

TEST ITEM FILE—CHAPTER TWO
Prejudice: Its Forms and Causes

EXAM QUESTIONS

Multiple Choice

1. Attitudes and beliefs involving a tendency to prejudge people, usually negatively and usually on the basis of a single personal characteristic, without any objective basis for making such a judgment are called:
 - a. Prejudice
 - b. Racism
 - c. Ignorance
 - d. Negativity

ANS: a page: 20

2. The tendency to think of or react to everyone in the same category (ex. black, Chinese, female or gay) in a more or less fixed way, based on the category is called:
 - a. Negativity
 - b. Ignorance
 - c. Symbolic racism
 - d. Overcategorization

ANS: d page: 20

3. We often develop negative or derogatory stereotypes of groups of which we are not a member and that are different from our own. These groups are called:
 - a. In-groups
 - b. Out-groups
 - c. Other-groups
 - d. Social groups

ANS: b page: 22

4. The text focuses on three general theories to explain the causes of prejudice. These theories view prejudice as based on:
 - a. Personality needs; social learning and conformity; and social structure and economic position
 - b. Personality needs; social learning and conformity; and strong interest in hate groups
 - c. Personality needs; cultural relativism; and social structure and economic position
 - d. Personal preference; social learning and conformity; and social structure and economic position.

ANS: a page: 23

5. Which of the following are the three forms of prejudice mentioned in the text?
- a. Individual, institutional, and unintentional
 - b. Cognitive, affective, and conative
 - c. Negative, positive, and neutral
 - d. Exaggerated, subtle, and ambivalent

ANS: b page: 21

6. What is the difference between cognitive and affective prejudice?
- a. Affective is what people like or dislike, while cognitive is how people are inclined to behave
 - b. Cognitive is what people like or dislike, while affective is what people believe is true
 - c. Affective is what people like or dislike, while cognitive is what people believe is true
 - d. Cognitive is what people like or dislike, while affective is how people are inclined to behave

ANS: c page: 21

7. An exaggerated belief associated with a group of people, such as a racial, ethnic, or religious group is called:
- a. Ignorance
 - b. Racism
 - c. A rumor
 - d. A stereotype

ANS: d page: 21

8. Which of the following is a characteristic of a stereotype?
- a. It refers to exaggerated beliefs
 - b. It is associated with a variety of people
 - c. It is always negative or derogatory
 - d. It allows for the wide variation in cultural traits that occurs in any group

ANS: a page: 22

9. Why are positive stereotypes a mixed blessing to groups to which they are applied?
- a. They encourage members of the group to be themselves
 - b. They justify more negative stereotypes
 - c. They lead to development in minority communities
 - d. They free minorities from stereotypical expectations

ANS: b page: 22

10. In a study by Hartley (1946) respondents were asked about their attitudes concerning a variety of ethnic groups, including “Danireans,” “Pirraneans,” and “Wallonians.” The study found that those people who were antagonistic towards

blacks and Jews were also antagonistic toward these other three groups. The catch is that none of the three groups exist! This suggests that causes of prejudice can be found in the characteristics of:

- a. The “out-group”
- b. Hartley and his colleagues
- c. Those who are prejudiced
- d. Blacks and Jews

ANS: c page: 23

11. According to Adorno and associates why are some people prejudiced?

- a. People learn prejudice from others and adopt those prejudices largely out of the need to conform to group pressure.
- b. People are prejudiced based on their position in the social structure
- c. People who are prejudiced are mentally ill
- d. Prejudice meets certain personality needs

ANS: d pages: 23-24

12. The tendency to view one’s own group as the norm and other groups not only as different but also strange and, usually inferior is called:

- a. Ethnocentrism
- b. Anti-Semitism
- c. Cultural universalism
- d. Generalization

ANS: a page: 24

13. Adorno (1950) found that:

- a. A person prejudiced against Jews is unlikely to be prejudiced against blacks.
- b. A person prejudiced against one group is likely to be prejudiced against other groups
- c. A person prejudiced against blacks is unlikely to be prejudiced against Jews
- d. Conservatives are more likely to be prejudiced

ANS: b page: 23-24

14. Adorno did his original studies on prejudice in the 1940s. What are the findings of research done more recently?

- a. Prejudice is no longer able to be generalized
- b. Conservatism is now clearly linked to prejudice
- c. Today’s studies continue to show the same patterns
- d. Prejudice has nearly disappeared

ANS: c page: 24-25

15. Which of the following is a characteristic Adorno believed is associated with authoritarian personality?

- a. Loose adherence to conventional values

- b. Critical of authority
- c. Supportive of people who do not conform to authority
- d. Superstitious and stereotypical thinking

ANS: d page: 25-26

16. Adorno and his associates concluded all of the following about prejudice EXCEPT:

- a. Prejudice is an attitude or set of attitudes that tends to be generalized to a wide variety of out-groups rather than a specific response based on negative experiences with members of a particular out-group.
- b. There is a personality type (authoritarian personality) that tends to be associated with prejudice.
- c. If a person is prejudiced against one out-group, he or she is usually not prejudiced against other out-groups
- d. Conservatism and prejudice are not always linked.

ANS: c pages: 25-26

17. The tendency to take out one's feelings of frustration and aggression on someone other than the true source of the frustration is called:

- a. Scapegoating
- b. Racism
- c. Stereotyping
- d. Prejudice

ANS: a page 27

18. If someone minimizes, avoids, or denies undesirable characteristics in himself/herself by exaggerating those same characteristics in others, they are engaging in:

- a. Racism
- b. Projection
- c. Scapegoating
- d. Discrimination

ANS: b page: 27

19. Bob, who is white and has a high school degree, has been looking for a job and can't find one. He often blames blacks and Latinos for his inability to find work.

Bob is engaging in:

- a. Discrimination
- b. Projection
- c. Scapegoating
- d. Racism

ANS: c page: 27

20. In looking for the causes of prejudiced personalities Adorno explored childhood experiences of prejudiced and unprejudiced people. Which of the following is characteristic of prejudiced people?

- a. Objective in self-evaluation
- b. Unable to view their parents critically
- c. Able to see both the good and bad in their parents
- d. Unlikely to find fault with out-groups

ANS: b page: 27

21. According to Adorno, which of the following is part of the process by which prejudiced persons develop personality needs for projection and scapegoating?
- a. Very lax child rearing practices
 - b. Being taught in childhood to question authority
 - c. Inability to release frustration against authority figures who are the source of the frustration
 - d. Aggression is taken out against those who are high in the individual's ranking system

ANS: c page: 28

22. Rather than focus on the personality needs of the individual, social scientists who study social learning and conformity as causes of prejudice usually look at:
- a. Child rearing practices
 - b. Mental illness
 - c. Characteristics of the out-group
 - d. The social environment

ANS: d page: 30

23. Children may initially conform to peer group attitudes that may be prejudiced, merely to get rewards or avoid punishments but eventually they will:
- a. Get tired of being forced to think one way and decide on their own beliefs, attitudes or norms about behavior
 - b. Get tired of this group and find another that fits their beliefs, attitudes and norms about behavior more closely
 - c. Come to accept as their own the conforming beliefs, attitudes and norms about behavior
 - d. Become neutral about the prejudices expressed by the group

ANS: c pages: 33-34

24. Prejudice is learned through all of the following socialization processes EXCEPT:
- a. Modeling
 - b. Reward and punishment
 - c. Internalization
 - d. Socioeconomic status

ANS: d page: 34

25. Which of the following is true according to social learning theories of prejudice?
- a. Adoption of prejudiced attitudes can happen throughout the life-cycle.
 - b. People who learn prejudice as children will definitely be prejudiced adults

- c. People will not conform to prejudice attitudes to gain the acceptance of others
- d. Parents must make a conscious effort to pass on their own prejudiced attitudes to their children.

ANS: a page: 34

26. Which of the following did Asch (1956) find in his studies of conformity?
- a. Most people fail to conform even under a great deal of pressure
 - b. Most people tend to conform to gain or keep the acceptance of others
 - c. Most people will stick up for what they believe to be true even under extreme pressure to do otherwise
 - d. Confederates can mess up a research paper

ANS: b page: 34

27. One's position in society's ranking system as represented particularly by such criteria as income, education, and occupation is called:
- a. Stratification
 - b. Class
 - c. Socioeconomic status
 - d. Prestige

ANS: c page: 36

28. Persons in lower socioeconomic groups tend to be:
- a. More positive toward out-groups
 - b. Less ethnocentric
 - c. Less likely to stereotype
 - d. More rigid thinkers

ANS: d page: 36

29. In a study by Sniderman and Piazza (1993) a group of people who were all white, were asked survey questions about whether they thought the government should guarantee equal rights for women and for blacks. They found:
- a. That conservatives showed a double standard, being more supportive of equal rights for women than for blacks
 - b. That liberals were supportive of equal rights for both women and for blacks
 - c. That both conservatives and liberals showed a double standard, being more supportive of equal rights for women than for blacks
 - d. That conservatives and liberals supported equal rights for both women and blacks

ANS: c page: 38

30. Which of the following is a reason why people with higher levels of education score lower on most measures of prejudice?
- a. They are less able to understand complex ideas and situations
 - b. They have less tolerance for ambiguity

- c. They use prejudice as a way of simplifying reality
- d. They are more sophisticated about answering questionnaires

ANS: d
page: 38

True/False

1. Prejudice is overcategorization—it is the tendency to think of everyone in some category in a more or less fixed way. (T) page: 20-21
2. Stereotypes refer to exaggerated beliefs about a category of people. (T) page: 21
3. All stereotypes are negative or derogatory. (F) page: 22
4. Adorno found that prejudice is a generalized attitude. (T) page: 23-24
5. Anti-Semitism refers to prejudice against Jews. (T) page: 23
6. People with authoritarian personalities have unusually strong personality needs for scapegoating and projection. (T) page: 27-28
7. Prejudiced people tend to be unconcerned about status. (F) page: 30
8. Prejudice that meets some personality need is harder to change than that which is due to social learning. (T) page: 36
9. White Americans are more likely to be supportive of equal rights for women (of all races) than of equal rights for black (men and women). (T) page: 38
10. When people's ability to engage in complex thinking or thoughtful reflection is increased, people tend to fall back on stereotypes. (F) page: 38

Essay

1. Briefly describe Adorno's authoritarian personality type. How can strict child-rearing practices lead to the development of this kind of personality type?
2. How can peer groups get members to conform to norms that may be prejudiced against others? What happens to those who don't conform?
3. What are the effects of education on prejudice levels and why is this reason for these effects?