

## Chapter 2 Quiz Poverty and Wealth

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Between 1980 and 2010, how has U.S. income changed?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All categories of the U.S. population saw some rise in average income.</li> <li>b. The gains have been huge for the rich and also the poor.</li> <li>c. income inequality has been steadily decreasing over time.</li> <li>d. The rich have seen large gains; the poor have seen small declines.</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>2. Regarding U.S. taxation,             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the government increases income inequality through regressive taxation.</li> <li>b. government takes more from the rich in taxes and gives more to the poor in assistance programs.</li> <li>c. people with very high incomes of \$1 million or more paid only about 5% of their incomes in federal taxes.</li> <li>d. working class families with incomes of about \$25,000 annually pay most of the government's tax bill.</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>3. In the United States, people in which of the following categories are most likely to be rich?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. older, white, male</li> <li>b. younger, male, married</li> <li>c. white, female, married</li> <li>d. younger, white, male</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>4. People or families below the _____ are defined as poor and therefore entitled to government assistance.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. poverty gap</li> <li>b. poverty definition</li> <li>c. poverty rate</li> <li>d. poverty line</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>5. Which of the following categories of people make up the greatest number (numerically) of this country's welfare recipients?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hispanic Americans</li> <li>b. African Americans</li> </ol> </li> </ol> | <p style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 0;">name</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Whites</li> <li>d. Asians</li> </ol><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. A generation ago, the elderly were more likely to be poor. Today, who is at greatest risk of poverty?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. children under the age of eighteen</li> <li>b. young adults in their thirties</li> <li>c. middle-aged people</li> <li>d. the elderly</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>7. The average poor family in the United States earned about \$10,600 in 2010, which is about _____ less than the official poverty line.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. about \$2,000 more than</li> <li>b. about the same as</li> <li>c. about \$11,000 less than</li> <li>d. about \$25,000 less than</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>8. The trend in economic inequality is toward             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. greater inequality.</li> <li>b. stability, with little change.</li> <li>c. less inequality.</li> <li>d. almost no inequality.</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>9. Marx's analysis of economic inequality and poverty focuses on which of the following factors?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the political system</li> <li>b. the capitalist economy</li> <li>c. industrial technology</li> <li>d. the progressive tax system</li> </ol> </li> <br/> <li>10. According to conservatives,             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. welfare should be available to people who quit their jobs.</li> <li>b. long-term assistance will strengthen families and promote personal responsibility.</li> <li>c. welfare should be provided, but mostly to those who are poor through no fault of their own.</li> <li>d. a, b, and c are <i>all</i> correct.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |
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## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Quiz Answers**

1.d; 2.b; 3.a; 4.d; 5.c; 6.a; 7.c; 8.a; 9.b; 10.c

In this revision of the test bank, I have updated all of the questions to reflect changes in *Social Problems, 5<sup>th</sup> edition*. There is also a new system for identifying the difficulty of the questions. In earlier editions, the questions were tagged in one of three ways: factual (recall of factual material), conceptual (understanding key concepts), and applied (application of sociological knowledge to a situation). In this revision, the questions are now tagged according to the six levels of learning that help organize the text. Think of these six levels as a path that moves from lower-level to higher-level cognitive reasoning. The six levels are:

**REMEMBER:** a question involving recall of key terms or factual material  
**UNDERSTAND:** a question testing comprehension of more complex ideas  
**APPLY:** a question applying sociological knowledge to some new situation  
**ANALYZE:** a question requiring identifying elements of an argument and their interrelationship  
**EVALUATE:** a question requiring critical assessment  
**CREATE:** a question requiring the generation of new ideas

The **123 questions** in this chapter's test bank include four types of questions.

**True/False questions** are the least demanding. As the table below shows, 48 percent of these questions are "Remember" questions and all of the questions fall within the lowest three levels of cognitive reasoning.

**Multiple-choice questions** span a broader range of skills. The table shows that 27 percent are "Remember" questions, 44 percent are "Understand" questions, 21 percent are "Apply" questions, and 7 percent are "Analyze" questions.

**Short answer questions** also span a broad range at a higher skill level (from "Understand" to "Evaluate").

**Essay questions** are the most demanding because they include the four highest levels of cognitive reasoning, "Apply," "Analyze," "Evaluate," and "Create".

For all types of questions, the "Remember" and "Understand" questions are tagged as "Easy"; the "Apply" and "Analyze" questions are tagged as "Moderate"; the "Evaluate" and "Create" questions are tagged as "Difficult."

Types of Questions

Easy to Difficult Level of Difficulty	True/False	Mult Choice	Short Answer	Essay	Total Qs
Remember	10 (48%)	22 (27%)	0	0	32
Understand	9 (43%)	36 (44%)	3 (30%)	0	48
Apply	2 (10%)	17 (21%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)	22
Analyze	0	7 (8%)	4 (40%)	4 (40%)	15
Evaluate	0	0	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	4
Create	0	0	0	2 (20%)	2
	21	82	10	10	123

### **True-False Questions**

1. Social classes are categories of people with similar access to resources and opportunities.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: True; page 31)
2. Social stratification refers to the different talents and abilities of individuals.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: False; page 31)
3. The highest-earning 20 percent of U.S. families receive about 85 percent of all income.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: False; page 31)
4. Wealth refers to all of the economic assets owned by a person or family, minus any debts.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: True; page 32)
5. Income taxes in the United States are an example of regressive taxation.  
(Apply; Moderate; Answer: False; page 34)
6. Since about 1970, income inequality in the United States has increased.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: True; page 34)
7. The bottom 50 percent of all taxpayers end up paying about 2 percent of all federal income taxes.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: True; page 34)
8. The poverty line for a family of four is about \$22,000.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: True; page 36)
9. The poverty line represents about three times the income that an average family must spend in order to live.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: False; page 36)
10. In this country, about 25 percent of African Americans live below the poverty line.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: True; page 38)
11. Many of the counties in the United States with especially high levels of poverty are found in the South and the West.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: True; page 39)
12. Most poor families in the United States contain at least one person who works full time.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: False; page 40)
13. For our society as a whole, persistent poverty is more common than temporary poverty.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: False; page 40)

14. The lower people's income, the higher their likelihood of voting in elections.  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: False; page 42)
15. In 1964, the federal government launched a "war on poverty."  
(Remember; Easy; Answer: True; page 44)
16. The 1996 welfare reforms greatly reduced this country's poverty rate.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: False; page 45)
17. If you were to accept the logic called "blaming the victim," you would place the cause of poverty in the traits of poor people.  
(Apply; Moderate; Answer: True; page 48)
18. Some social-conflict thinkers argue that cultural capital can be as important in getting ahead as financial capital.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: True; page 48)
19. The key insight of intersection theory is that poverty has many causes that come together in the lives of poor people.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: False; page 50)
20. Liberals claim the main cause of poverty is a lack of self-reliance on the part of the poor themselves.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: False; page 51)
21. Radicals on the left claim that the main cause of poverty in the United States is the operation of the capitalist economy.  
(Understand; Easy; Answer: True; page 52)

### Multiple Choice Questions

22. The richest 20 percent of U.S. families earn
- almost as much as the remaining 80 percent of families combined.
  - about as much as the poorest 40 percent of families combined.
  - a share of income about equal to that of other quintiles.
  - only slightly more than the national average.
- (Remember; Easy; Answer: a; page 31)
23. Families in the top 10 percent of all families earn at least
- \$50,000 a year.
  - \$150,000 a year.
  - \$250,000 a year.
  - \$500,000 a year.
- (Remember; Easy; Answer: b; page 32)

24. Social stratification is defined as
- the fact that some people tend to outperform others.
  - the way people in a society size up their social standing.
  - a society's system of ranking categories of people in a hierarchy.
  - the income levels of all the members of a society.

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 31)

25. Stratification produces categories of people who have similar access to resources and opportunities. Sociologists refer to these categories of people as
- life chances.
  - social classes.
  - quintiles.
  - income distributions.

(Remember; Easy; Answer: b; page 31)

26. The richest 20 percent of the U.S. population controls what share of all privately-owned wealth?
- 85 percent
  - 65 percent
  - 45 percent
  - 25 percent

(Remember; Easy; Answer: a; page 32)

27. Which of the following concepts refers to salary or wages from a job, plus earnings from investments or any other source?
- wealth
  - interest
  - income
  - money

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 31)

28. Marco earns \$45,000 a year as a government employee and receives interest from several certificates of deposit. The money that comes from these sources represents Brad's
- wealth.
  - income.
  - socioeconomic status.
  - prestige.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: b; page 31)

29. According to the U.S. government, the 2010 *median* family income was
- \$401,395.
  - \$50,395.
  - \$60,395.
  - \$70,395.

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 31)

30. The lowest paid 20 percent of U.S. families receive about what share all income in the country?
- 4 percent
  - 10 percent
  - 14 percent
  - 20 percent

(Remember; Easy; Answer: a; page 31)

31. Since about 1980, income inequality among U.S. families has
- been declining.
  - been increasing.
  - been holding steady.
  - been fluctuating up and down with no long-term change.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 31)

32. Regarding income distribution in the United States, the overall pattern reveals
- small gains for both the rich and poor.
  - small losses for both the rich and poor.
  - that by 2007 income inequality became greater than at any time during the last fifty years.
  - that by 2007 income inequality was less than at any time during the last fifty years.

(Understand; Moderate; Answer: c; page 33)

33. If you wanted to add up the total economic assets owned by a person or family, you would be measuring
- income.
  - social status.
  - wealth.
  - status base.

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 32)

34. In the United States, a progressive tax rate means that
- income taxes have been replaced by payroll taxes.
  - rich people pay at a lower rate than lower-income people.
  - rich people pay the same tax rate as lower-income people.
  - rich people pay at a higher rate than lower-income people.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 34)

35. The bottom 50 percent of the U.S. population in terms of income pays about what share of all federal income taxes?
- 50 percent
  - 33 percent
  - 2 percent
  - 0 percent

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 35)

36. In 2011, the average compensation of the ten highest-paid chief executive officers (CEOs) in the United States
- was \$500,000
  - was \$10 million.
  - was \$25 million
  - exceeded \$60 million.

(Remember; Easy; Answer: d; page 34)

37. The top 1 percent of the U.S. population in terms of income pays about what share of all federal income taxes?
- half
  - more than one-third
  - 10 percent
  - 70 percent

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 34)

38. To provide an example of a tax that is regressive rather than progressive, you would point to
- the inheritance tax.
  - the federal income tax.
  - the tax on gasoline.
  - no tax, because there are no regressive taxes in the United States.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: c; page 35)

39. The government uses the policy of taxation for several purposes. Read the four statements below. Three of the statements are correct. One is not correct. Which one is NOT correct?
- Taxes provide the government with the money it needs to operate.
  - Taxes discourage certain types of behavior.
  - Taxes reduce economic inequality.
  - Taxes transfer money from the poor to the rich.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 34)

40. Which of the following policies raises tax rates on individuals and families as income increases?
- progressive taxation
  - flat taxation
  - regressive taxation
  - tax limitation

(Understand; Easy; Answer: a; page 34)

41. Although there is no standard definition of what it means to be “rich,” the text describes “rich” families as having income of at least \$150,000 a year. This level of income corresponds to what share of the U.S. population?
- top 1 percent
  - top 2 percent
  - top 10 percent
  - top 25 percent



(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; page 35)

42. Read the following four statements. One of them is incorrect. Which one is NOT correct?
- People in their forties typically have higher income than people in their twenties.
  - Women typically earn more than men.
  - White people typically earn more than people of color.
  - Married couples typically earn more than single people.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; pages 37-39)

43. Which concept below is used by the U.S. government for the purpose of counting the poor?
- poverty line
  - poverty gap
  - median income
  - nonfarm family income

(Remember; Easy; Answer: a; page 36)

44. Which concept below refers to the difference between the poverty line and the average poor family's actual income?
- poverty line
  - poverty gap
  - median income
  - nonfarm family income

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 37)

45. In 2010, what share of the U.S. population lived in a household with income below the poverty line?
- 2.2
  - 4.5
  - 8.6
  - 15.1

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 36)

46. In 2010, the poverty line for a non-farm family of four was
- \$10,314.
  - \$15,314.
  - \$22,314.
  - \$27,314.

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 36)

47. In 2010, about how many people in the United States were counted among the poor?
- 460,000
  - 4.6 million
  - 46 million
  - 466 million

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 36)

48. In 2010, income for the average poor family in the United States was about how far below the poverty line?
- a. It was the same as the poverty line.
  - b. \$2,000
  - c. \$5,000
  - d. \$11,000

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 37)

49. The example of the Perkins family, presented in the *Personal Stories* box in the chapter on poverty and wealth, illustrates life for families who are
- a. living well below the official poverty line.
  - b. on government welfare.
  - c. living at slightly above the official poverty line.
  - d. living at the median income level.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: c; page 37)

50. In 2010, the federal government counted about \_\_\_\_\_ people in America as poor?
- a. 6 million
  - b. 16 million
  - c. 36 million
  - d. 46 million

(Remember; Easy; Answer: d; page 36)

51. Most people in the United States who live below the poverty line are
- a. elderly.
  - b. homeless.
  - c. white.
  - d. children.

(Analyze; Difficult; Answer: c; page 38)

52. In 2010, what share of children under the age of eighteen were living in poor households?
- a. 2 percent
  - b. 22 percent
  - c. 42 percent
  - d. 62 percent

(Remember; Easy; Answer: b; page 37)

53. Which term refers to the trend by which women represent an increasing share of the U.S. poor?
- a. gender gap
  - b. glass ceiling
  - c. feminization of poverty
  - d. poverty gap

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 38)

54. Today, 52 percent of poor families contain

- a. a male head of the household with no woman present.
- b. a woman head of the household with no man present.
- c. men and women who are both working.
- d. a married couple with both partners under the age of eighteen.

(Understand; Answer: b; page 38)

55. Despite this nation's wealth, about how many boys and girls under age eighteen live in poor households?

- a. 640,000
- b. 4 million
- c. 16.4 million
- d. 164 million

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 37)

56. Jonas lives in a region of the United States with a very high poverty rate. He probably lives in

- a. the Southwest, near the Mexican border
- b. New England, along the Atlantic coast
- c. the Midwest
- d. the Pacific Northwest

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: a; page 39)

57. Which of the following types of places in the United States has the highest poverty rate?

- a. coastal communities
- b. rural areas
- c. suburbs
- d. central cities

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 39)

58. The belief that, with hard work, people can achieve a secure and improving way of life is often referred to as

- a. the myth of the melting pot.
- b. the American Dream.
- c. the dilemma of the underclass.
- d. hypersegregation.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 34)

59. Sylvia earns \$7.25 per hour, which in 2012, was the minimum wage. She works full-time, year-round, and earns about \$15,000 annually. This profile places her within

- a. working poor.
- b. non-working poor.
- c. the underclass.
- d. the poverty gap.

(Apply; moderate; Answer: a; page 40)

60. Which of the following concepts would you use to refer to poor people who live in areas with

high concentrations of poverty and limited opportunities for schooling or work?

- a. suburbanites
- b. the working poor
- c. the underclass
- d. the lower middle class

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: c; page 40)

61. The Williams family lives in an inner-city community that is poor, cut off from the larger society, and without good schools or good-paying jobs. This family is experiencing what sociologists call

- a. hypersegregation.
- b. redlining.
- c. homelessness.
- d. prejudice.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: a; page 40)

62. According to U.S. government, in 2010 about what percent of heads of poor families worked full-time year-round?

- a. 1.4 percent
- b. 4 percent
- c. 14 percent
- d. 24 percent

(Remember; Easy; Answer: c; page 40)

63. *Infant mortality* refers to the risk of death

- a. prior to birth, including abortions and miscarriages.
- b. for a mother during childbirth.
- c. during the first year of life.
- d. before reaching the teenage years.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; page 41)

64. In the United States, infant mortality among the very poor

- a. is actually below the national average.
- b. is slightly above the national average.
- c. is about the same as it is in lower-income countries such as Nigeria and Vietnam.
- d. is no longer considered a problem by anyone.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: a; page 41)

65. Experts estimate that about how many people in the United States are homeless at some point during a year?

- a. about 16,000
- b. about 160,000
- c. about 1.6 million
- d. about 16 million

(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; page 42)

66. In approaching the problem of homelessness, conservatives point to
- the recent increase in low-wage jobs.
  - the low minimum wage.
  - personal problems, such as alcohol abuse and mental illness, among the homeless.
  - our nation's high rate of poverty.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: c; page 42)

67. In approaching the problem of homelessness, liberals point to
- personal problems, such as alcohol abuse and mental illness, among the homeless.
  - economic issues such as low-wage jobs and high rates of unemployment.
  - moral weakness among poor people.
  - the need for greater self-discipline and personal responsibility.

(Analyze; Moderate; Answer: b; page 42)

68. The educational policy of placing some children in college-bound ("academic") paths and others in job-oriented ("vocational") paths is called
- tracking.
  - mainlining.
  - mainstreaming.
  - relining.

(Remember; Easy; Answer: a; page 42)

69. In the 2008 presidential election, 80 percent of people earning \$100,000 or more voted. Among those earning less than \$10,000, what share of people voted?
- 90 percent
  - 70 percent
  - 60 percent
  - just under half

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 42)

70. In the United States, social welfare programs that provide government assistance of one type or another benefit
- only a small share of the poor.
  - only poor people.
  - only disabled people.
  - most people.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 43)

71. During the colonial era, the New England Puritans considered poverty to be caused by
- a flawed economy.
  - ineffective government policy.
  - war.
  - personal moral weakness.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 43)

72. Which concept below refers to the study of the poor beginning about 1870 during the early

industrial era?

- a. the temperance movement
- b. the scientific charity movement
- c. the soup kitchen movement
- d. the anti-immigrant movement

(Remember; Easy; Answer: b; page 44)

73. In 1932, President Franklin D. Roosevelt described “one-third of a nation ill-clothed, ill-housed, and ill-fed,” proposing the “New Deal,” which included a major new program called

- a. Head Start.
- b. Medicare.
- c. Social Security.
- d. a labor union.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; page 44)

74. In 1960, just before President Lyndon Johnson launched a “War on Poverty,” the national poverty rate stood at about

- a. 2 percent.
- b. 12 percent.
- c. 22 percent.
- d. 32 percent.

(Understand; Answer: c; page 45)

75. The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act was

- a. a shift in responsibility for helping the poor from the federal government to the states.
- b. a major increase in the country’s financial commitment to the poor.
- c. a plan to quickly raise the minimum wage.
- d. a statement by the government that the poverty problem had finally been solved.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: a; page 45)

76. Anthropologist Oscar Lewis referred to cultural patterns that make poverty a way of life as

- a. the bell curve thesis.
- b. the culture of poverty.
- c. meritocracy.
- d. social disorganization.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 45)

77. The text points explains that the 1996 welfare reform

- a. directed all government welfare to the poor.
- b. guaranteed public assistance to people without family responsibilities who are capable of working.
- c. limits families to two consecutive years of benefits with a five year lifetime cap.
- d. All the responses are correct.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; page 45)

78. Overall, the result of the 1996 federal welfare reform has been

- a. to increase in the number of people receiving welfare assistance.
- b. to end of the policy of providing cash assistance to any poor people.
- c. to bring about a steady decrease in the poverty rate.
- d. to decrease the number of people receiving welfare but cause little change to the number of poor people.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: d; page 45)

79. A recent social pathology theory by Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray's is known as
- a. the social disorganization thesis.
  - b. the culture of poverty thesis.
  - c. the bell curve thesis.
  - d. the blaming the victim thesis.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; pages 45-46)

80. In which of the following types of society does social standing correspond to personal ability and effort?

- a. meritocracy
- b. culture of poverty
- c. oligarchy
- d. bureaucracy

(Understand; Easy; Answer: a; page 45)

81. During the 1920s and 1930s, sociologists at the University of Chicago linked poverty to a breakdown in social order due to rapid social change. The correct name for this view is

- a. the bell curve thesis.
- b. the culture of poverty thesis.
- c. the social disorganization thesis.
- d. the hypersegregation thesis.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; page 46)

82. In 1945, sociologists Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore maintained that inequality has useful consequences for the operation of society. This claim is consistent with which type of theoretical analysis?

- a. symbolic-interaction analysis
- b. social-disorganization analysis
- c. social-conflict analysis
- d. structural-functional analysis

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: d; page 47)

83. Sociologist Herbert Gans claimed that inequality benefits

- a. everyone by making society more productive.
- b. rich people by ensuring there is a supply of poor people willing to do almost any job, no matter how unpleasant.
- c. bureaucrats by expanding government assistance programs.
- d. corporations because poor people are a profitable market.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 47)

84. William Ryan's "blaming the victim" thesis is a claim that people commonly but incorrectly see the causes of poverty in
- the capitalist economy.
  - our tax system.
  - the poor themselves.
  - a high rate of immigration.

(Analyze; Moderate; Answer: c; page 47)

85. William Ryan called the practice of finding the cause of a social problem in the behavior of people who suffer from the problem as
- the social disorganization thesis.
  - blaming the victim.
  - the Davis-Moore thesis.
  - feminist analysis.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 48)

86. If you wanted to study poverty in terms of race and ethnicity, you would probably use
- multicultural theory.
  - social disorganization theory.
  - Marxist theory.
  - cultural capital theory.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: a; pages 48-49)

87. The study of how race, class, and gender often result in multiple dimensions of disadvantage is called
- subculture of poverty theory.
  - cultural capital theory.
  - social disorganization theory.
  - intersection theory.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: d; page 50)

88. Poverty involves not only a lack of money; it also can mean a lack of skills, values, attitudes, and schooling, which together are called
- meritocracy.
  - cultural capital.
  - the subculture of affluence.
  - intersection theory.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 48)

89. Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-Claude Passeron argue that young people born into affluent families, in comparison with their counterparts who are born to low-income families, have more
- intelligence.
  - ability.
  - cultural capital.



d. inherent potential.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: c; page 48)

90. In 1960, one in four poor families was headed by a woman. By 2010, this share had changed to

- a. less than one in six.
- b. more than half.
- c. three-in-four.
- d. nine-in-ten.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: b; page 49)

91. Karl Marx argued that in a capitalist society, poverty is

- a. now almost gone.
- b. normal.
- c. dysfunctional.
- d. impossible.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: b; page 48)

92. If you were to take a conservative solution to the problem of poverty in the United States, you would focus on

- a. government activism.
- b. societal responsibility.
- c. personal responsibility.
- d. replacing the market economy.

(Analyze; Moderate; Answer : c; pages 50-51)

93. Former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell speaks as a conservative when he argues that the most effective way to prevent social problems like poverty is to

- a. increase welfare benefits.
- b. teach children personal responsibility and hard work.
- c. eliminate welfare entirely.
- d. transform this country's market economy.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: b; page 51)

94. In general, most conservatives express compassion for people who are poor

- a. due to disability or for some reason that is no fault of their own.
- b. due to choosing not to work.
- c. if they are able-bodied and receiving government assistance.
- d. and complain that they are victims of the system.

(Analyze; Moderate; Answer: a; pages 50-51)

95. If you take a liberal point of view, poverty is mostly a problem that

- a. involves society as a whole.
- b. focuses on traits of poor people.
- c. can never be solved.
- d. people should solve for themselves.

(Analyze; Moderate; Answer: a; pages 51-52)

96. A person who claims that government welfare assistance creates dependency is probably
- a. a liberal.
  - b. a radical on the left.
  - c. a conservative.
  - d. unconcerned with politics.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: c; page 50)

97. The typical “welfare family” today receives about how much assistance each month?
- a. \$400
  - b. \$800
  - c. \$1,000
  - d. \$1,200

(Remember; Answer: a; page 52)

98. If you take a radical-left point of view, you see the main cause of poverty as
- a. personal deficiencies in poor people themselves.
  - b. the normal operation of a capitalist economy.
  - c. misguided government assistance programs.
  - d. modern, industrial technology.

(Analyze; Moderate; Answer: b; page 52)

99. According to the radical left position, a capitalist economic system operates
- a. to provide equal opportunity for all.
  - b. to allow everyone equal access to success.
  - c. to generate extremes of wealth and poverty.
  - d. to steadily enlarge the middle class.

(Understand; Answer: c; page 52)

100. A radical left solution to the problem of poverty would be
- a. raising the minimum wage.
  - b. creating equal opportunity for people to achieve according to their talents.
  - c. expanding government assistance programs.
  - d. replacing our nation’s capitalist economic system.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: d; page 52)

101. According to which of the following political positions does the solution to poverty lie in government reforms, such as changes in the minimum wage and tax rates?
- a. radical left
  - b. liberal
  - c. conservative

d. radical right

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: b; pages 51-52)

102. Martin claims that, while some “worthy” poor people should be helped, social welfare programs discourage people’s desire to work and may foster dependency. Martin speaks as a

- a. non-political person.
- b. conservative.
- c. liberal.
- d. radical on the left.

(Apply; Moderate; Answer: b; page 50)

103. The decade that saw the greatest decline in this country’s poverty rate was the

- a. 1960s.
- b. 1970s.
- c. 1980s.
- d. 1990s.

(Understand; Easy; Answer: a; page 38)

### Short Answer Questions

104. Describe the distribution of income and wealth in the United States. Which is distributed more unequally?

(Understand; Easy; pages 31-32)

105. How many people in the United States live in poverty? Point to four factors that raise the risk of being poor. Why does each raise the risk of poverty?

(Analyze; Moderate; pages 36-39)

106. Explain how health, housing, and homelessness are linked to poverty.

(Analyze; Moderate; pages 41-42)

107. What is the trend in income inequality over the past forty years?

(Understand; Easy; pages 33-34)

108. How does the poverty rate among children compare to the overall poverty rate? How has the poverty rate changed over past decades for people young and old?

(Analyze; Moderate; pages 37-38)

109. Briefly explain what Oscar Lewis meant by a “culture of poverty.”

(Apply; Moderate; page 45)

110. What is the process called “blaming the victim?” State the four steps in this process.

(Understand; Easy; page 48)

111. What insights about poverty are offered by feminist theory?

(Analyze; Moderate; pages 49-50)

112. Present the basic claims about economic inequality made by conservatives, liberals, and those speaking for the radical left. What is one weakness of each political analysis?

(Evaluate; Difficult; pages 50-52)

113. Do you find the conservative, liberal, or radical left view of poverty most convincing? Why?

(Evaluate; Difficult; pages 50-52)

### **Essay Questions**

114. Explain our government's concept of "poverty line." How and why was this concept created? What is the importance of the concept "poverty gap?"

(Analyze; Moderate; pages 36-37)

115. How are age, race, ethnicity, and gender related to the risk of being poor? Provide data in support of your assertions.

(Analyze; Moderate; pages 37-38)

116. Distinguish between the working poor and the nonworking poor. What do we know about the working patterns of the members of poor families?

Analyze; Moderate; pages 39- 40)

117. Sketch a brief history of welfare in the United States, including the colonial era, the early industrial era, and the twentieth century. What changed with the 1996 welfare reforms? What do you make of our nation's response to poverty?

(Evaluate; Difficult; pages 43-45)

118. Describe the basic insights about income inequality and poverty offered by the structural functional, social conflict, feminist, and symbolic interaction theories of poverty. What is one weakness of each theory?

(Evaluate; Difficult; pages 45-50)

119. What is intersection theory? Provide data that support this analysis of economic inequality.

(Analyze; Moderate; pages 50)

120. Apply modern structural functional theory, symbolic-interaction theory, Marxist theory, and feminist theory to economic inequality. What insights do you gain from each theory?

(Apply; Moderate; pages 45-50)

121. Why do members of U.S. society tend to see social inequality as a reflection of individual differences in talent and effort? How does using the sociological imagination provide a more societal and structural understanding of social inequality?

(Apply; Moderate; pages 33)

122. How do the conservative, liberal, and radical left approaches point to different causes of the problem of poverty? What solutions do these approaches support? What would you do to address poverty in the United States?

(Create; Difficult; pages 50-52)

123. Looking at the “Defining Solutions” photo essay on pages 55-56, explain why liberals and conservatives are unlikely to agree on whether social inequality is a problem and what to do about it. What would you think are the important problems related to economic inequality? What would you do about them?

(Create; Difficult; pages 55-56)