Test Bank for Identities and Inequalities Exploring the Intersections of Race Class Gender and Sexuality 3rd Newman

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Chapter 02
Manufacturing Difference: The Social Construction of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality

True / False Questions

1. The meanings of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality have remained the same over the past couple of centuries.
FALSE

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2. According to the constructionist perspective, race, class, gender, and sexuality are simply individual traits.
FALSE

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3. We all possess multiple identities.
TRUE

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4. According to the constructionist perspective, social identifiers have both psychological and structural meanings.
TRUE

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5. Sociologists use race to refer to the nonbiological traits that provide members of a group with a sense of common identity.
FALSE

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6. According to the constructionist perspective, social identifiers are independent of context.
FALSE

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7. The U.S. Census accurately reflects the way people personally experience race.
FALSE

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8. Transsexuals not only identify with a different sex but sometimes undergo hormone treatment and surgery to physically change their sex.
TRUE

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9. The official U.S. poverty line is based on income after tax and includes food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing.
FALSE

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10. Determining an individual's sex is a strictly natural and straightforward process.
FALSE

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Multiple Choice Questions

11. From an essentialist perspective, people's:
A. idea of what is real and essential is always a product of the culture and historic period in which they live.
B. race and gender can change as long as society's essence is transient.
C. definitions and labels can change, but an individual's essence is permanent.
D. racial ambivalence is independent of within-group and between-group differences.

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12. Which of the following statements is true according to constructionism?
A. Categorical distinctions based on race, gender, class, and sexuality exist independently of human ideas about them.
B. What humans know to be real and essential is always a product of the culture and historical period in which humans live.
C. People's definitions and labels can change, but an individual's essence is permanent.
D. Social identifiers are independent of context.

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13. Identities are best characterized as:
A. primary essences of our natural being.
B. categories ascribed to us by ourselves.
C. categories that disregard our individual opinions.
D. social locations that determine our position in the world relative to others.

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14. Group differences in behaviors or traits tend to be understood in an essentialist way when they are:
A. seen as innate and individual characteristics.
B. seen as based on cultural and historical contexts.
C. understood as not existing independently from human ideas.
D. understood as having psychological and structural meanings.

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15. According to the author, which of the following social identities is the most innate?
A. Gender
B. Ethnicity
C. Class
D. None of these

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16. The example of the teenager in the film Breaking Away who decides to adopt an Italian identity, but does not do it successfully, demonstrates:
A. that one's ability to create identity ultimately depends only on the amount of effort one puts into the process.
B. that one's ability to create identity depends ultimately on social context and response from others.
C. the impossibility of successfully changing an essential ethnic identity.
D. that the film's character really didn't know anything about being Italian.

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17. According to Cornell and Hartman, when growing up and creating our social identities, we learn the boundaries that distinguish group members from nonmembers, whether membership in our group is something to take pride in or be ashamed of, and:
A. the authentic history of our group.
B. the essential character of our group.
C. the perceived position of our group within society.
D. the position of our group in a natural hierarchy.

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18. During the 1970s and 1980s in South Africa, the government created a category of honorary white for:
A. people who earned an achieved status through interracial marriage.
B. certain random groups which were allowed to claim whiteness on some governmental forms.
C. Whites who granted exceptional status to their non-white slaves.
D. rich, powerful Asians who invested in South Africa.

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19. The quotation, "I am haunted by the human chimpanzees I saw along that hundred miles of horrible country," referred to which racial group in the 19th Century?
A. The Jews
B. The Irish
C. The Blacks
D. The Chinese

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20. The appearance and disappearance of particular racial labels and categories reflect:
A. the extinction of particular racial groups through intermarriage.
B. the formation of new identities through assimilation.
C. the visibility and value of certain groups in society.
D. the scientific discovery of new races.

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21. According to the author, which of the following components of identity is least likely to be attributed to innate biological or anatomical traits?
A. Class
B. Race/ethnicity
C. Sex/gender
D. Sexuality

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22. Which of the following statements is true of societies that stratify people on the basis of a caste system?
A. Socioeconomic status is determined at birth and considered unchangeable.
B. There are no barriers to social mobility.
C. Societal groups are horizontally satisfied.
D. Between-group differences and within-group differences are given equal importance.

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23. In the United States, the upper class is composed of the highest-earning:
A. 20% of the population.
B. 10% of the population.
C. 5% of the population.
D. 15% of the population.

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24. In the United States, the lower class consists of:
A. 20% of the population.
B. 40% of the population.
C. 25% of the population.
D. 15% of the population.

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25. According to the text, moral boundaries between classes consist of assessments of all qualities EXCEPT:
A. honesty and integrity.
B. work ethic.
C. taste.
D. consideration for others.

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26. In the United States, the official poverty line is determined by:
A. the cost of food, housing, clothing, and health care multiplied by 3.
B. the cost of a subsistence diet multiplied by 3.
C. the cost of food, housing, and clothing multiplied by 3.
D. the cost of a subsistence diet multiplied by 6.

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27. Upon getting up in the morning, after using a plethora of scented products in the shower and checking to make sure no body hair is evident, Christina routinely spends the next 20 minutes putting on make-up. About 20 minutes after that, this person attends to an elaborate hairstyle that includes using a curling iron, hairdryer, and special styling products. This person is most likely:
A. expressing her heterosexuality.
B. doing gender.
C. disregarding traditional gender roles.
D. displaying her sex.

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28. Transgender is a broad label that describes individuals:
A. whose gender identity doesn't match their assigned sex.
B. whose behavior conforms to conventional gender expectations.
C. who change their sex through surgery.
D. who believe in the essentialist view of gender.

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29. In the United States, although we acknowledge the influence of social surroundings on gender, we only recognize two sexes. This is known as:
A. sexism.
B. heteronormativity.
C. the sexual dichotomy.
D. sexual constructionism.

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30. The fact that the Navajo recognize nadle as a third sex, the Tahitians recognize the mahu, and the Lakota recognize the wintke, supports the perspective that sex is:
A. an innate biological characteristic.
B. unimportant to all cultures.
C. always connected to gender.
D. socially constructed.

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Essay Questions

31. Describe how intersexuals have been viewed from an essentialist perspective in the U.S. society.

Answers will vary

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32. Describe how race/ethnicity, class, and sex/gender/sexuality can be viewed from an essentialist perspective and from a constructionist perspective.

Answers will vary

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33. What are some of the difficulties in defining racial and ethnic identity in the U.S. Census?

Answers will vary

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34. In what ways are the class and racial systems in the U.S. similar to a caste system of social stratification? Is one of these social identifiers more caste-like than the other?

Answers will vary

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35. What is meant by doing gender? How is this different from sex? Are other social identifiers things that we do?

Answers will vary

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