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Chapter 2
Is Biology Destiny? Understanding Sex and Gender

Multiple Choice

1. The term _____ can be defined as the *set* of biological distinctions that differentiate males and females, whereas _____ refers to the set of social distinctions that differentiate women and men.

   a. intersexuality, transgender
   b. sex, gender*
   c. transgender, intersectionality
   d. gender, sex

2. According to the textbook, our society treats sex and gender as dichotomies or binaries—things that can be divided into two mutually exclusive categories. Which statement below best reflects this idea?

   a. Having either a penis or a vagina determines the sex of a person.
   b. There are only XX and XY chromosomes.
   c. Gender identity must align with genitalia.
   d. All of the above*

3. In *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality* (1993), Fausto-Sterling argues that there are at least five sexes. Which term does she use to refer to those who have ovaries and some male genitalia but no testes?

   a. Herms
   b. Merms
   c. Ferms*
   d. Derms

4. The Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) has criticized doctors' efforts to "normalize" intersex individuals. The ISNA objects to these procedures because:

   a. The bodies of intersex individuals are already physiologically normal and do not need to be altered.
   b. The procedures cause psychological harm to children.
   c. Altering intersex individuals to fit into society's dichotomous organization of sex is harmful to society as well as to the intersex person.
   d. All of the above*

5. The term *androgyny* refers to the idea that gender is:

   a. Male or female
   b. Neither male nor female

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c. A combination of male and female*
d. None of the above

6. Sandra Bem (1981) developed the Bem Gender Roles Inventory (BGRI) in order to demonstrate that people process behaviors based on sex-linked associations, which she calls a "gender schema." The goal of this theory was:

a. Not to identify an essential list of traits that describe masculinity and femininity
b. To develop a model of how categories like gender become internalized and acted upon
c. To show that gender has nothing to do with processing social cues
d. Both a and b*

7. According to your textbook, in many societies, that which is masculine is defined as good and valuable and that which is feminine is defined as less valuable. Which of the following statements best corresponds to this idea?

a. The likelihood that men and women will be treated equally is increasing.
b. The things men do in such a society are treated as the norm against which other behaviors are compared.*
c. Men are encouraged to display feminine qualities.
d. Women tend to have more power in such societies.

8. According to sociologist Michael Kimmel (2010), the "interplanetary theory of gender difference" is based on the idea that:

a. There are more differences between men and women than we think.
b. Men and women are from different planets.
c. There are no differences between men and women.
d. There is more variation *among* women and men and fewer differences between the "average" man and woman.*

9. According to the author of your textbook, explanations favoring the "nature" perspective have sometimes been used to justify social inequality. This is because:

a. Human differences are seen as rooted in biology.*
b. Human differences are seen as rooted in behavior.
c. Human differences are seen as rooted in cultural variation.
d. All of the above

10. The idea that men are more aggressive and more sexual than women because they have higher levels of testosterone, while female sex hormones make women more nurturing and empathetic is an example of which perspective?

a. The dichotomous perspective
b. The social constructionist perspective
c. The functionalist perspective

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d. The essentialist perspective*

11. Which phrase accurately depicts the evolutionary psychology perspective?

a. Men have a biological imperative to "spread their seed."
b. Testosterone induces "a biological urge that sooner or later demands expression [and] literally guarantees the survival of the species."
c. Women are "expressly designed to alleviate men's sexual tensions."
d. All of the above*

12. Anthropologist Margaret Mead (2001) chose Papua New Guinea as the setting for her groundbreaking 1935 work *Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies*. In this study, she found:

a. That gender roles and expressions were the same across all cultures
b. That among the Mundugumor, both men and women had "warlike" natures*
c. That among the Arapesh, men and women neither were cooperative in temperament nor shared duties of diplomacy, agricultural production, and childrearing
d. That among the Tchambuli, gender roles were the same as those observed in most Western societies

13. _____, meaning "rule of fathers," refers to a model of social organization in which men are dominant in terms of economic, cultural, and political affairs, while _____, by contrast, refers to a form of social organization in which women play dominant roles.

a. Matriarchy, patriarchy
b. Oligarchy, anarchy
c. Patriarchy, matriarchy*
d. Anarchy, oligarchy

14. According to your textbook, a sworn virgin:

a. Is a young woman who takes an oath of sexual abstinence and begins dressing and acting as a man*
b. Is a young man who takes an oath of sexual abstinence and begins dressing and acting as a woman
c. Can typically change back into whatever gender role he or she wishes
d. None of the above

15. An example of third-gender people include which of the following?

a. The *berdache* of the Plains Indians
b. The *hijra* of India
c. The *nadle* of the Navajo
d. All of the above*

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16. On some college campuses across the country, gender-neutral housing is being offered to students in order to:

    a. Support the notion that there are only "opposite sexes"
    b. Provide fewer options for gender-nonconforming students
    c. Decrease student activism
    d. Provide a safe, inclusive, comfortable, and supportive living experience for gender-nonconforming students*

17. According to your textbook, the essentialist perspective and evolutionary psychology suggest that men are naturally dominant and that their muscular and testosterone-fueled bodies engineer them to provide and protect. Which societies refute this statement?

    a. Pastoral societies
    b. Hunter-gatherer societies*
    c. Agricultural societies
    d. Industrial societies

18. The concept of intersectionality refers to the notion that it is insufficient to focus only on differences between women and men without paying attention to the other identities that gender "intersects" with. Which statement supports the concept of intersectionality?

    a. A white, rich, heterosexual man has the same experiences as a black, poor, lesbian woman.
    b. Race, class, and gender do not directly change the social experience of the individual.
    c. Some people experience multiple forms of oppression, while others have power and privilege in some domains but lack them in others.*
    d. The concept of intersectionality tells us nothing about human experiences.

19. According to your textbook, the case of Caster Semenya reveals:

    a. That gender and sex are socially constructed
    b. That biological determinism is still being used to decide who is male or female, man or woman
    c. That even when it comes to "sex," something that should be simple and biologically verifiable, we find that humans are *still* looking for ways to determine how many sexes there are and what determines a person's sex
    d. All of the above*

20. Ultimately, sociologists:

    a. Believe that there are some biological differences between males and females but overall do not believe that biology is destiny*
    b. Support the essentialist perspective
    c. Believe that social practices have nothing to do with differences between men and women

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d. Believe that ultimately, biology defines what it means to be a man or a woman

True/False

T* F 1. Sex is a trait that humans are born with.

T* F 2. In Klinefelter syndrome, the X and Y sex chromosomes of the sperm fail to separate as they fertilize an (X) egg, thereby producing an XXY offspring.

T F* 3. Alice Dreger (1998)—a historian and medical ethicist—argues that sex is a biological truth, rather than a social construction.

T* F 4. The *guevedoces* of the Dominican Republic demonstrate that the same human body may be interpreted differently across cultures and that the notion of "sex" itself is a human creation.

T* F 5. According to your textbook, although we conventionally use the terms *masculinity* and *femininity* to describe the gender role expectations associated with males and females, in reality we all blend elements of masculinity and femininity.

T F* 6. All transgender individuals undergo sex reassignment surgery.

T F* 7. Biological determinism captures the basic idea that human behavior is not *determined* by underlying biological forces.

T* F 8. Accordingly, sociologists argue that higher levels of testosterone don't *cause* aggressive behavior; rather, the opportunity to experience aggression and competition may cause an increase in testosterone.

T F* 9. Patrilineal societies are those in which the tracing of descent and the handing down of names, property, and affiliation occur through the mother's line.

T F* 10. An egalitarian society is one characterized by inequality among groups or individuals.

Short-Answer Questions

1. Briefly discuss how you think intersex and transgender identities challenge the binary construction of gender and sex.
2. When thinking about gender as a continuum, do men and women have equal freedom to blend so-called masculine and feminine traits? Provide an example in your discussion.
3. Briefly discuss how you think essentialist arguments have been used to limit women's roles in the military.

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