



## **Race and Ethnic Relations [SOC 31] QUIZ**

**Bronx Community College, CUNY**

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- 1. What is ethnocentrism and why is it important in relations with the dominant culture and minority groups?**

Ethnocentrism is the belief that one's own group is the center of everything and superior than all others. People usually view their own cultural values as more real, so they prefer their own way of doing things. Ethnocentrism is important in relations between dominant and minority groups because it is a common problem along with subjectivity. The assumption that "we" are better than "they" results in out-groups becoming objects of contempt and hatred which may lead to stereotyping and discrimination. Considering minority groups as in-groups enables us to understand their efforts to preserve their ethnic identity in the midst of the dominant culture.

- 2. How does a race differ from an ethnic group and what is the difference between a minority group and a race?**

The difference between race and ethnicity is that race refers to physical differences while ethnicity is based on shared culture. Race categorizes people who share visible biological characteristics and ethnicity goes beyond a racial similarity to enclose shared cultural traits. A minority group is a distinctive group that are recognized by their physical or cultural differences and are treated unequally. Some characteristics of a minority group are unequal treatment from larger society and the feeling of group identity in which each of them share something in common with other members. The difference between a minority group and race is that the people in a minority group are distinguished by their physical differences while race focuses on culture background.

**3. What is the relationship among culture, reality and intergroup relations?**

Culture is the values, beliefs and habits shared between members of a society. Reality means that we socially agree on the true meaning of some things. Intergroup relationships are the relationships between different groups of people. The relationship amongst all three of these groups is that they exist because of the people that make them up. They all have to agree on certain values, traditions and morals to be considered true.

**4. What are some of the common and possible causes of prejudice and what is the difference between prejudice and discrimination?**

Prejudice is a negative belief that is not based on reason regarding a certain group. It is forming an attitude toward a particular social group of people before having enough information on which to form a knowledgeable opinion. Discrimination is the unjust treatment of other groups (usually racial, religious or ethnic). The differences between the two is that prejudice has to do with irrational attitudes and opinions while discrimination refers to behaviors directed against a group. Some of the common causes of prejudice are socialization, economic benefits and ethnocentrism.

**5. Some Caucasians and minority leaders are dissatisfied with “affirmative action” as being unfair and attaching a stigma to minority achievement. Other Caucasian and minority leaders say that it is still necessary to create a level playing field. What are your thoughts on affirmative action and why did you provide the response that you have given?**

Affirmative action is an action or policy that favors those who suffer from discrimination. This action often focus on employment and education. An example of affirmative action in employment are having programs that include training that give all employees a fair chance at promotion; like

women who qualify for a man's job. My thoughts on affirmative action is that it is needed because everyone should have an equal opportunity when it comes to seeking employment and education. It was created to not discriminate and we should continue to extend this action.

**6. Is racial profiling always a bad thing? Why or why not?**

Racial profiling creates a preconceived impression of a group of people. In my opinion, if you racially profile someone, you are presuming that all people in a specific race share the same characteristic. However, when national security concerns come into play, racial profiling creates a difference in people's attitudes and actions. For example, terrorist attacks toward the government resulted in police placing special scrutiny on Arab and Muslim Americans. They were all mostly looked at as "bad" but not all were at fault. Racial profiling is not always a bad thing but it does not allow you to judge people on their own merits.

**7. Can you give examples and comments on specific examples of residential or public school segregation in any nearby communities?**

Residential segregation is the physical separation of two or more groups in different neighborhoods. Both the Bronx High School of Science and Dewitt Clinton High School are located in the 10468 area of the Bronx. Even though the schools are situated in a middle or mixed income, the surrounding areas consist of people with lower incomes. The Bronx HS of Science is considered a specialized school and only a handful of students who meet the school's expectations can attend. The rest of the children in this area who are unable to attend that school are forced to go to Dewitt Clinton with all of the other students, even though they have the same financial status.

**8. What are middlemen minorities and how do they affect attendance?**

The definition of a middleman minority is a minority group occupying an intermediate occupational position in commerce between the top and bottom strata. Their main occupation is to link producers and consumers such as traders and money-lenders. Systematic discrimination can extend the duration of a group's middleman-minority status. Sometimes the entrepreneur skills developed in trade and commerce provide them to achieve upward mobility. In other cases, a group may move out of a middleman minority status due to changes in residential patterns. An example would be Jewish store owners who once served their own people, but once they moved away; they found themselves unable to follow them and then served new minority groups.

**9. What similarities in dominant – minority patterns were shared by most northern and western European immigrants?**

Residential patterns became densely clustered, the social structure thickened and new arrivals became more clear. Their relative poverty drew more attention to their cultural differences. Prevailing attitudes were crucial to a minority group's experience. They encouraged religious and cultural diversity within their settlements. To ease the immigrant's adjustments, they recreated their familiar country in the new through their churches, schools, newspapers and fraternal and mutual-aid societies. Through efforts, the dominant's groups members sought to justify their discriminatory behavior to preserve their nation's character.

**10. How do functional and conflict perspectives approach the factors likely to contribute to intergroup conflict?**

Functionalists seek explanations for the dysfunctions in the social system and the adjustment needed to correct them. Conflict theorists emphasize the conscious, purposeful action of dominant groups to maintain systems of inequality. Functionalists explain how sometimes

economic and technological conditions facilitate minority integration. When the economy is healthy and jobs are large, newcomers find it easier to become established and work their way up the socioeconomic ladder. However, fewer jobs are available for unskilled, foreign or unassimilated people because technological progress has reduced the number of low-status jobs and increased the number of more high skilled and educated workers.