**Chapter 1 – Exploring Race and Ethnicity**

Multiple Choice Questions

# 1. In sociology, minority refers to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group.

a. dominant

b. subordinate

c. ruling

d. sovereign

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: Ranking Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Easy

2. Which of the following statements is true of gender groups?

a. Women are physically indistinguishable.

b. Membership in gender groups is involuntary.

c. Men are lowered to the position of the social minority.

d. Women encounter prejudice and discrimination.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

3. The sociohistorical process by which racial categories are created, inhabited, transformed, and destroyed is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. racial formation

b. ethnocentrism

c. stratification

d. racial labeling

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Race as a Social Construction

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Easy

4. The racial and ethnic landscape is subject to change and different interpretations because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. it is constructed socially

b. it is conceived naturally

c. it is culturally homogeneous

d. it stagnates racial formation

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Biracial and Multiracial Identity: Who Am I?

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

5. The conflict perspective is viewed as more radical and activist than functionalism because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. conflict theorists overlook economic disparity

b. conflict theorists emphasize social change

c. conflict theorists consider the redistribution of resources as unimportant

d. conflict theorists underline social stability

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

6. According to the spectrum of intergroup status, which of the following relationships is largely unacceptable to the subordinate group?􀀪􀀯􀀼􀀃􀀸􀀱􀀤􀀦􀀦􀀨􀀳􀀷􀀤􀀥􀀯􀀨

a. fusion

b. assimilation

c. pluralism

d. extermination

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain how subordinate groups are created.

Topic: The Spectrum of Intergroup Status

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ occurs when a minority and a majority group combine to form a new group.

a. Expulsion

b. Fusion

c. Annihilation

d. Segregation

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Fusion

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

8. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a subordinate group whose members have significantly less control or power over their own lives than do members of a dominant group.

a. minority group

b. governing group

c. stratified group

d. elite group

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: How are we Grouped?

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

9. Which of the following sentences best represents the sociological concept of minority?

a. a group that experiences a narrowing of life’s opportunities

b. a group that consists less than 50 percent of the population

c. a condition defined exclusively in terms of physical traits

d. a condition that does not have negative effects in a democracy

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: How are we grouped?

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

10. Which of the following is a characteristic of a minority or subordinate group?

a. voluntary membership

b. broad spectrum of life’s opportunities

c. unequal treatment

d. unawareness of subordination

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: How are we grouped?

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

11. Membership in a dominant or minority group is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. a personal choice

b. not voluntary

c. not mandatory

d. discretionary

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

12. Members of a minority or subordinate group \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. generally marry outside their group

b. become a part of the group voluntarily

c. are political equals of the majority group

d. have distinguishing cultural characteristics

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

13. Which of the following is a reason for members of a subordinategroup generally marrying within their group? a. Members of a subordinate group stand to gain economically by marrying within their own group.

b. Members of a subordinate group have a strong sense of group solidarity that discourages marriage to outsiders.

c. It is considered illegal for subordinate group members and dominant group members to marry.

d. The voting rights of members of a subordinate group will be revoked if they marry outside their group.

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

14. The term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is reserved for minorities and the corresponding majorities that are socially set apart because of obvious physical differences.

a. racial group

b. ethnic group

c. economic group

d. religious group

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

15. In the United States, people have traditionally classified themselves racially as either \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Protestant or Catholic

b. Democrat or Republican

c. Black or White

d. American or Hispanic

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

16. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are set apart from others because of their national origin or distinctive cultural patterns.

a. Gender groups

b. Ethnic groups

c. Racial groups

d. Formal groups

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

17. Which of the following factors distinguishes ethnic minority groups from the dominant group?

a. skin color

b. religion

c. language

d. physical feature

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

# 18. Ricardo is a White Hispanic residing in the United States. He speaks Spanish and strictly follows a vegetarian diet. Having been brought up in a conservative family, he believes in the sanctity of marriage. He strongly supports the idea that a person should be only with one partner throughout his or her life. His ideologies differentiate him from the dominant population. In this scenario, it is most likely that Ricardo belongs to a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. racial group

b. ethnic group

c. religious group

d. gender group

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty: Difficult

19. The cultural traits that make groups distinctive usually originate from their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. religious faiths

b. physical attributes

c. preferences

d. homelands

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

20. In 1900, African American sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois called attention to the overwhelming importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throughout the world.

a. the class structure

b. the color line

c. cultural diversity

d. globalization

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

21. Sociologists consider Jewish Americans as an ethnic group because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. culture is a more defining trait for them worldwide than is religious doctrine

b. they share a religious orientation that goes beyond their cultural tradition

c. they are a religious minority in the United States

d. Christianity is the dominant religious tradition in the United States

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups

Topic: Types of Minority Groups

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

22. The concept of race is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. ascertained by blood type

b. based on economic differences

c. culturally determined

d. socially constructed

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.2 Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: The Social Construction of Race

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

23. The idea of biological race is based on the mistaken notion of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. genetically isolated human group

b. variation in skin color

c. level of physical attractiveness

d. distinctive cultural pattern

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.2 Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Biological Meaning

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

24. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the ratio of a person’s mental age to his or her chronological age, multiplied by 100, with 100 representing average intelligence and higher scores representing greater intelligence.

a. Emotional intelligence appraisal

b. Malleability of intelligence

c. Intelligence quotient

d. Spiritual intelligence

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Biological Meaning

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

25. Recent research shows that differences in intelligence scores between Blacks and Whites are almost eliminated when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. they take the exam in a familiar environment

b. adjustments are made for social and economic characteristics

c. spelling and grammatical mistakes are not taken into account

d. Blacks are given additional time to complete the test

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.2 Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Biological Meaning

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

26. *The Bell Curve* presented the research of Herrnstein and Murray on the IQ, where they claimed that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* 1. 60 percent of IQ is inheritable
  2. IQ is independent of one’s cultural heritage
  3. Whites and Blacks have similar IQ levels
  4. women have higher IQ than men

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.2 Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Biological Meaning

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

27. When belief in the inheritance of behavior patterns is coupled with the feeling that certain groups are inherently superior to others, it is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. racism
2. pacifism
3. socialism
4. altruism

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Race as a Social Construction

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

28. The development of solidarity between ethnic subgroups is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. ethnocentrism

b. marginality

c. familism

d. panethnicity

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race

Topic: Biracial and Multiracial Identity: Who Am I?

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

29. Which of the following statements best defines marginality?

a. the social ranking of people in a country

b. the status of being between two cultures

c. the process of transformation of racial categories

d. the development of solidarity between ethnic subgroups

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race

Topic: Biracial and Multiracial Identity

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

30. The structured ranking of entire groups of people that perpetuates unequal rewards and power in a society is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. emigration

b. stratification

c. marginalization

d. amalgamation

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Stratification by Class and Gender

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

31. According to sociologist Max Weber’s classic definition, class refers to social ranking of people who share \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. related cultural values

b. similar perspectives

c. similar wealth

d. similar physical characteristics

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Stratification by Class and Gender

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

32. Which of the following theoretical perspectives emphasizes how the parts of society are structured to maintain its stability?

a. conflict perspective

b. functionalist perspective

c. macro-sociological perspective

d. labeling perspective

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

33. Which of the following perspectives on race and ethnicity tends to emphasize group tensions between the privileged and the exploited?a. conflict perspective

b. labeling perspective

c. ethnocentric perspective

d. functionalist perspective

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

34. William Ryan’s phrase “blaming the victim” refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. the dominance of the minority group over the racial majority

b. the efforts undertaken by society to protect racial and ethnic minorities

c. criticisms made by dominant groups against the government

d. the portrayal of the problems of racial and ethnic minorities as their fault

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

35. Which of the following theories explains why certain people are viewed as deviant and others engaging in the same behavior as not deviant?

a. ethnocentric theory

b. functionalist theory

c. labeling theory

d. contact theory

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

36. Unreliable generalizations about all members of a group that do not take individual differences into account are known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. equities

b. pluralities

c. scapegoats

d. stereotypes

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

37. In certain situations, an individual may respond to stereotypes and act on them, with the result that false definitions become accurate. This is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. ethnic cleansing

b. the melting pot metaphor

c. a self-fulfilling prophecy

d. segmented assimilation

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

38. Which of the following terms describes leaving a country to settle in another?

a. emigration

b. immigration

c. naturalization

d. amalgamation

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain how subordinate groups are created.

Topic: Migration

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

39. The worldwide integration of government policies, cultures, social movements, and financial markets through trade and the exchange of ideas is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. communization

b. privatization

c. globalization

d. nationalization

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain how subordinate groups are created.

Topic: Migration

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

40. When annexation occurs, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. the subordinate group is completely evicted from a nation

b. nations seek a separate land particularly after devastation caused by a war

c. the dominant power generally suppresses the language and culture of the minority

d. the minority accepts the culture of the dominant group and loses its cultural integrity

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain how subordinate groups are created.

Topic: Annexation

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

41. The maintenance of political, social, economic, and cultural dominance over people by a foreign power for an extended period of time is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. republicanism

b. altruism

c. ethnocentrism

d. colonialism

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain how subordinate groups are created.

Topic: Colonialism

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

42. Which of the following statements is true of colonialism?

a. Colonialism is not a rule by outsiders but rather a rule by a nation’s inside forces.

b. Colonialism extends usually for a short duration and does not include long-standing control.

c. Colonialism does not involve actual incorporation into the dominant people’s nation.

d. Colonial subjects are generally not limited to menial jobs.

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain how subordinate groups are created

Topic: Colonialism

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

43. According to the spectrum of intergroup status, which of the following relationships is more tolerant to the subordinate group?

a. secession

b. expulsion

c. pluralism

d. extermination

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.4: Explain how subordinate groups are created.

Topic: Spectrum of Intergroup Status

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

44. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.

a. Bisho massacre

b. Holocaust

c. Zionism

d. Apartheid

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Extermination

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

45. The term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to the forced deportation of people, accompanied by systematic violence including death.

a. apartheid

b. segmented assimilation

c. ethnic cleansing

d. fusion

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.5 Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Extermination

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

46. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ occurs when a specific subordinate group is forced by dominant groups to leave certain areas or even vacate a country.

a. Expulsion

b. Extermination

c. Segregation

d. Secession

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Extermination

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

47. Secession is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. the physical separation of two groups in residence, workplace, and social functions

b. the withdrawal of a group of people from a dominant group to establish a new nation

c. the eviction of a specific subordinate group from certain areas or even a nation

d. the deliberate, systematic killing of an entire population or people

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Secession

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

48. Which of the following terms refers to the physical separation of two groups of people in terms of residence, workplace, and social functions?a. assimilation

b. amalgamation

c. segregation

d. pluralism

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Segregation

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

49. Which of the following statements is true of segregation?

a. Generally, the dominant group imposes segregation on a subordinate group.

b. Intergroup contact is highly unlikely to occur in most segregated societies.

c. Complete segregation is a frequent phenomenon.

d. Segregation by race, ethnicity, and religion occurs solely in the U.S.

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Segregation

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

50. The physical separation of racial and ethnic groups reappearing after a period of relative integration is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. resegregation
2. recession
3. transitional segregation
4. desegregation

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Segregation

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

51. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came to mean a policy of separate development devised by the Whites to deal with the multiracial population in South Africa.

a. Holocaust

b. Apartheid

c. Genocide

d. White flight

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Segregation

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

52. In the context of consequences of subordinate-group status, what does D represent in the equation A+ B+ C → D?a. an ethnocultural–racial group that is forcefully evicted from certain areas or a country

b. the secession of a subordinate group to move to an already-established nation

c. the segregation of a subordinate group imposed by dominant groups

d. an ethnocultural–racial group that shares some of the characteristics of each initial group

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.5:Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Fusion

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

53. The process by which a dominant group and a subordinate group combine through intermarriage to form a new group is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. amalgamation

b. adaptation

c. marginalization

d. pluralism

Answer: a

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status Topic: Fusion

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

54. In everyday speech, the words fusion and amalgamation are rarely used, but the concept is expressed in the notion of a human \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which diverse racial or ethnic groups form a new creation, a new cultural entity.

a. ethnic cleansing

b. stereotype

c. class structure

d. melting pot

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Fusion

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

55. The process by which a subordinate individual or group takes on the characteristics of the dominant group and is eventually accepted as part of that group is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. amalgamation

b. pluralism

c. genocide

d. assimilation

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Fusion

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

56. In the context of consequences of subordinate-group status, the equation A + B + C 🡪 A describes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. pluralism

b. amalgamation

c. assimilation

d. segregation

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Fusion

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty: Easy

57. Under which of the following conditions does assimilation tend to take longer?

a. when the minority group arrives over an extended period of time

b. when the minority group residents are dispersed

c. when the homeland of the immigrants is far away and inaccessible

d. when the minority group retains its own culture

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: Fusion

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

58. Pluralism implies that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. diverse groups in a society work toward adopting one homogeneous culture

b. the society aims at eliminating ethnic boundaries

c. various groups in a society have mutual respect for one another’s cultures

d. subordinate groups need to embrace the dominant group’s culture

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.7: Define and describe intersectionality.

Topic: The Consequences of Subordinate-Group Status

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty: Moderate

59. Which of the following allows a minority group to express its own culture in the larger society without suffering prejudice or discrimination?

a. assimilation

b. amalgamation

c. segregation

d. pluralism

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: The Pluralist Perspective

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Easy

60. Which of the following statements is true of pluralists?

a. They are in favor of following a homogenous culture.b. They try to impose the dominant group’s culture on all subgroups.

c. They seek the elimination of cultural frontiers.

d. They believe in maintaining many ethnic boundaries.

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: The Pluralist Perspective

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

61. In the context of consequences of subordinate-group status, the equation A + B + C → A + B + C describes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. amalgamation

b. pluralism

c. assimilation

d. genocide

Answer: b

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status.

Topic: The Pluralist Perspective

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Easy

62. African American studies scholar Molefi Kete Asante has called for an Afrocentric

perspective that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. justifies the slave trade in the US

b. seeks to override Eurocentrism

c. emphasizes the customs of African cultures

d. disregards the history of Blacks in the US

Answer: c

Learning Objective: 1.6: Describe how resistance and change occur in racial and ethnic relations.

Topic: Resistance and Change

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

63. Opponents of the Afrocentric perspective see it as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. a cultural resistance against assimilation with the dominant group

b. an attempt of the African people to come to full self-determination

c. a movement against White and Eurocentric intellectual interpretations

d. a separatist view of history and culture that distorts past and present

Answer: d

Learning Objective: 1.6 Describe how resistance and change occur in racial and ethnic relations.

Topic: Resistance and Change

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

# Essay Questions

64. List and explain the five characteristics of a minority or subordinate group.

Answer: A minority or subordinate group has five characteristics: unequal treatment, distinguishing physical or cultural traits, involuntary membership, awareness of subordination, and in-group marriage:

1. Members of a minority experience unequal treatment and have less power over their lives than members of a dominant group have over theirs. Prejudice, discrimination, segregation, and even extermination create this social inequality.

2. Members of a minority group share physical or cultural characteristics such as skin color or language that distinguish them from the dominant group. Each society has its own arbitrary standard for determining which characteristics are most important in defining dominant and minority groups.

3. Membership in a dominant or minority group is not voluntary: People are born into the group. A person does not choose to be African American or White.

4. Minority-group members have a strong sense of group solidarity. William Graham Sumner, writing in 1906, noted that people make distinctions between members of their own group (the in-group) and everyone else (the out-group). When a group is the object of long-term prejudice and discrimination, the feeling of “us versus them” often becomes intense.

5. Members of a minority generally marry others from the same group. A member of a dominant group is often unwilling to join a supposedly inferior minority by marrying one of its members. In addition, the minority group’s sense of solidarity encourages marriage within the group and discourages marriage to outsiders.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups.

Topic: How are we grouped?

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate

65. Discuss the five functions that racial beliefs serve for the dominant group in accordance with the functionalist perspective.

Answer: The five functions that racial beliefs serve for the dominant group in accordance with the functionalist perspective are as follows:

1. Racist ideologies provide a moral justification for maintaining a society that routinely deprives a group of its rights and privileges.

2. Racist beliefs discourage subordinate people from attempting to question their lowly status and why they must perform “the dirty work”; to do so is to question the very foundation of the society.

3. Racial ideologies not only justify existing practices but also serve as a rallying point for social movements, as seen in the rise of the Nazi party or present-day Aryan movements.

4. Racist myths encourage support for the existing order. Some argue that if there were any major societal change, the subordinate group would suffer even greater poverty, and the dominant group would suffer lower living standards.

5. Racist beliefs relieve the dominant group of the responsibility to address the economic and educational problems faced by subordinate groups.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Difficult

66. Discuss how conflict sociologists see the social world as being in continual struggle. When is the conflict model selected?

Answer: Conflict sociologists see the social world as being in continual struggle. The conflict perspectiveassumes that the social structure is best understood in terms of conflict or tension between competing groups. The result of this conflict is significant economic disparity and structural inequality in education, the labor market, housing, and health care delivery. Specifically, society is in a struggle between the privileged (the dominant group) and the exploited (the subordinate group). Such conflicts need not be physically violent and may take the form of immigration restrictions, real estate practices, or disputes over cuts in the federal budget.

The conflict model is often selected today when one is examining race and ethnicity because it readily accounts for the presence of tension between competing groups. According to the conflict perspective, competition takes place between groups with unequal amounts of economic and political power. The minorities are exploited or, at best, ignored by the dominant group. The conflict perspective is viewed as more radical and activist than functionalism because conflict theorists emphasize social change and the redistribution of resources.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity.

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Difficult

67. Explain the social construction of race with an example. Describe the concept of racism.

Answer: Race is a social construction, and this process benefits the oppressor, who defines which groups of people are privileged and which groups are not. The acceptance of race in a society as a legitimate category allows racial hierarchies to emerge to the benefit of the dominant “races.” For example, inner-city drive-by shootings are now seen as a race-specific problem worthy of local officials cleaning up troubled neighborhoods. Yet school shootings are viewed as a societal concern and placed on the national agenda.

People could speculate that if human groups have obvious physical differences, then they could have corresponding mental or personality differences. No one disagrees that people differ in temperament, potential to learn, and sense of humor, among other characteristics. In its social sense, race implies that groups that differ physically also bear distinctive emotional and mental abilities or disabilities. These beliefs are based on the notion that humankind can be divided into distinct groups. Despite the difficulties associated with pigeonholing people into racial categories, belief in the inheritance of behavior patterns and in an association between physical and cultural traits is widespread. It is called racismwhen this belief is coupled with the feeling that certain groups or races are inherently superior to others. Racism is a doctrine of racial supremacy that states one race is superior to another.

In modern complex industrial societies, one finds little adaptive utility in the presence or absence of prominent chins, epicanthic eye fold associated with Eastern and Central Asian peoples, or the comparative amount of melanin in the skin. It is of little importance that people are genetically different; what is important is that they approach one another with dissimilar perspectives. It is in the social setting that race is decisive. Race is significant because people have given it significance.

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: The Social Construction of Race

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Difficult

68. Why are many Americans challenged when asked to address the question, “Who am I?” in terms of race and/or ethnicity?

Answer: People are now more willing to accept and advance identities that do not fit neatly into mutually exclusive categories. Hence, increasing numbers of people are identifying themselves as biracial or multiracial or, at the very least, explicitly viewing themselves as reflecting a diverse racial and ethnic identity. The diversity of the United States today has made it more difficult for many people to place themselves on the racial and ethnic landscape. It reminds people that racial formation continues to take place. Obviously, the racial and ethnic landscape, as they have seen, is constructed not naturally but socially and, therefore, is subject to change and different interpretations. Almost every nation faces the same problems.

The United States tracks people by race and ethnicity for myriad reasons, ranging from attempting to improve the status of oppressed groups to diversifying classrooms. Besides the increasing respect for biracial identity and multiracial identity, group names undergo change as well. The old 1950s statistical term of “people with a Spanish surname” has long been discarded, yet there is disagreement over a new term: *Latino* or *Hispanic*. Like Native Americans, Hispanic Americans avoid such global terms and prefer their native names, such as *Puerto Ricans* or *Cubans*.

Learning Objective: 1.2: Explain the social construction of race.

Topic: Biracial and Multiracial Identity: Who Am I?

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Difficult

69. Explain the concept of self-fulfilling prophecy with appropriate examples.

Answer: In certain situations, a person may respond to negative stereotypes and act on them, with the result that false definitions become accurate. This is known as a self-fulfilling prophecy. A person or group described as having particular characteristics begins to display the very traits attributed to him or her. Thus, a child who is praised for being a natural comic may focus on learning to become funny to gain approval and attention.

Self-fulfilling prophecies can be devastating for minority groups. Such groups often find that they are allowed to hold only low-paying jobs with little prestige or opportunity for advancement. The rationale of the dominant society is that these minority people lack the ability to perform in more important and lucrative positions. Training to become scientists, executives, or physicians is denied to many subordinate-group individuals (SGIs), who are then locked into society’s inferior jobs. As a result, the false definition of the self-fulfilling prophecy becomes real. The subordinate group becomes inferior because it was defined at the start as inferior and was, therefore, prevented from achieving the levels attained by the majority.

Because of this vicious circle, a talented subordinate-group person may come to see the fields of entertainment and professional sports as his or her only hope for achieving wealth and fame. Thus, it is no accident that successive waves of Irish, Jewish, Italian, African American, and Hispanic performers and athletes have made their mark on culture in the United States. Unfortunately, these very successes may convince the dominant group that its original stereotypes were valid—that these are the only areas of society in which subordinate-group members can excel.

Learning Objective: 1.3: Describe how sociology helps us understand race and ethnicity..

Topic: Theoretical Perspectives

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Difficult

70. Discuss assimilation.

Answer: Assimilationis the process by which a subordinate individual or group takes on the characteristics of the dominant group and is eventually accepted as part of that group. Assimilation is a majority ideology in which A + B + C 🡪A. The majority (A) dominates in such a way that the minorities (B and C) become indistinguishable from the dominant group. Assimilation dictates conformity to the dominant group, regardless of how many racial, ethnic, or religious groups are involved.

To be complete, assimilation must entail an active effort by the minority-group individual to shed all distinguishing actions and beliefs and the unqualified acceptance of that individual by the dominant society. In the United States, dominant White society encourages assimilation. The assimilation perspective tends to devalue alien culture and to treasure the dominant. For example, assimilation assumes that whatever is admirable among Blacks was adapted from Whites and that whatever is bad is inherently Black. The assimilation solution to Black-White conflict has been typically defined as the development of a consensus around White American values.

Assimilation is very difficult. The person being assimilated must forsake his or her cultural tradition to become part of a different, often antagonistic culture. Cross-border movement is often preceded by adjustments and awareness of the culture that awaits the immigrant.

Learning Objective: 1.5: Summarize the consequences of subordinate-group status..

Topic: Assimilation

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Difficult

71. Provide an argument against the statement that “subordinate groups merely accept the definitions and ideologies of the dominant group.” Give specific historical and contemporary examples to support your answer.

Answer: Subordinate groups do not merely accept the definitions and ideology proposed by the dominant group. A continuing theme in dominant–subordinate relations is the minority group’s challenge to its subordination. Resistance by subordinate groups is well documented as they seek to promote change that will bring them more rights and privileges, if not true equality. Often, traditional notions of racial formation are overcome not only through panethnicity but also because Black people, along with Latinos and sympathetic Whites, join in the resistance to subordination.

Resistance can be seen in efforts by racial and ethnic groups to maintain their identity through newspapers and organizations and in today’s technological age through cable television stations, blogs, and Internet sites. Resistance manifests itself in social movements such as the civil rights movement, the feminist movement, and gay rights efforts. The passage of such legislation as the Age Discrimination Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act marks the success of oppressed groups in lobbying on their own behalf.

Resistance efforts may begin through small actions. For example, residents of a reservation question why a toxic waste dump is to be located on their land. Although it may bring in money, they question the wisdom of such a move. Their concerns lead to further investigations of the extent to which American Indian lands are used disproportionately as containment areas for dangerous materials. This action in turn leads to a broader investigation of the ways in which minority-group people often find themselves “hosting” dumps and incinerators. These local efforts eventually led the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor the disproportionate placement of toxic facilities in or near racial and ethnic minority communities. There is little reason to expect that such reforms would have occurred if the reservation residents had relied on traditional decision-making processes alone.

Learning Objective: 1.1: Explain how people are placed in groups..

Topic: How are we grouped?

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Difficult

72. Discuss the Afrocentric perspective.

Answer: It is easy to overlook how people’s understanding of today has been shaped by the way institutions and even the very telling of history have been presented by members of the dominant group. African American studies scholar Molefi Kete Asante has called for an Afrocentric perspectivethat emphasizes the customs of African cultures and how they have pervaded the history, culture, and behavior of Blacks in the United States and around the world. Afrocentrism seeks to balance Eurocentrism and works toward a multiculturalist or pluralist orientation in which no viewpoint is suppressed. The Afrocentric approach could become part of one’s school curriculum, which has not adequately acknowledged the importance of this heritage.

The Afrocentric perspective has attracted much attention in education. Opponents view it as a separatist view of history and culture that distorts both past and present. Its supporters counter that African people everywhere can come to full self-determination only when they are able to overthrow the dominance of White or Eurocentric intellectual interpretations.

Learning Objective: 1.6: Describe how resistance and change occur in racial and ethnic relations.

Topic: Resistance and Change

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Moderate