Inequality in the United States - A Reader 1st edition Brueggemann Test Bank

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1. From *"The Manifesto of the Communist Party"* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

This piece represents the classic exposition of the growing division between two groups--the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. These groups have antagonistic interests owing to their different positions in the economic means of production that characterizes capitalism. The authors maintain both groups become increasingly polarized from each other as the bourgeoisie progressively own and receive a greater share of economic resources. The proletariat, in contrast, view the bourgeoisie more and more as the enemy who must be opposed as the proletariat progressively experience more exploitation.

Questions:

1. What work conditions characterize the bourgeoisie?

2. What work conditions characterize the proletariat?

3. How do the authors define the "means of production"?

4. What do the authors mean when they say that under capitalism the worker "becomes an appendage of the machine"?

5. True or false: The "lumpen proletariat" are a bridge between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

Answer: False

6. What causes the proletariat to rise up and overthrow the bourgeoisie? A) The realization that they can run society; B) The realization that they should be exploiting workers; C) Their progressively shrinking share of economic rewards; D) Religious-based beliefs about how all should be treated equally.

Answer: C

2. From *"Class, Status, Party"* by Max Weber

Weber's notion of stratification is complex and multidimensional. Analytically distinct are three dimensions: 1) class, 2) status, and 3) party. *Class* is broader than, for example, the Marxian formulation and related to the general economic prospects ("life-chance opportunities") of collectivities; *status* refers to honorific and status considerations that can be tied to economic rewards; and *party* refers to similar levels of power exercised particularly in the political arena.

Questions:

1. How does Weber define *class* as an element of stratification?

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2. How does Weber define *status* as an element of stratification?

3. How does Weber define *party* as an element of stratification?

4. True or false: Weber's notion of stratification is broader than that of Marx.
Answer: True

5. Which of the following would be an example of a "status group" for Weber? A) Those who wield the same amount of power; B) Those in the same political party; C) Those who belong to the same prestigious country club; D) Those who work alongside each other.
Answer: C

6. Which of the following does not define *class* for Weber? A) Groups of people who have in common a specific "life-chance opportunity"; B) A common economic interest; C) A common labor market commodity; D) Those who share similar power in the Democratic party.
Answer: C

7. How is Weber's notion of stratification broader than just class?

3. From *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois

DuBois' classic essay charts the impact of slavery as well as post-slavery treatment on the "souls" or psyche of blacks. He views both as equally pernicious and responsible for ongoing marginality and psychological turbulence.

Questions:

1. True or false: According to DuBois, emancipation has served to lessen the "Negro problem."
Answer: False

2. According to DuBois, what kinds of hopes for equality were not realized for blacks after emancipation?

3. What does DuBois mean when he says that blacks experience a "double self"?

4. What, according to DuBois, constitutes "the soul" of black folk?

5. What would DuBois most like to see happen to blacks? A) Achieve equal opportunity; B) Achieve equal success; C) Establish permanent institutions; D) All of the above.
Answer: A

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6. How does DuBois characterize whites in terms of race relations in the post-emancipation period?

7. According to DuBois, what has been the root of all prejudice and discrimination? A) Segregation; B) Slavery; C) Bad schools; D) Political power.

Answer: A

4. From *"The Conservation of Races"* by W.E.B. DuBois

DuBois is concerned with: 1) the meaning of race in American society, and, 2) identifying how blacks can better succeed in American society. He advocates an approach that emphasizes self-reliance and the formation of separate race-based forms of social organization and institutions.

Questions:

1. DuBois believes that contributions to civilization among racial groups are a product of: A) Biological factors; B) Non-biological factors; C) Partially both A and B; D) Historic factors.

Answer: B

2. Dubois believes that important contributions to civilization have been made by: A) Whites; B) Blacks; C) Asians; D) All of the above.

Answer: D

3. Discuss Dubois' view concerning the relationship between racial and national identity.

4. Why does DuBois believe blacks should advance themselves by becoming self-reliant and develop separate, race-based institutions and organizations?

5. Summarize, according to DuBois, the ideals blacks should strive to attain in order to be successful in America.

6. True or false: Dubois maintains that whites should take the lead in helping blacks to overcome the "vices" of daily life.

Answer: False

7. What does DuBois mean by saying "the full, complete Negro message of the whole Negro race has not as yet been given to the world"?

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5. From *"Woman Versus The Indian"* by Anna Julia Cooper

Cooper discusses the plight of women, maintaining they are proud, significant contributors to American society and they should identify with Indians and blacks who share a similar history of oppression.

Questions:

1. True or false: According to Cooper, women contribute meaningfully to the betterment of American society.

Answer: True

2. Does Cooper believe that women are as discriminated against as blacks and Indians? Why or why not?

3. According to Cooper, what are women's contributions to American society?

4. Which of the following groups has a plight that women should identify with? A) Mexican Americans; B) Blacks; C) Jews; D) None of the above.

Answer: B

5. According to Cooper, women's plight as an oppressed group is similar to the plight of: A) Blacks; B) Indians; C) All oppressed groups; D) No other oppressed groups.

Answer: B

6. How does Cooper characterize the plight of Southern women?

7. According to Cooper, how have women responded to the oppression they have experienced?

6. From *"Some Principles of Stratification"* by Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore

Davis and Moore offer a classical "functional" account of stratification. In particular, stratification is viewed as functional for the overall good of society. This perspective emphasizes the functional importance of positions, not the individuals who fill them; filling them ensures that all of the jobs necessary for the sustainability of society will be performed. These roles, however, contribute to the functioning of society to different degrees and the rewards attached to them are a product of how important particular roles are. Individuals who perform these roles are seen as motivated to perform them because there is a natural tendency for the abilities and talents of the individual to find the appropriate role in a social structure.

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