

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which intersectionalities does chapter 2 explore?
  - a. Poverty, wealth, employment and inequality
  - b. Wealth, race, gender and inequality
  - c. Poverty, race, gender and inequality
  - d. Poverty, race, employment and inequality

Answer: A Page Ref: 18

2. Which quality is a basis for stratification?
  - a. Custom of dress
  - b. Social position
  - c. Family structure
  - d. Prestige

Answer: D Page Ref: 19

3. Which is a type of poverty?
  - a. Near Poor
  - b. Generational
  - c. Relational
  - d. Residual

Answer: C Page Ref: 19-20

4. What type of poverty does the following quote demonstrate?

“We are the Super Rich...We also have someone who cuts our grass, cleans our house, and watches our new baby so we can both work outside the home. At the end of all this, we have less than a few hundred dollars per month of discretionary income. We occasionally eat out, but with a baby sitter, these nights take a toll on our budget. Life in America is wonderful, but expensive.”

  - a. Relational
  - b. Transitional
  - c. Absolute
  - d. Near Poor

Answer: A Page Ref: 19-20

5. How many of every 5 Americans is “near poor” or living just above the poverty line?
  - a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 3
  - d. 4

Answer: A Page Ref: 20

6. Which household income bracket makes up the third quintile?
- Less than \$20,453 income annually
  - Between \$20,454 and \$38,550 income annually
  - Between \$38,551 and \$61,801 income annually
  - Between \$61,802 to \$100,000 income annually
  - Over \$100,000 income annually

Answer: C Page Ref: 20

7. Which social scientist(s) believe(s) that the United States operates as a meritocracy?
- Willford King
  - Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore
  - Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson
  - Melvin Tumin

Answer: B Page Ref: 21

8. Which social scientist(s) believe(s) that because of social inequality, wealthy babies have an advantage over children born to poor families from birth?
- Willford King
  - Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore
  - Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson
  - Melvin Tumin

Answer: D Page Ref: 21

9. What does the decile ratio measure?
- The distance between income groups in the top 10 percent and the bottom 10 percent
  - The income of the United States divided into five equal segments
  - The income inequality of a country on a scale ranging from zero to one
  - The percentage of the nation's total income held by the top ten percent of the population

Answer: A Page Ref: 22

10. Which social scientist(s) believe(s) that the highest paying jobs reflect our social values rather than a natural division based on difficulty of the job?
- Willford King
  - Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore
  - Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson
  - Melvin Tumin

Answer: D Page Ref: 21

11. With which value does inequality correlate?

- a. Increased starvation
- b. Increased infant survival rates
- c. Increased homicide
- d. Increased disease

Answer: C Page Ref: 22

12. During which historical time period did inequality levels mirror those present in the United States today?

- a. The American Revolution
- b. The Great Depression
- c. The Civil Rights Movement
- d. The Westward Expansion

Answer: B Page Ref: 23

13. What time period marked a golden age of income growth for rich and poor?

- a. 1865-1918
- b. 1918-1946
- c. 1947-1973
- d. 1973-1980

Answer: C Page Ref: 24

14. Which quintile was hit the hardest by the recent recession?

- a. The lowest quintile
- b. The second quintile
- c. The third quintile
- d. The fourth quintile

Answer: A Page Ref: 24

15. Which is an example from Chapter 2 of an explanation for inequality?

- a. Decline in union membership
- b. Increased tax rates for the top five percent
- c. Governmental policies that benefit individuals at the expense of corporations
- d. Decreased importance of technology and automation

Answer: A Page Ref: 24

16. How are women closing the pay gap?

- a. Achieving positions in typically "male" fields
- b. Becoming heads of households as single mothers
- c. Winning court cases fighting unequal pay
- d. Increasing the number of women with advanced degrees

Answer: D Page Ref: 24-25

17. Which groups were affected the most by job loss during the recent recession?
- a. Young people 25-34
  - b. Single mothers
  - c. Immigrants
  - d. Baby boomers

Answer: A Page Ref: 26

18. What is the relationship between immigrants' skill level and inequality?
- a. The lower the skill level of immigrants, the lower inequality
  - b. The lower the skill level of immigrants the higher inequality
  - c. The higher the skill level of immigrants, the lower inequality
  - d. The higher the skill level of immigrants, the higher inequality

Answer: C Page Ref: 25

19. How did college graduates' priorities change in the face of the recession?
- a. More college graduates tried to make a fortune in finance jobs
  - b. More graduates turned to the public sector for work
  - c. More graduates looked for work in the private sector
  - d. More college graduates found work in manufacturing jobs

Answer: B Page Ref: 26-27

20. What year saw the largest increase in poverty level since the federal government started tracking it?
- a. 2007
  - b. 2008
  - c. 2009
  - d. 2010

Answer: C Page Ref: 27

21. Which racial group became less impoverished as a whole during the recent recession?
- a. Asian Americans
  - b. Non-Hispanic Whites
  - c. Latinos
  - d. African Americans

Answer: A Page Ref: 27

22. Which age group was most affected by poverty in the recent recession?
- a. Children
  - b. Teens under age 18
  - c. Age 18-64
  - d. Age 65 and over

Answer: A Page Ref: 27

23. Which is a coping technique to deal with poverty discussed in Chapter 2?
- Moving into individual apartments
  - Increased reliance on food stamps
  - Decreased reliance on government programs because of wounded pride
  - Increased purchase of private health insurance

Answer: B Page Ref: 27

24. What are the richest/most-impooverished states in the United States?
- New Jersey/Arkansas
  - New Hampshire/Mississippi
  - Connecticut/ West Virginia
  - Maryland/Tennessee

Answer: B Page Ref: 28

### True/False Questions

- The percent of Americans who identify as middle class is 91. True (Page Ref: 19)
- Americans primarily understand social class to be based on social power. False (Page Ref: 19) Americans understand social class as it relates to economics. There are sometimes intersectionalities between social class and status, wealth and power, but not always.
- The poverty level is calculated based on the price of food. True (Page Ref: 19)
- Wealthy countries and poor countries may have very similar or identical levels of inequality. True (Page Ref: 22)
- Income inequality is higher in the United States than in Egypt or Tunisia. True (Page Ref: 22)
- Income inequality is the same thing as inequality of opportunity. False (Page Ref: 23) It is possible to have equality of opportunity without equality of income.
- Americans believe that social and economic benefits go to the most worthy. True (Page Ref: 23) This is part of the ideology of the American dream. Nearly 7 in 10 Americans agreed with this statement.

### Short Answer/Essay Questions

1. What is the difference between wealth and income? Provide an example of a scenario in which a person may be wealthy with no income, or have an income but no wealth. (Page Ref: 19)
  - Income is regular pay received for work.
  - Wealth is all assets or resources contributing to a person's net worth.
  - A home, car, property, and a retirement or trust fund make up examples of a person's wealth.
  - For example, a college student from a wealthy family might have a low income because he or she is waitressing, while having significant inherited wealth from his/her family.
  
2. There are three main ways to measure inequality: the income gap between high earners and low earners, poverty levels, and the changes in wages for workers. Pick one method and describe how it measures inequality in detail using examples from the chapter. (Page Ref: 27-28)
  - Income gap: Can be measured by Gini index or decile ratio or quintile system.
  - Poverty level: Can be measured by how many people are living at or below the poverty threshold for a given year.
  - Changes in wages for workers: Can be measured by unemployment rates, and percentage below or above median income across a series of years.
  
3. Social class is a type of social stratification. Explain the difference between these two terms, and give examples of divisions that create stratification and divisions apparent between social classes. (Page Ref: 18-19)
  - Stratification is the division of groups into separate and distinct parts.
  - Divisions in stratified societies can be based on objective criteria, such as income, or more ineffable qualities such as power, prestige and status.
  - Social class is a kind of stratification that divides people into groups based on similar economic and social positions.
  - Members of different classes may dress or speak differently; may have different access to education and employment; and may differ in terms of values, family structures or even legal rights.
  - In Western capitalist societies, class is mutable and difficult to define precisely. A person's place in society is determined by income, education, occupation, and wealth.

4. There are many different types of poverty discussed in the chapter, including: temporary, chronic, relative, and near poor. Pick one type of poverty. Define, and describe why you think this type of poverty is the most detrimental to a person's life outcomes. (Page Ref: 19-20)
  - Temporary poverty occurs when a person is between jobs or has a unexpected circumstance that pushes him/her across the poverty line for a short period of time.
  - Chronic poverty is when poorness is passed down from generation to generation, with no social mobility.
  - Relative poverty is those who feel poor when compared to the people who surround them.
  - Near poor is not truly poverty, but encapsulates people who live on the edge of the poverty line but do not qualify for federal benefits for being impoverished.
  
5. Despite studies that show that social mobility has declined from the 1970s until today, the majority of Americans believe in the American dream that hard work results in equal rewards, and that class distinctions are not fixed. Choose Davis and Moore's theory of meritocracy or Tumin's belief that social inequality makes access to certain types of education and occupations likelier for some than others and make a case for either side. (Page Ref: 21)
  - Davis and Moore believe that inequality is not bad, but necessary. There will always be rich and poor people because stratification is necessary to have people fulfill a variety of roles, from surgeon to garbage collector. Income inequality occurs because the distribution of rewards (money) matches up with the difficulty of the job and the training or skills that it requires. This theory operates on the assumption that the U.S. is a meritocracy.
  - Tumin does not believe the U.S. is a meritocracy. He does not believe that jobs have an inherent merit as more difficult or important, but that these jobs reflect our social values. He suggests that because of inequality, people do not have equal chances of obtaining high status, high paying jobs. Inequality creates conditions that establish skewed access to education and occupation.

6. Choose one intersectionality (race, immigration, or gender), and explain how income inequality and poverty have affected that group. (Page Ref: 24-25)
  - Race: The income gap between black and white households is even greater than that between men and women. This gap is exacerbated by the high rate of incarceration of black men, and the corresponding lower rate of participation in the work force. While all racial groups saw decline in income from 2000 to 2008, Non-Hispanic whites saw the smallest decrease followed by Asian Americans, black households, and Latino households.
  - Immigration: As a rule, the foreign-born population, even when highly skilled, typically has lower income and education than native-born Americans. For unskilled immigrants, there is a high rate of poverty and depressed wages resulting in increased income inequality. For highly skilled immigrants, wage gains have occurred that have decreased the income inequality on the higher end of the income scale.
  - Gender: Women have been making gains to close the income gap with men. White, black and Latina women all outpace their male counterparts in achievement of advanced degrees, decreasing their levels of income inequality and poverty. However, at the same time, there is a parallel increase in households run by single mothers that increases women's and children's risk of being poor or impoverished.
  
7. Many critics argue that the poverty line is an outdated and oversimplified measurement. Explain the pros and cons of the poverty line using examples from the text. (Page Ref: 19)
  - The poverty line does not take income from government programs such as food stamps into account.
  - Geographic differences are not taken into account, which ignores the huge variance in cost of living across the United States (e.g., Manhattan versus Kansas City).
  - The threshold does not account for the rising costs of childcare, housing, and medical expenses.
  - It is a one-size-fits-all definition.