

## Test your knowledge and understanding: Social stratification

### Questions based on chapter 1 of *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives Student Handbook*

- 1 Which one of these is an example of achieved status?**
  - a The high status of whites in South Africa before the abolition of apartheid
  - b The high status of men in some societies
  - c The high status of cabinet ministers in British government
  - d The high status of hereditary peers in Britain
- 2 Which two of the following statements would Parsons agree with?**
  - a Social stratification threatens social cohesion
  - b Societies share common values about the importance of different roles
  - c Workers are exploited in modern industrial societies
  - d Advanced industrial societies required specialists to fill important roles
- 3 Three of the following types of equality were described by Saunders. Which is the odd one out?**
  - a Equality of outcome
  - b Equality of ability
  - c Legal equality
  - d Equality of opportunity
- 4 False class consciousness involves:**
  - a Making less money than other people
  - b Being aware you are being exploited
  - c Being unaware of where the true interests of your class lie
  - d Becoming revolutionary
- 5 Which one of these is not a Marxist concept?**
  - a Exploitation
  - b Means of production
  - c Meritocracy
  - d Superstructure
- 6 In Weber's sociology, your class position is determined by:**
  - a A combination of whether or not you own property and your position in the labour market
  - b Your position in the labour market alone
  - c Whether you own property
  - d Your status
- 7 Which two of these statements describe changes in the British occupational structure during the twentieth century?**
  - a An increasing proportion of paid jobs were held by women
  - b The proportion employed in manufacturing increased
  - c The proportion of people employed in manual work increased
  - d White-collar employment grew
- 8 Which of the following taxation measures is likely to decrease inequality?**
  - a An increase in the income tax threshold
  - b A reduction in taxes for high earners
  - c Increasing VAT
  - d A reduction in state benefits for those who refuse to work
- 9 In 2002 the richest 1% of the British population owned what proportion of marketable wealth?**
  - a 10%
  - b 23%
  - c 54%
  - d 64%
- 10 Which of the following is not evidence that there is a ruling class in Britain?**
  - a Entrepreneurs from humble backgrounds are joining the ranks of the wealthy
  - b Many company directors are on the boards of several companies
  - c Top civil servants come from public schools
  - d Most businesses are run by salaried directors not wealthy owners
- 11 Which two of these statements describe the Weberian view of the professions?**
  - a The professions serve the public interest
  - b The professions predominantly serve the interests of the rich and powerful
  - c Professionalism can be seen as a market strategy
  - d Professions largely serve their own interests
- 12 Three of the following statements describe the professional-managerial class. Which is the odd one out?**
  - a They are an intermediate strata
  - b They constitute about one quarter of the population
  - c They promote ruling-class ideology
  - d They control the working class
- 13 According to Savage *et al*, a part-time university lecturer without a permanent contract would be a member of the middle class because they possessed:**
  - a Property assets
  - b Organizational assets
  - c Cultural assets
  - d Personal assets
- 14 Which of the following supports the view that routine clerical work is often a 'stepping stone' to management?**
  - a Most clerical workers are female with poor promotion prospects
  - b Clerical jobs have been deskilled
  - c Male clerks earn less money than manual workers
  - d Clerical work has more prestige than manual work
- 15 Which two of these developments did Marx predict would occur in the working class?**
  - a The working class would become more affluent
  - b The working class would adopt middle-class lifestyles
  - c The working class would eventually become aware that they were being exploited
  - d The working class would get poorer in comparison with higher classes
- 16 Three of the following are descriptions of the working-class habitus. Which is the odd one out?**
  - a Working-class language is devalued in the education system

- b Everyday physical experience is emphasized
  - c Those who adopt a middle-class lifestyle are admired
  - d Taste is based on necessity
- 17 Which of the following is *not* a characteristic of the proletarian traditionalist culture?**
- a Pursuing collective rather than individual goals
  - b A tendency to see class in terms of 'them' and 'us'
  - c Segregated conjugal roles
  - d An emphasis on deferred gratification
- 18 Crewe described the new working class. Which of these statements would he disagree with?**
- a They work in private industry
  - b They work in the north
  - c They own their own house
  - d They vote Conservative
- 19 Which one of these groups does Charles Murray not see as part of the underclass?**
- a Pensioners
  - b Single parents
  - c Criminals
  - d The work-shy
- 20 According to Roberts, three of the following are characteristics of the underclass. Which is the odd one out?**
- a Their deprivation is long-term
  - b They are more deprived than the working class
  - c They have very similar interests
  - d They have different lifestyles to those in employment
- 21 Devine revisited Goldthorpe & Lockwood's affluent workers in Luton in 1992. Which of the following did she find?**
- a They mixed freely with the middle classes in their leisure time
  - b They retained some traditional working-class attitudes
  - c They mostly supported the Conservative Party
  - d They were more individualistic than the affluent workers
- 22 Which of these would be an example of social capital in Bourdieu's theory of class?**
- a Having lots of friends
  - b Having a large bank balance
  - c Having a knowledge of classical music
  - d Knowing how to dress fashionably
- 23 Which of the following did Savage *et al* find in their study of people in northwest England?**
- a Most identified strongly with their social class
  - b Most believed Britain was becoming a classless society
  - c Middle-class people were more likely to find the idea of class threatening
  - d Most were not keen to assign themselves to a social class
- 24 If the daughter of a coal miner becomes a manager this is an example of:**
- a Intragenerational upward mobility
  - b Horizontal mobility
  - c Intergenerational upward mobility
  - d Short-range intragenerational mobility
- 25 Studies of gender and social mobility have shown that:**
- a Women from the service class are more likely to be downwardly mobile than men
  - b Working-class men are more likely to be upwardly mobile than working class women
  - c Assessing women by their husband's occupation has a major impact on studies of social mobility
  - d Men are more likely than women to be downwardly mobile into the intermediate class
- 26 International studies of social mobility have shown that:**
- a Upward mobility for women is increasing
  - b Britain has a higher rate of upward mobility than most of Europe
  - c Men had higher rates of downward mobility than women
  - d Social class has a decreasing effect on educational achievement
- 27 Which of these is *not* one of the reasons put forward by Pakulski & Waters for the 'death of class'?**
- a Globalization
  - b A wider distribution of wealth
  - c The increased importance of qualifications in determining status
  - d All workers enjoying good wages
- 28 Which two of the following statements accurately describe Ulrich Beck's theory?**
- a We now live in simple modernity
  - b Class is increasingly important as a source of identity
  - c People from all backgrounds are concerned about risks
  - d Class is less important than it used to be
- 29 According to John Westergaard, class differences are:**
- a Staying much the same
  - b Hardening
  - c Reducing
  - d Disappearing
- 30 Supporters of which two of these theoretical approaches are most likely to see Britain as meritocratic?**
- a Marxism
  - b The New Right
  - c Functionalism
  - d Weberian theories

## Answers

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>1</b> <i>c</i>     | <b>16</b> <i>c</i>    |
| <b>2</b> <i>b, d</i>  | <b>17</b> <i>d</i>    |
| <b>3</b> <i>b</i>     | <b>18</b> <i>b</i>    |
| <b>4</b> <i>b</i>     | <b>19</b> <i>a</i>    |
| <b>5</b> <i>c</i>     | <b>20</b> <i>c</i>    |
| <b>6</b> <i>a</i>     | <b>21</b> <i>b</i>    |
| <b>7</b> <i>a, d</i>  | <b>22</b> <i>a</i>    |
| <b>8</b> <i>a</i>     | <b>23</b> <i>d</i>    |
| <b>9</b> <i>b</i>     | <b>24</b> <i>c</i>    |
| <b>10</b> <i>a, d</i> | <b>25</b> <i>a</i>    |
| <b>11</b> <i>c, d</i> | <b>26</b> <i>a</i>    |
| <b>12</b> <i>a</i>    | <b>27</b> <i>d</i>    |
| <b>13</b> <i>c</i>    | <b>28</b> <i>c, d</i> |
| <b>14</b> <i>d</i>    | <b>29</b> <i>b</i>    |
| <b>15</b> <i>c, d</i> | <b>30</b> <i>b, c</i> |