. Use specific and detailed examples from the readings to support your answer.

Ans) Varies

80. What is meant by the concept of modern racism? How does that concept differ from traditional or old-fashioned racism? What makes modern racism racist?

Ans) Varies