

Bronx Community College, CUNY
Sociology Department
Social Inequality – SOC 37E01 [45608]

Prof. Remi Alapo; Email: oluremi.alapo@bronx.cuny.edu

MIDTERM EXAM - Spring 2019

Respond to any 10 of the following 15 short answer essay questions in 5 at least sentences (or more). Please utilize appropriate references to support your responses. Each question is worth 2 points each for a total of 20 points. The Questions are based on the content from the first half of the semester's work.

1. What is social inequality and why does a country such as the United States have a large population of its citizens in low economic conditions for a wealthy country? In your response, discuss the roots of social inequality in America?
2. What is social stratification and how is social stratification good or bad for a community?
3. Why do you think the United States fares poorly on measures of poverty and economic inequality when compared to other industrial countries.
4. What are some classical explanations of Social Inequality?. Do you agree with Marxist definition? Why or why not? Is the Marxist perspective still true today when we describe social inequality in the United States? Why or why not.
5. Discuss some of the Weberian ideas on Social Inequality.
6. Compare and contrast the Marxist and Weberian ideologies of Social Inequality. Who do you agree with the most? Karl Marx, Max Weber or both? Why or why not?
7. What do you think an effective anti-poverty plan should be for a country as wealthy as the United States? Provide justification for your response.
8. To what extent and under what conditions is the federal government responsible for reducing poverty in various communities? Why should poverty reduction be considered as an urgent call to action given that the United States is often considered the “land of milk and honey” by many immigrants and others around the world?
9. Discuss the new forms or basis of status development in the United States. What are they, and how important are they? Will they replace status based on older grounds?

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11. In your own personal experiences or observations, how has gender limited you or allowed you to act in a certain way or get involved in particular of activities? What was it about your gender that created this effect?

12. As technologies and the bases of the U.S economic change, will men and women become more equal economically? Why or why not?

13. What can be done to separate the ideas of race and welfare in the minds of many people? How can we stop the racialization of welfare?

14. What are some of the major problems for the United States government in terms of wealth generation and income disparity? For example, how can we bridge the social inequality of wealth and income disparity in the United States [or in New York City for that matter?].

15. Briefly describe the difference between wealth and income, and the significance of the two concepts for understanding social inequality. Describe how structural changes in the economy may have raised income inequality in the United States