



**Richard M.**

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

**Bronx Community College, CUNY**

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**(1). How does a race differ from an ethnic group and what is the difference between a minority group and a race?**

Race is a categorization of people sharing visible biological traits regarded by themselves or others as a group. An ethnic group refers to people who see themselves as sharing a common culture, belief, nation, religion etc. Minority group is a term assigned to a groups power and social status in society and not a group's numerical number. Race refers to biological traits that a group shares.

**(2) What is ethnocentrism and why is it important in relations with the dominant culture and minority groups?**

Ethnocentrism is defined in "Strangers to these Shores" by V.N. Parrillo as; "people's tendency to identify with their own ethnic or national group as a means of fulfilling their needs for group belongingness and security. Ethnocentrism is a byproduct of dominant culture, that create a sense of superiority to all other culture and beliefs. This has a negative effect on minority groups as this could be viewed as forced path to assimilation which in turn may lead to lost of one's own beliefs and culture over time. (N.B. one can be a member of both).

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

Prejudice is define as an attitude of negative feeling, belief regarding a specific group or set.

Whereas Discrimination is the differential and unequal treatment of other people or group along the lines of racial, religious or cultural. So the difference is prejudice is a feeling and is not acted upon, discrimination is the acting on those feeling. Some factors that may cause this are Racism, ethnocentrism

**(4). What are middle men minorities and how do they affect attendance?**

Are historically ethnic minority traders who serve as buffer between produce and consumer, the elite and the masses. They also experience hostility from both classes.

**(5) How do functional and conflict perspectives approach the factors likely to contribute to intergroup conflict?**

The in class textbook “Strangers to these shores” by V.N. Parrillo. States that “the functionalist theory emphasize that various parts of society have function or positive effect, that promote solidarity and maintain the stability of the whole” (19). This statement can be interpreted as saying that there is a need for tiers in the social pyramid as it is need for a Modern society. This theory is a compliment of ideas spanning 1798-2003, from Comte, Spencer, Durkheim, Parson and Merton.

An example of the functionalist applied to society is the gap between classes. Class is divided into 4 categories: Rich, upper class, middle class, lower class and the poor. The gap between the classes is financial, geographical, racial and cultural. This gap from the functionalist view is

needed so that these ROLES can be filled and society move forward like a well oiled machine. This may lead to conflict as ability to elevate horizontally / vertically in social class may be blocked because of discrimination. The Conflict Theory by Karl Marx states that all of societies conflict arises from the have and the have not and the desire to obtain equality and also to resist. The possibility of conflict will arise if persons who share these opposing views were to coexist.

**(6). What is the relationship between ethnicity and social class?**

Social class is used to designate a person's place in the social hierarchy based on power, property and income. Ethnicity refers to a shared belief, religion, customs, language and origin. In some cases both are used to determine one's place in the social order.

**(7). What are some examples of cultural pluralism amongst the Dutch, French, Irish and German peoples in the United States? How is it different from other ethnic and minority groups that you are familiar with?**

Pluralism is defined as when minorities maintain their distinctive subculture while still being accepted as a part of a larger society. Examples of Dutch, French, Irish and German pluralism in America is the creation of several settlements, and the naming of these and other landmarks, they maintained their language in their own schools and churches for many years before attempting assimilation. Other groups that come to mind such as Jews, Asians tend to do the same, the group that does not seem to adopt this process wholeheartedly are Afro-Americans.

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

Racial profiling could be viewed as a natural survival skill. If this is the view, then it can't be a bad thing. Racial profiling happens when we use preconceived notions that we use to define a race. The perspective comes from the beliefs that if my intentions are of honor then profiling will help with culture and custom barriers and ensure our interaction and communication are not misunderstood to avoid conflict. Example: the Sabbath is not a proper time to discuss finances with a Jew as they won't, leaving you feeling slighted.

**9). Do any persistent subcultures live near your home or campus (or have you even come across any)? If so, what have been your experiences with them? What do you know about them? How do you interact with or relate with them?**

My last address there was no skateboard park. They were always chased away for using the courthouse steps to ride their skateboard. This was in the city so it was new and somewhat strange, mainly because this was the city. I did not know there were that many skaters in the inner city numerically wise, to need a whole park. I was wrong there was a whole subculture of skaters who refused to be chased away until they got a whole park. This opened my view of the subculture because my stereotype was from a racial and socioeconomic point of view. White, suburbia is what came to mind whenever I thought skater. I was wrong, skaters were all shapes, sizes, race, gender, culture and religion. I enjoy watching, learning and the tricks evolve. They see each other as belonging.

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

Culture is the beliefs, traditions and religion that are used to define an ethnic group. Reality is the way we view our place in society and the world and that construct comes from our culture and ethnic

group. This in turn governs the way we interact with others example ethnocentrism, discrimination and overall conflict. On the positive side this can help with tolerance.