

**Social Inequality in a Global Age, Fourth Edition**

**CHAPTER 1**

**The Gordian Knot of Race, Class, and Gender**

**TEST ITEMS**

Part I. Multiple Choice Questions

1. A system of inequality that involves discrete levels of privilege is called
  - a. class consciousness
  - b. social stratification \*
  - c. a Gordian knot
  - d. a gathering society
2. A society in which people belong to well-established social classes is referred to as:
  - a. egalitarian
  - b. ranked
  - c. stratified \*
  - d. patriarchal
3. C. Wright Mills refers to the sociological imagination as:
  - a. a quality of mind which helps people place their personal troubles in a broader social and historical context \*
  - b. the ability to think of interesting and informative sociological research
  - c. the ability to imagine oneself as someone else in a different social class or position
  - d. a literary device using fictional accounts to reflect social realities
4. Where a worker is placed on the “disassembly” line in the Robeson County slaughterhouse depends a great deal on
  - a. what type of educational credentials the worker has
  - b. the worker’s race, ethnicity and gender \*
  - c. the amount of seniority the worker has
  - d. whether or not the worker is a union member
5. Viewed sociologically, race and gender can be viewed as special types of
  - a. social status \*
  - b. socialization
  - c. biological categories
  - d. behavior predictors
6. Some of the most egalitarian societies in human experience have been
  - a. reforming socialist societies
  - b. laissez-faire capitalist societies
  - c. hunting and gathering societies \*
  - d. advanced agrarian societies

7. One would expect to find the least job specialization in a
  - a. hunting and gathering society \*
  - b. horticultural society
  - c. industrial society
  - d. pastoral society
8. Some refer to hunter-gatherers as the original affluent society because they
  - a. often amassed great wealth.
  - b. often made millions leasing their vast natural resources.
  - c. often raided their farming neighbors.
  - d. often worked no more than 20 hours per week. \*
9. The use of simple horticulture allowed the
  - a. establishment of permanent settlements. \*
  - b. invention of the wheel.
  - c. penetration of arctic and desert environments.
  - d. rise of the great world empires.
10. Inequality grew in many simple horticultural societies with the greater prominence of
  - a. emperors and warrior-kings
  - b. money lenders and brokers
  - c. talented artisans
  - d. redistributors and big men \*
11. The example of the Iroquois society illustrates that a number of horticultural societies:
  - a. enslaved women
  - b. were highly patriarchal
  - c. organized lineage and household around the women \*
  - d. practiced human sacrifice
12. Inequality reached its extremes in many
  - a. advanced capitalist countries
  - b. hunting and gathering societies
  - c. agrarian societies \*
  - d. horticultural barter societies
13. Many agrarian societies could be typified as:
  - a. patriarchal deference societies \*
  - b. simple horticulturalists
  - c. highly matriarchal
  - d. very egalitarian societies
14. Maritime societies were often dominated by
  - a. traders and merchants \*

- b. powerful kings
  - c. powerful mounted armies
  - d. priests and religious orders
15. Frontier societies have greater equality in their early stages in part because
- a. it is written into their constitutions
  - b. labor is scarce and valuable \*
  - c. harmonious relations are often established between natives and newcomers
  - d. natural resources are scarce
16. Women's status in hunting and gathering societies is often:
- a. less subordinate (more equal) than in agricultural societies. \*
  - b. dominant and matriarchal.
  - c. one of virtual slavery.
  - d. more subordinate than in herding societies.
17. The Kuznets curve implied that as societies fully industrialized they would
- a. disintegrate
  - b. become more equal \*
  - c. have less mobility
  - d. destroy their environment
18. Many of the world's most unequal current societies are in
- a. the advanced industrial world
  - b. the Pacific basin
  - c. Latin American industrializing agrarian societies \*
  - d. small countries of Eastern Europe
19. Postindustrial economies are dominated by
- a. rival gangs
  - b. heavy industry
  - c. the service sector \*
  - d. illegal immigrants
20. Most sociologists consider the dimensions of inequality to be
- a. inevitable
  - b. facts of nature
  - c. grounded in natural law
  - d. social constructions \*

## Part II. True False Questions

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21. Humans have always lived in extremely unequal societies. F

22. As complex civilizations emerged, societies became more unequal. T
23. Men have always been highly dominant in all societies. F
24. Every society divides itself by race, this is a fact of human nature. F
25. The sociological imagination is a skill that allows one to understand one's own experience in the context of history and society. T
26. Because there are multiple dimensions to inequality, these often cancel each other out, making everyone more or less equal. F
27. The Kuznets curve predicted that all societies would inevitably become more unequal over time. F
28. Large agrarian empires were some of the world's most unequal societies. T

### Part III. Short Answer Questions

29. What are the key dimensions of inequality that are emphasized by sociologists?

Ans: Race, class and gender (often including ethnicity, religion, age and sexuality).

30. Which types of workers are hardest hit by deindustrialization?

Ans: Working class industrial workers, particularly older, female and nonwhite blue collar workers.

### Part IV. Essay Questions

31. How do race, class and gender, along with other dimensions of inequality, interact to affect a person's life chances? Provide some concrete examples.

Ans: Varies

32. How has inequality varied over human experience and history? What characterized the divides of other societies? Is inequality likely to grow or diminish in the future? Explain.

Ans: Varies