

CHAPTER 2

ETHNIC STRATIFICATION: MAJORITY AND MINORITY

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. _____ underlies all forms of stratification.
 - a. Money
 - b. Race
 - c. Power
 - d. Force
2. All of the following contribute to stratification EXCEPT:
 - a. unequal distribution of resources.
 - b. ideologies.
 - c. traditional social institutions.
 - d. random chance.
3. _____ techniques are commonly used only in societies where the prevailing system is not accepted by a significant part of the _____.
 - a. Coercive; government
 - b. Coercive; populace
 - c. Ideological; rich
 - d. Ideological; populace
4. Most stratification systems:
 - a. favor the masses.
 - b. exclude racism in any form.
 - c. require the development of an effective ideology.
 - d. treat most groups equally.
5. In ethnic stratification, those most like the dominant group are more:
 - a. subordinate.
 - b. exploited.
 - c. highly ranked.
 - d. nominally ranked.
6. Louis Wirth defined a minority group as those who:
 - a. are the same in every way except in the portion of members in public office.
 - b. are treated differently on the basis of their cultural or physical characteristics.
 - c. look and act like the dominant group, but have some taint in their history.
 - d. receive equal economic, but not sociocultural rewards.

7. In a society with a high degree of stratification, we can be sure:
 - a. the dominant group has the most resources.
 - b. there will be conflict between minorities.
 - c. there will be little conflict between minorities.
 - d. there is a fair distribution of resources.
8. In the U.S., the ideology of equal opportunity:
 - a. serves to justify social inequality.
 - b. ensures that some groups get more than others.
 - c. has absolutely no basis in fact.
 - d. no longer has significance in this society.
9. The dominant group has the power to sustain ideologies because:
 - a. of its power to influence the process of socialization.
 - b. it is the largest group in society.
 - c. it controls the media.
 - d. resistance is rare.
10. A minority group can be seen as a group:
 - a. that has a relatively small share of society's rewards.
 - b. that is the numerically smallest group in society.
 - c. in which people can move in and out of easily.
 - d. a group that is endogamous.
11. Which of the following is NOT characteristic of social stratification?
 - a. It is a rank order of groups.
 - b. It is unstructured, with frequent changes in the position of groups.
 - c. It is relatively stable over long periods of time.
 - d. It is supported by an ideology.
12. Which of the following does NOT constitute a minority group in American society?
 - a. African Americans
 - b. Gay and lesbian people
 - c. Males
 - d. People with physical disabilities
13. Porter called the host group the:
 - a. charter group.
 - b. minority guest group.
 - c. ethnic outcast group.
 - d. norm buster group.

14. When ethnic groups occupy a middle status between dominant and subordinate groups, they are referred to as:
 - a. ethnic liaisons.
 - b. political scapegoates.
 - c. deviant go-betweens.
 - d. middleman minorities.
15. In the United States, Anglo-Americans are privileged because they:
 - a. are the dominant group.
 - b. arrived first.
 - c. have worked the hardest.
 - d. are the largest voting bloc.
16. In the U.S., social mobility is limited because:
 - a. people inherit their class positions.
 - b. most people are not willing to move far from their families.
 - c. the price of housing is comparatively high.
 - d. there are no opportunities for advancement.
17. Caste, as a form of stratification, is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a. endogamy.
 - b. highly restricted movement from one group to another.
 - c. stigmatization of lower ranking groups.
 - d. slavery.
18. Mexican Americans living in what is now the United States' southwest region _____ after the Mexican-American War.
 - a. voluntarily migrated
 - b. were excluded
 - c. were conquered
 - d. were annexed
19. Which group involuntarily migrated to the United States?
 - a. Native Americans
 - b. Asians
 - c. French
 - d. Africans
20. Ethnicity is linked to class status insofar as:
 - a. members of the dominant ethnic group possess a disproportionate share of the society's wealth.
 - b. education influences which ethnic group one belongs to.
 - c. people in higher classes have more cultural capital.
 - d. one's class status is wholly determined by one's ethnicity.

21. The author compares the Virginia Tech shooting to the Oklahoma City bombing to make the point that:
- ethnic minorities are more likely than the dominant group to suffer the consequences of the actions of their co-ethnics.
 - the Tech shooting received much more media coverage.
 - the Oklahoma City bombing received much more media coverage.
 - college students rarely display violent behavior.
22. Pluralistic minorities do not assimilate primarily because:
- they choose not to.
 - their opportunities to do so are limited.
 - their lack of education makes it difficult.
 - their primary goal is to become the dominant group in society.
23. The ethnic factor is unlikely to inhibit Anglo-Americans' success because:
- they are privileged in every way.
 - they are all members of the upper class.
 - they have no ethnic attributes.
 - they are the dominant ethnic group.
24. Sociologists refer to upward or downward movement between socioeconomic strata as:
- strata travel.
 - social mobility.
 - impoverishment relativity.
 - social enrichment.
25. In general, where groups remain culturally or physically distinct, mobility between ethnic strata is:
- enhanced.
 - limited.
 - neutral.
 - destroyed.

26. Group B is different from the dominant group at the time of its entrance into Leutonia, a fictional multiethnic society. In a few generations, however, its members have blended almost imperceptibly into the mainstream and are hardly distinguishable from members of the dominant group. Group C is also different from the dominant group at the time of its entrance into Leutonia, but its members remain subordinated and are the constant targets of prejudice and discrimination. What assumption can be made about group C?
- a. Its members do not have the innate intelligence to adapt to the dominant group's culture.
 - b. Its members were physically or culturally far more different from the dominant group than were members of group B when each group entered Leutonia.
 - c. Its members consider themselves superior to those of the dominant group and therefore try to keep from becoming like them or interacting with them.
 - d. Its members are deserving of unequal treatment.
27. The Burakumin are considered to be descendants of a less human race in:
- a. Iran.
 - b. Japan.
 - c. South Africa.
 - d. Brazil.
28. Members of an ethnic group enter a society in large numbers for the first time. Their objective is to become part of the mainstream as quickly as possible. This is an example of a(n) _____ minority.
- a. militant
 - b. secessionist
 - c. assimilationist
 - d. archaic
29. The Amish are an ethnic group who have chosen to segregate themselves as much as possible from the mainstream society, participating only minimally in its major institutions. The Amish are:
- a. a pluralistic minority.
 - b. a secessionist minority.
 - c. an assimilationist minority.
 - d. a militant minority.
30. According to Noel's model, which of the following is the correct sequence by which ethnic stratification is created?
- a. Ethnocentrism-differential power-competition
 - b. Ethnocentrism-competition-differential power
 - c. Competition-differential power-ethnocentrism
 - d. Differential power-competition-ethnocentrism

Essay and Discussion Questions

1. Briefly describe social stratification, specifying the influence of power on stratification systems.
2. Explain the relationship between stratification and ideology and the role of ideology in sustaining social inequality.
3. Explain how ethnic stratification systems differ from other types of stratification systems.
4. Define minority group and explain the specific features of such groups. Provide examples of several types of minorities, in addition to ethnic groups.
5. How might people with disabilities, women, and gay and lesbian people be considered minorities in the same way as racial and ethnic groups?
6. Define dominant group and explain the basis of dominant group power in multiethnic societies.
7. Describe middleman minorities and how they differ from both dominant and subordinate groups in a multiethnic society.
8. Donald Noel theorizes that, following intergroup contact, three factors are necessary for the subsequent emergence of ethnic stratification. State and explain the three factors.
9. Explain the concept of caste and discuss how this concept has relevance in contemporary American race and ethnic relations.
10. Differentiate pluralistic, assimilationist, secessionist, and militant minorities. Illustrate each.
11. Explain social stratification, illustrating your explanation with three examples from American society.
12. If the U.S. is highly stratified on the basis of race, how can we explain the success of people like Oprah Winfrey and Barack Obama?
13. Describe one way your class status might affect your life. Describe one way your ethnic status might affect your life. On the basis of these two examples, are there any parallels between class and ethnicity? Why or why not?
14. Explain why women can be considered a minority in the same way as racial and ethnic groups.

15. As an example of a pervasive ideology that justifies inequality, the author provides the example of the ideology of equal opportunity. What is another example of an ideology that justifies inequality? How are we socialized to accept that ideology?

Answer Key

Multiple Choice Questions

1.	Ans: c	New	Factual	STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
2.	Ans: d	Modified	Factual	STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
3.	Ans: b	Pick-up	Factual	STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
4.	Ans: c	Pick-up	Factual	STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
5.	Ans: c	Pick-up	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
6.	Ans: b	Modified	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
7.	Ans: a	Pick-up	Applied	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
8.	Ans: a	Modified	Applied	ETHNICITY, CLASS, AND POWER
9.	Ans: a	Pick-up	Conceptual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
10.	Ans: a	Modified	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
11.	Ans: b	New	Conceptual	STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
12.	Ans: c	New	Applied	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
13.	Ans: a	Pick-up	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
14.	Ans: d	Modified	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
15.	Ans: a	Modified	Applied	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
16.	Ans: a	Pick-up	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS

17.	Ans: d	New	Conceptual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
18.	Ans: d	Modified	Factual	THE ORIGINS OF ETHNIC STRATIFICATION
19.	Ans: d	Pick-up	Factual	THE ORIGINS OF ETHNIC STRATIFICATION
20.	Ans: a	Modified	Applied	MINORITY RESPONSES TO SUBORDINATION
21.	Ans: a	Pick-up	Conceptual	ETHNICITY, CLASS AND POWER
22.	Ans: a	Pick-up	Factual	MINORITY RESPONSES TO SUBORDINATION
23.	Ans: d	Pick-up	Applied	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
24.	Ans: b	Pick-up	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
25.	Ans: b	Pick-up	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
26.	Ans: b	New	Applied	THE ORIGINS OF ETHNIC STRATIFICATION
27.	Ans: b	Pick-up	Factual	ETHNIC STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
28.	Ans: c	Pick-up	Factual	MINORITY RESPONSES TO SUBORDINATION
29.	Ans: a	New	Applied	MINORITY RESPONSES TO SUBORDINATION
30.	Ans: b	New	Conceptual	ETHNICITY, CLASS, AND POWER