

Ideas

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Distinction is an important concept for understanding the sociology of gender because
 - a. without distinguishing men from women, there would be no basis for gender difference or inequality.
 - b. empowering women is based on achievement and distinguishing oneself from others.
 - c. there are two, distinct sexes, and the difference is gender.
 - d. gender inequality is distinctively different from other types of inequality and operates on different principles.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate MSC: Understanding REF: CH01 – Introduction

2. The word “sex” refers to
 - a. biological differences in primary and secondary sexual characteristics.
 - b. the symbolism of masculinity and femininity that we connect to being male-bodied or female-bodied.
 - c. the fact that the shape of our body may not extend to how a person feels or acts.
 - d. the primary way we naturalize and justify inequality.

ANS: A DIF: Easy MSC: Remembering REF: CH01 – Introduction

3. The word “gender” refers to
 - a. biological differences in primary and secondary sexual characteristics.
 - b. the symbolism of masculinity and femininity that we connect to being male-bodied or female-bodied.
 - c. the fact that the shape of our body may not extend to how we feel or act.
 - d. the primary way we naturalize and justify inequality.

ANS: B DIF: Easy MSC: Remembering REF: CH01 – Introduction

4. How have ideas about the categories of male and female changed over time?
 - a. Seventeenth-century European anatomists believed that females had the same bodies as males, only inverted, while today we know that female and male bodies are completely opposite.
 - b. Seventeenth-century European anatomists believed the female body was completely opposite from the male body. By contrast, we now know that all female and male genitalia develop from the same fetal tissue.
 - c. Seventeenth-century European anatomists believed that females had the same bodies as males, only inverted; however, today we know that female and male bodies are neither the same nor absolute opposites.
 - d. Seventeenth-century European anatomists believed the female body was completely opposite from the male body; however, today we know that female and male bodies are neither the same nor absolute opposites.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult MSC: Remembering REF: CH02 – Ideas

5. What types of people are recognized within society's gender binary?
- male-bodied people who are masculine and female-bodied people who are feminine
 - male-bodied people who are masculine or feminine and female-bodied people who are masculine or feminine
 - male-bodied people who are feminine and female-bodied people who are masculine
 - male-bodied people who are masculine, female-bodied people who are feminine, and intersex people who are masculine and feminine

ANS: A DIF: Moderate MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

6. Danielle was born with XXY chromosomes. She is someone who is
- gender fluid.
 - gender queer.
 - intersex.
 - transgender.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies

7. Michael is a male-bodied person. He says to Alex that he views himself as a male. What is Michael communicating to Alex?
- the gender binary
 - his gender expression
 - his gender fluidity
 - his gender identity

ANS: D DIF: Easy MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies

8. If Anna is a female-bodied individual who identifies as female, how could she best use gender expression to communicate her identity to those around her?
- through her occupational choices
 - through her appearance, dress, and behavior
 - through her choice of romantic partners
 - through her political ideologies

ANS: B DIF: Easy MSC: Remembering REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies

9. In our gender binary, _____ chromosomes are associated with males, while _____ chromosomes are associated with females.
- XX; XY
 - XXY; XY
 - XY; XX
 - YYY; XX

ANS: C DIF: Easy MSC: Remembering REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies

10. How do people with intersex bodies provide evidence that the gender binary fails to describe reality?
- They have chromosomes that do not match either XX or XY.
 - Their gender identities do not match their perceived sex.

- c. Their gender identities always match their perceived sex.
- d. They have chromosomes that match either XX or XY.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate MSC: Understanding REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies | The 10 Percent

11. How do transgender people provide evidence that the gender binary fails to describe reality?

- a. They have chromosomes that do not match either XX or XY.
- b. Their gender identities don't match their perceived sex.
- c. Their gender identities always match their perceived sex.
- d. They have chromosomes that match either XX or XY.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate MSC: Understanding REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies | The 10 Percent

12. Lillian does not have a fixed gender identity. What term best describes them?

- a. cisgender
- b. gender fluid
- c. female-bodied
- d. transgender

ANS: B DIF: Moderate MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and our Bodies | The 10 Percent

13. According to the textbook, how do gender ideologies operate around the world?

- a. All societies throughout history have viewed gender through a gender binary.
- b. In the 1600s and 1700s, societies around the world acknowledged three, four, or five genders, but today all societies view gender through a gender binary.
- c. Most societies throughout history have acknowledged three, four, or five genders.
- d. Some societies view gender through a gender binary while others acknowledge three, four, or five genders.

ANS: D DIF: Easy MSC: Remembering REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

14. During her research in the community of Gerai in West Borneo, anthropologist Christine Helliwell described how her gender was uncertain among the Dayak for the duration of her fieldwork. This was because

- a. they didn't know she had breasts and a vulva due to the sarong she wore.
- b. for the Dayak, a "woman" has children, and at that time Helliwell didn't have any.
- c. for the Dayak, a "woman" is a person who excels at distinguishing types of rice and its preparation, but Helliwell had not mastered these tasks.
- d. for the Dayak, a high-ranking "woman" counts as a man, and they were uncertain how to classify her position in society.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate MSC: Remembering REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

15. In the Dominican Republic, a rare genetic condition made male children appear to be female until puberty, at which time what had been thought to be a clitoris grew into a penis and their testes suddenly descended from their abdomen. What happened then?

- a. These children would keep their feminine identities and cover their genitals for the rest of their lives.
- b. These children would be women but would remain sexually inactive for the rest of their lives.
- c. These children would grow with the stigma of having abnormal bodies.
- d. These children would adopt masculine identities and live as men the rest of their lives.

ANS: D DIF: Easy MSC: Remembering REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

16. What percentage of the population are estimated to be intersex or transgender?

- a. 10 percent
- b. 0.2 percent
- c. 95 percent
- d. 1 percent

ANS: A DIF: Easy MSC: Remembering REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies | The 10 Percent

17. What does it mean to say that gender is a social construct?

- a. Gender arises from biological differences between males and females.
- b. Gender arises from both biological and social differences between males and females.
- c. Gender has no set meaning or understanding in society. The terms “masculine” and “feminine” are very ambiguous, and their use leads to confusion among members of society.
- d. Gender is understood through shared interpretations and meaning. The terms “masculine” and “feminine” are easily understood and shared by members of a society.

ANS: D DIF: Moderate MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

18. The fact that men are more likely than women to get breast reductions and women are more likely than men to get breast implants is an example of

- a. efforts to enhance the illusion of the gender binary.
- b. efforts by intersex people to fit into their given sex.
- c. gender dysphoria.
- d. the personal exception theory of gender.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies | The Other 90 Percent

19. Henry has categorized fish as feminine and sharks as masculine. On further reflection, he has refined the categorization of fish. He categorizes passive fish, such as goldfish and clownfish, as feminine, while he categorizes aggressive, carnivorous fish, like piranhas and goliath tigerfish, as masculine. Henry has done a good job of demonstrating

- a. gender binary glasses.
- b. gender binary subdivision.
- c. gender fluid glasses.
- d. gender fluid subdivision.

ANS: B DIF: Difficult MSC: Understanding REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Everything Else | Seeing Gender

20. Our brains often form ideas that are clustered around the concepts of masculinity and femininity. Children, for example, will often assume that a firefighter is male. This assumption, which is based on learned ideas about masculinity, is a good example of the term

- a. “associative memory.”
- b. “binary memory.”
- c. “collective memory.”
- d. “patriarchal memory.”

ANS: A DIF: Difficult MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Everything Else | Seeing Gender

21. Gender binary glasses

- a. allow us to separate everything we see into masculine and feminine categories.
- b. make us culturally incompetent.
- c. allow us to acknowledge that gender is a continuum, and not simply masculine and feminine.
- d. ensure that we cannot meaningfully interact with others in society.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate MSC: Understanding REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Everything Else | Seeing Gender

22. What does the Implicit Association Test (IAT) demonstrate?

- a. Men and women have different brains; women, on average, make implicit associations faster than men do.
- b. Our brains often associate feminine and masculine items with one another; it takes longer to identify a name as male if it was preceded by a feminized word rather than a masculinized word.
- c. Our brains can quickly make cognitive shifts; it doesn't take any longer to identify a name as male if it was preceded by a feminized word than with a masculinized word.
- d. Men and women have different brains; men, on average, make implicit associations faster than women do.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate MSC: Understanding REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Everything Else | Seeing Gender

23. Someone who reads the words “wrestling,” “pickup truck,” and “steak” and then automatically thinks “man” is experiencing the effect of

- a. gender binary glasses.
- b. the gender similarities hypothesis.
- c. associative memory.
- d. the difference between sex and gender.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Everything Else | Seeing Gender

24. Research suggests that _____ are more likely to be remembered, and remembered correctly, than _____.

- a. nonbinary experiences; gender binary experiences
- b. gender fluid experiences; cisgender experiences
- c. stereotype-consistent experiences; stereotype-inconsistent experiences
- d. stereotype-inconsistent experiences; stereotype-consistent experiences

ANS: C DIF: Moderate MSC: Understanding REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Everything Else | Blurred Vision and Blind Spots

ESSAY

1. Analyze the gender binary and how it operates in society. First, explain what the gender binary is. Then, describe one positive aspect of the binary and one negative aspect. Make sure to explain why they are positive and negative in your response.

ANS: Students should first define the term “gender binary”: the idea that there are only two types of people, male-

bodied people who are masculine and female-bodied people who are feminine.

Positive aspects could include that it makes us culturally competent; it allows us to meaningfully interact with others in society.

Negative aspects could include that our world doesn't fit neatly into a binary. Instructors can point out the various ways it doesn't (e.g., a man who likes unicorns, an individual who is intersex, or a transgender individual). It can be rigid and limiting to try to fit the binary, and so on.

DIF: Difficult MSC: Analyzing REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

2. If the gender binary doesn't describe a large number of the people we know, where does the idea come from?

ANS: Answers should discuss how the gender binary is an ideology, a set of shared beliefs about society, and we are socialized into the binary. It's a social construction, and not a biological reality.

DIF: Moderate MSC: Analyzing REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

3. Demonstrate how gender ideologies differ around the world. Detail three examples that demonstrate how gender ideologies can be different than our gender binary.

ANS: Examples can include the American Indian tribe two-spirits, Hawaii's mähū, hijras, travesty, muxes, and so on.

Answers can also talk about the Gerai in West Borneo, the Hau in New Guinea, the Lovedu in Zambia, and the way in which children in the Netherlands learn about men and women. Finally, students can also discuss the textbook example of the biological quirks of the isolated village in the Dominican Republic.

DIF: Moderate MSC: Understanding REF: CH02 – Ideas | Gender Ideologies

4. What does it mean to say that gender is a social construct? What biological evidence led scholars to conclude that gender is a social construct? How about cultural or historical evidence? Is there anything in your own life that could be used as evidence that gender is a social construct? Why or why not?

ANS: Gender as a social construct means that society has created shared meanings and understandings of the term "gender." For biological evidence, answers can discuss how intersex and/or transgender individuals do not fit our gender binary. For cultural or historical evidence, answers can draw upon the various examples that demonstrate how not all societies view gender through a binary. They can also discuss how not all men and women fit stereotypes. For their own life, they should provide an example that demonstrates how they defy our proscribed rules and norms about gender.

DIF: Difficult MSC: Analyzing REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Everything Else

5. Compare and contrast the terms "transgender" and "cisgender." In the development of your answer, make sure to discuss how a male-bodied individual who is transgender and a male-bodied individual who is cisgender will differ in their gender identification.

ANS: "Transgender" refers to a group of people who experience some form of gender dysphoria, which is a discomfort with the relationship between their bodies' assigned sex and their gender identity, or otherwise reject the gender binary.

"Cisgender" refers to male-bodied and female-bodied people who comfortably identify and express themselves as men and women, respectively.

A male-bodied individual who is transgender may identify as a woman, as genderqueer, as gender fluid, and so on. A male-bodied cisgender individual would identify as a man.

DIF: Difficult MSC: Applying REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies | The 10 Percent

6. If bodies are functional, but don't fit into the gender binary, is that a problem? For who, and why?

ANS: For this answer, responses may vary. Some individuals may say yes because it goes against our social construction, so it makes shared meanings and understandings difficult. Others will argue no, and they may explain how we have always had individuals who don't fit into the gender binary and suggest that it may be time for us to rethink how we construct and conceptualize gender.

DIF: Difficult MSC: Evaluating REF: CH02 – Ideas | The Binary and Our Bodies