

**Social Stratification
Spring 2006
Prof. Philip Cohen**

MIDTERM EXAM

There are 25 multiple choice questions. Answer every one as best you can, marking the answer on your Scantron form. There are two essay questions. Answer ONE of these essay questions as best you can in the time provided. The multiple-choice and essay sections each contribute 50% of your total exam grade.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

For each question, select the best of the four choices.

1 Which country on this list has the highest rate of mortality for children under 5?

- a. Iraq
- b. United States
- c. China
- d. Syria

2. What contributed most to decreased fertility rates in China?

- a. Women's empowerment
- b. The one-child policy
- c. Famine
- d. None: China's fertility rates did not decrease

3. According to the lecture ...

- a. "Race" is a clearly defined biological concept
- b. There is no reason to even discuss "race" anymore
- c. "Race" is a social construction, but it still matters
- d. The public no longer sees people as belonging to difference "races"

4. According to Max Weber, Marx's theory needed to be improved by...

- a. Analyzing multiple dimensions of stratification
- b. Reducing the number of categories in Marx's class structure
- c. Focusing more on poor countries
- d. Placing economics at the center of the theory

5. Since the 1970s...

- a. The richest fifth of families increased their share of the total income
- b. The poorest fifth of families increased their share of total income
- c. Both (a) and (b)
- d. Neither (a) nor (b)

6. One problem with the IQ or intelligence theory of poverty is...

- a. Without equal opportunity, the true effect of intelligence on poverty can't be measured
- b. Since everyone has an equal chance in America, intelligence is no longer important
- c. Because of welfare the poor survive, and that impedes the evolutionary process
- d. It doesn't take into account the inherent biological differences between the races

7. The proportion of families with children that are headed by single mothers is...

- a. About 1-in-10 for all groups
- b. About 1-in-10 for Whites and more than 4-in-5 for African Americans
- c. More than half for all groups
- d. About 1-in-5 for Whites and half for African Americans

8. According to Marx, capitalism is doomed because...

- a. The proletariat has turned the bourgeoisie into a revolutionary class
- b. The bourgeoisie has created the proletariat, which will eventually overthrow capitalism
- c. The middle class will eventually grow so large it takes over society
- d. Inequality never really existed before capitalism came on the historical scene

9. Under the system the Supreme Court reviewed, what contributed to admission scores at the University of Michigan?

- a. Coming from a Michigan alumni family
- b. Coming from a Black or Latino family
- c. Coming from a rural Michigan county
- d. High school grade point average
- e. All of the above

10. Globalization increasingly leads to...

- a. Increasing inequality between some rich countries and other rich countries
- b. Decreasing inequality between all groups because of technology
- c. Increasing poverty for all nations
- d. Increasing inequality between rich countries and poor countries

11. How much of the world population lives on less than \$500 per year?

- a. Less than 1%
- b. About 5%
- c. About 40%
- d. About 90%

12. According to the World-System Theory, which group of countries has the largest population and the worst health conditions?

- a. Core
- b. Semi-Periphery
- c. Periphery
- d. Wastelands
- e. The theory statistically divides countries evenly between rich and poor

13. The functionalist theory of inequality argues that...

- a. Jobs are rewarded according to their difficulty and desirability
- b. People are not motivated to work because jobs are rewarded unequally
- c. People believe the system is fair, so they are generally satisfied
- d. Both (a) and (c)

14. What percentage of eligible voters have voted in presidential elections in the last 60 years?

- a. 0-20%
- b. 21-40%
- c. 41-60%
- d. 61-80%

15. According to the Christian Bible, Jesus Christ said a camel passing through the eye of a needle was more likely than what?

- a. Peace between nations
- b. The end of inequality
- c. A rich man going to heaven
- d. The poor redeeming themselves in the eyes of God

16. Which is *not* a victimless crime, by Reiman's definition?

- a. Illegal gambling
- b. Prostitution
- c. "Crimes against nature"
- d. Shoplifting

17. Why doesn't the criminal justice system reform, according to Reiman?

- a. Conspiracy by the rich
- b. Pluralist democracy
- c. Historical inertia
- d. All of the above

18. According to Reiman, which policy successfully reduced the crime rate?

- a. The Reagan-era "war on drugs"
- b. Federal mandatory minimum sentences
- c. Switching from the Uniform Crime Report to the Crime Victimization Survey
- d. None of the above

19. The violent crime rate in the U.S. has:

- a. Gone up steadily as unemployment has gotten worse and worse
- b. Dropped in the last decade
- c. Been on a long decline since the early 1980s
- d. Never been worse

20. According to Reiman, which causes the most deaths in the United States?

- a. Occupational hazard and disease
- b. Firearms
- c. Police brutality
- d. Heroin

21. Who was killed by the Chicago police?

- a. William O'Neil
- b. Angela Davis
- c. Fred Hampton
- d. All of the above

22. In the case of Warren *McClesky*, the Supreme Court considered:

- a. The racial balance of schools
- b. The race of the victim in death penalty cases
- c. The race of police officers in racial profiling cases
- d. Abortion rights

23. About how many people are imprisoned in the U.S.A.?

- a. 2,000
- b. 20,000
- c. 200,000
- d. 2,000,000

24. According to Domhoff, as described by the Kerbo and the lecture, which term best describes the political power of the upper class?

- a. Dominance
- b. Dictatorship
- c. Very limited influence
- d. Invisible influence

25. According to the New York Times, what is Professor Cohen's class status?

- a. In the richest 1% of Americans
- b. In the richest 15% of Americans, but not in the top 1%
- c. About at the average
- d. Working poor

ESSAY QUESTION

- ❑ Write an answer to one of these essay questions in your blue book. Do not answer more than one question; only the first answer will be graded.
- ❑ In your answer, be as detailed and specific as possible, giving examples or specific facts where appropriate.

A.

Marx predicted that inequality would get worse and worse until capitalism collapsed. Do you think Marx was correct or not? Use specific examples from lecture material and/or the readings to substantiate your argument.

B.

According to the authors we have read and Prof. Cohen's lectures, there are powerful myths that distort our image of both (1) the justice system and (2) poverty and the welfare system. Describe some of these myths and the facts they obscure. Then, compare the myths. What common threads run through both sets of myths, and what are their implications?