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Race and Ethnic Relations [SOC 31] QUIZ

Bronx Community College, CUNY

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Fall 2018**

Question One: Ethnocentrism, Dominant Culture and Minority Groups

Ethnocentrism is the presumption that the culture where one person comes from is more desirable than that of other people. Ethnocentrism initiates a sense of identity and creates a link between the groups of the minority and the dominant culture (Parrillo, 2013). It ensures that the two groups are able to tolerate the way of life of one another by encouraging diversity and peaceful co-existence through positive social recognition and interaction.

Question Two: Ethnocentrism Experience

During my time at the university, while studying for my undergraduate degree, I experienced ethnocentrism in the way student leaders were nominated and elected to the various student council positions. Those students who came from the same ethnic group as those of the top administrators of the university were preferred to those who came from other ethnic groups. The management believed that it is the birthright of their community to govern people from other ethnic groups by rigging the polls in favor of students from their own ethnicity vying for various positions.

Question Three: Race, Ethnic Group and Minority Group

Race is the classification of human beings based on their physical features and genetic makeup that determines the color of their eyes, skin and hair while ethnicity refers to the identity

of people in terms of their way of life that differentiates them from other inhabitants in the adjacent community (Parrillo, 2013). Minority group defines people in the society who have access to few opportunities that can improve their social, economic and political wellbeing while race is the physical and biological traits shared by a distinct group of people.

Question Four: Causes of Prejudice

Prejudice is mostly initiated by the competition for limited economic resources, religious beliefs, political factors and stereotypes. Prejudice refers to having a negative and baseless outlook on another person based on the opinion that you come from different social classes in the society (Parrillo, 2013). Discrimination refers to the act of despising other people because they belong to a different group based on reasons such as the color of their skin or their social and economic position in the society.

Question Five: Relationship among Culture, Reality and Intergroup Relations

The relationship among culture, reality and intergroup relations is based on the fact that culture is diverse and therefore it determines the reality of an individual's outlook towards life and how they socialize with other people. The intergroup relationship among a culturally diverse people is dictated by how they relate with other people and since culture shapes reality, it often leads to both positive and negative perspective on their way of life.

Question Six: Relationship between Ethnicity and Social Class

It is usually determined by the level of economic opportunities that are available to people from a certain ethnic group as compared to others. The ruling class often comes from ethnic groups that are empowered both socially and economically. Ethnicity and social class is often transferred from one generation to the other and are both attained through social stratification.

Question Seven: Persistent Subcultures

I came across a persistent subculture during my time at the university. They settled into an idle land belonging to the university some thirty years ago. Despite several court orders for their eviction, they have resisted and my experience with them was not good. They viewed me as an outsider sent to spy on them.

This persistent subculture has over the years increased in population, speak the same language as their neighbors but do not intermarry with them. We interact with them through trade and sports.

Question Eight: Affirmative Action

Affirmative action is necessary since it promotes social and economic development among the minority groups. This is because the minority groups have been neglected for a very long time and without affirmative action, they are not able to achieve the same status as other dominant communities. Affirmative action increases access to educational and employment opportunities to the minorities as well as equal representation of their interests in the government by their leaders.

Question Nine: Racial Profiling

Racial profiling is unpleasant because it discriminates people based on their ethnic background, race and religion. Racial profiling creates a perception that people from one race are more advanced than the others. It creates a situation where law enforcers' always treat suspects from one race as criminals even when they are not guilty. It limits access of the minority groups from various opportunities such as education and employment because racial profiling creates an impression of them being violent and of unsound mind.

Question Ten: Residential Segregation

Residential segregation is where individuals coming from a given ethnic group or race are denied access to buy or rent residential properties in a given geographical location occupied by another group. The apartheid regime in South Africa created a residential segregation that is still

persistent to date. Certain neighborhoods are still inhabited by whites while the black people who are the dominant group in the country are denied access to such residential areas.