The American Class Structure in an Age of Growing Inequality 11th edition Gilbert Test Bank

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Chapter 2: Position and Prestige

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. The concept of _____ is a sentiment in the minds of people that is expressed in social interaction.
A. prestige
B. stratification
C. class
D. social chances
Ans: A

2. Which sociologist during the 1930s conducted a study of the social class structure of a small New England town?
A. W. Lloyd Warner
B. Richard Coleman
C. Lee Rainwater
D. Max Weber
Ans: A

3. In his study of Yankee City, W. Lloyd Warner discovered a hierarchy of prestige classes based on both _____.
A. social and political distinctions
B. economic and social distinctions
C. economic and political distinctions
D. religious and political distinctions
Ans: B

4. Which of the following did Warner use as a shorthand index for prestige position?
A. annual income
B. occupation
C. political party affiliation
D. clique and association memberships
Ans: D

5. W. Lloyd Warner and his colleagues were able to classify what percent of Yankee City residents?
A. 50%
B. 30%
C. 80%
D. 99%
Ans: D

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6. In the Yankee City classificatory schema, which level had the largest share of residents?
A. upper-upper class
B. upper-middle class
C. lower-middle class
D. upper-lower class
Ans: D

7. The PBS documentary *People Like Us: Social Class in America* is primarily about _____.
A. the vast differences in wealth seen in America
B. the vast differences in income in America
C. the struggles that members of the lower class must go through to find employment
D. the way Americans experience class differences
Ans: D

8. Synthesizing individual judgments about the class system was problematic for Coleman and Rainwater because _____.
A. their data consisted of verbal statements about general symbols rather than details about particular others in the community
B. their data consisted of a large number of highly detailed documents
C. respondents were not as cooperative as they would have liked
D. respondents provided information that was inconsistent with their expectations
Ans: A

9. According to the Coleman–Rainwater model of the class structure, members of the upper-middle class tend to which type of occupations?
A. lower-level managers; small business owners; lower status professionals
B. middle professionals and managers
C. unskilled labor and service jobs
D. top professionals; senior corporate executives
Ans: B

10. According to the NORC occupational prestige scores, which of the following is considered a high-prestige job?
A. school teacher
B. plumber
C. manager of a supermarket
D. insurance agent
Ans: A

11. Social classificatory schemas are _____.
A. useful abstractions that attempt to organize and summarize a great deal of data
B. precise measures of occupational prestige
C. used by the federal government when distributing tax rebates

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D. both useful abstractions that attempt to organize and summarize a great deal of data and precise measures of occupational prestige
Ans: A

12. Coleman and Rainwater studied prestige among individuals in _____.
A. Yankee City
B. Middletown
C. Boston and Kansas City
D. Kansas City and Baltimore
Ans: C

13. Warner's Yankee City research led him to conceive of social class in much the same way as _____.
A. Karl Marx
B. Gilbert–Kahl
C. Richard Coleman
D. Max Weber
Ans: D

14. According to the work of Coleman and Rainwater, the class with the largest number of families in it is the _____.
A. upper-upper class
B. upper-middle class
C. middle class
D. working class
Ans: D

15. Americans are _____.
A. uncomfortable making class distinctions
B. unable to rank different occupations
C. less able to make distinctions among those close to themselves in the hierarchy than far away
D. comfortable with the idea of social inequality
Ans: A

16. W. Lloyd Warner and his colleagues classified the residents of Yankee City into _____ classes.
A. two
B. four
C. six
D. eight
Ans: C

17. According to W. Lloyd Warner and his colleagues, the largest proportion of residents of Yankee City were _____.
A. upper-middle class

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B. lower-middle class
C. upper-lower class
D. lower-lower class
Ans: C

18. Davis et al. in their report, *Deep South*, led to all of the important conclusions about perceptions of the class structure EXCEPT _____.
A. people at all class levels perceive class differences, but there is disagreement about the number of classes in the community
B. people make more distinctions among those close to themselves in the hierarchy than among those who are far away
C. people often agree about where individuals or families belong in the class hierarchy and about why they are there
D. despite class differences in the number of classes perceived at various levels in the hierarchy, the distinctions actually made by people from different classes coincide
Ans: C

19. How was the class level of children measured in Warner's study in Yankee City?
A. Children were assigned the status level of their parents.
B. Children were assigned a status group based on the school they attended.
C. Children were assigned a status based on the neighborhood they lived in.
D. Children were not included in the study.
Ans: A

20. In the Gilbert–Kahl model, the class at the top of the model with the most wealth is termed _____.
A. elites
B. capitalists
C. upper-upper class
D. bourgeoisie
Ans: B

21. In the Gilbert–Kahl model, the class at the bottom of the model with the least amount of wealth is termed _____.
A. low class
B. lower-lower class
C. the bottom
D. underclass
Ans: D

22. _____ is a fair indicator of two other sources of prestige: income and education.
A. Lifestyle
B. Family background
C. Occupation
D. Association
Ans: C

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23. According to NORC, the highest prestige occupation is _____.
A. lawyer
B. nurse
C. physician
D. college professor
Ans: C

24. According to NORC, the lowest prestige occupation is _____.
A. house painter
B. janitor
C. bus driver
D. garbage collector
Ans: B

25. Which is true about how Americans view class structure?
A. Americans perceive a prestige hierarchy of both persons and occupations, which they divide into a few categories or classes.
B. There is a consensus about how to define and differentiate class levels.
C. There is more agreement about the criteria used in making ranking decisions than the rank order.
D. There is more agreement about division into classes than making rankings.
Ans: A

True/False

1. Prestige is a sentiment in the minds of people that is expressed in interpersonal interaction.
Ans: T

2. Warner noted that when a person had an equivalent rank on all the economic and social variables, people in Yankee City had difficulty determining their prestige rank.
Ans: F

3. The class system in Yankee City is a summary of what residents told Warner.
Ans: F

4. According to Davis et al., class structures look different depending upon where one is situated in the class structure.
Ans: T

5. Occupational prestige ratings across subgroups have been quite consistent and stable over time.
Ans: T

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6. The PBS documentary *People Like Us: Social Class in America* is based on systematic research.
Ans: F

7. Individuals tend to make more class distinctions between themselves and those closest to themselves in the social class hierarchy.
Ans: T

8. In terms of occupational prestige, a supermarket manager ranks higher than a public school teacher.
Ans: F

9. The Gilbert–Kahl model was based solely on economic considerations.
Ans: T

10. In America, there is a prestige hierarchy recognized by most citizens which places people into a few classes.
Ans: T

11. Occupational prestige scores range from 20 to 80.
Ans: F

12. Warner discovered that moral status had no connection to class position.
Ans: F

13. Coleman and Rainwater found that working-class families were more likely to own larger and more expensive automobiles than middle-class families.
Ans: T

14. According to Coleman and Rainwater, members of the upper-upper class get most of their income from inherited wealth.
Ans: T

15. Social ranking is usually a conscious process.
Ans: F

16. In studies of peoples' perceptions of social class, there is greater ranking consistency than cutting consistency.
Ans: T

17. In perceptions of social class, people lump together into large groups those who are furthest from them.
Ans: T

18. Occupational prestige rankings in the NORC have varied immensely over the past several decades.

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Ans: F

19. In the Gilbert–Kahl model, the top 1% are termed capitalists.
Ans: T

20. Davis et al. found eight classes in their study entitled *Deep South*.
Ans: F

Essay

1. How does the Coleman–Rainwater metropolitan model differ from the Gilbert–Kahl national model outlined in Chapter 1?
Ans: (See Table 2.2.) There are some variations in class labels, but the main differences stem from the underlying bases of the models. Our model is based on purely economic considerations, in particular occupation and sources of income. Coleman and Rainwater, like their mentor Warner, have created a prestige model based on public perceptions of the class order, lifestyles, and patterns of association. For this reason, they make the distinction between old money and new money (in effect splitting our capitalist class) and they lean toward the traditional blue-collar/white-collar distinction to define the middle and working classes. Despite these differences, the three maps of the class system are broadly similar. This may, in some degree, reflect their common debt to the tradition of sociological thinking about class. But the real key to their similarities is that in Kansas City and Boston, as well as Yankee City, prestige is largely, though not quite wholly, derived from economic position.

2. The Warner and Coleman–Rainwater class models were concerned primarily with prestige. The Gilbert–Kahl model was based solely on economic considerations. Explain why these models still show remarkable consistency.
Ans: (See Table 2.2.) There are some variations in class labels, but the main differences stem from the underlying bases of the models. Our model is based on purely economic considerations, in particular occupation and sources of income. Coleman and Rainwater, like their mentor Warner, have created a prestige model based on public perceptions of the class order, lifestyles, and patterns of association. For this reason, they make the distinction between old money and new money (in effect splitting our capitalist class) and they lean toward the traditional blue-collar/white-collar distinction to define the middle and working classes. Despite these differences, the three maps of the class system are broadly similar. This may, in some degree, reflect their common debt to the tradition of sociological thinking about class. But the real key to their similarities is that in Kansas City and Boston, as well as Yankee City, prestige is largely, though not quite wholly, derived from economic position.

3. Why is there no longer any clear distinction between the concepts of “blue collar” and “white collar”? Illustrate your explanation with examples.
Ans: Among those we place in the middle class are lower level managers, insurance agents, teachers, nurses, electricians, and plumbers. Our working class includes

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unskilled factory workers, office workers without specialized training, and many retail sales workers. The boundary between these two classes cannot be sharply drawn. Note that we do not depend on the traditional blue collar–white collar (manual vs. nonmanual) distinction; there are blue-collar and white-collar workers in both classes.

4. Americans engage in greater "ranking consistency" than "cutting consistency" when identifying where people go in the social class structure. What is the difference between the two of them? Use examples in your definition.
Ans: (1) People perceive a rank order. (2) They agree more about the extremes than about the middle of the prestige range. (3) They agree most about the top of the range and make more distinctions about the top than about the bottom. (Perhaps the top is just more conspicuous.) (4) People lump together into large groups those who are furthest from them. (5) People in the middle or at the bottom are more likely to conceive of class differences in financial terms. (6) Those at the top are more conscious of prestige distinctions based on family history ("old money") and style of life. (7) Mobility is a source of ambiguity in perception of the prestige order. People find it difficult to "place" mobile individuals. Perception of high rates of mobility leads to the conclusion that class boundaries are amorphous or nonexistent.

5. Define prestige and give an example illustrating it.
Ans: Prestige is defined as social esteem or honor. It is expressed in attitudes of respect or deference in social interaction. It is sometimes used interchangeably with the term, status. When a group of people or families in a community share a common position of prestige, they may be described as a prestige class. According to NORC, physician is the most prestigious occupation. This occupation is held in high regard, and physicians are generally treated with respect by other people.

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