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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 dominant and minority groups?** Ethnocentrism is the belief in the inherent superiority of one's own ethnic group or culture. It is when one culture judges another culture based on preconceptions that are found in values and standards of one's own culture. Ethnocentrism is important when it comes to the relations amongst dominant and minority groups because it can and has greatly influenced the way that dominant groups view minority groups. Ethnocentrism has greatly contributed to racism and has made it so that it serves as what dominant groups consider a valid and substantial reason to be racist.
- 2) **Give an examples of social distance or ethnocentrism from your own experiences and or observations with family, friends, or neighbors on campus, in your communities or at work.** I personally have not had many experiences with ethnocentrism however I have had experiences with racism and discrimination. My family and I have been turned down for apartments because we are a large family, because we are minorities and because we were in possession of a rental assistance voucher. I have also been turned down for a job because of my last name and have had comments made towards me regarding my body parts and my "capabilities as a Black woman" in the workplace. So unfortunately, I cannot speak to ethnocentrism on a personal level, but I do see it everyday on a systemic and governmental level.
- 3) **How does race differ from an ethnic group and what is the difference between a minority group and a race?** The biggest difference between race and an ethnic group is that race is primarily unitary. You can only have one race, yet you can have multiple ethnic affiliations. A race usually applies to a larger group of persons as a whole based on origin, physicalities and ancestry. Ethnic group affiliations are usually chosen by the individual based on culture or their beliefs and practices. According to definition, race and a minority group do not really have much of a difference. Both are defined by the physical characteristics of a group of people.
- 4) **What is the relationship among culture, reality and intergroup relations?** Culture affects the way that we in society interacts with other ethnic groups. The cultural beliefs that one has, influences the way that a group of people think and their beliefs. Large

groups of people break off and chose their beliefs and are then categorized by those beliefs. Those categories are the reality in society; there being Christians, Muslims, Asians, etc. are examples of what categories look like in society. The way that each of these groups or categories interact with each other is how culture affects the relationship within intergroup relations.

5) What is the relationship between ethnicity and social class? Ethnicity is highly related to social class. Although it may not be intentional, ethnicity has played an influential role in what social class they are applied to. For example, many Black people are living in marginalized poverty. Many White people are living middle class to upper class. It has roots that go back to privilege, racism, slavery, the industrial revolution and many other things that shape White people being viewed as superior to minorities; which keep our social class down.

6) Do any persistent subcultures live near you? What are your experiences with them? I just recently moved from a dorm in Flushing, Queens. Flushing, is the “chinatown” of Queens. I lived amongst many people of Asian culture and descent. My experiences with them have not been plentiful. Many of them spoke very little English, if any at all. And, the ones who did speak English, were not interested in talking to me, or anyone that was not known to them. Not to sound stereotypical, but from what I have seen, many Asian people do not like to be bothered with anyone but themselves.

7) What are some of the common and possible causes of prejudice and what is the difference between prejudice and discrimination? The main cause behind prejudice is usually a pre-formed or preconceived perception of someone or a group of people. These are typically stereotypes that are told to people by their parents, the media, friends who have been told things by their parents, etc., which then contribute to the prejudice thoughts that people already have about another person. The difference between prejudice and discrimination is that prejudice is the stereotypical and judgemental thoughts that one has about a person, whereas discrimination is the act of acting on said prejudice thoughts.

10) Is racial profiling always a bad thing? Why or why not? I personally believe that racial profiling is always a bad thing. I believe this because when racial profiling usually occurs, it is because police are trying to fit an innocent Black man or person into a negative description of someone who committed a crime. I have never heard personally of someone using racial profiling for something positive. It is also baffling that racial profiling is solely used for the purpose of committing someone to jail. Everything about racial profiling is negative.

11) What is a middleman minority and how do they affect attendance? A middleman minority is someone who is part of a minority population whose occupation is to link producers and consumers. They usually hold jobs such as money lenders, traders, etc. They usually don't have a subordinate. I am not actually sure how middleman minorities affect attendance.

15) What are some examples of cultural pluralism among the Dutch, French, Irish and German people in the U.S.? How is it different than minority groups that you are familiar with? Some examples of cultural pluralism would include the things that this country kept near and dear to them, while still assimilating to Western American culture. For example, the French kept their Cajun style foods, the Irish kept St. Patrick's Day, which has now become one very popular un-national holiday in the U.S., German people kept their beers and clothing, and the Dutch kept their foods as well. All kept their languages spoken at home close to them. This is not very different from other minority cultures that I know, like Blacks for example, except that lots of Black culture originated in the U.S., which is different than the 4 countries listed above that has their own space in society to practice their own culture unbothered by other countries.