



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC YEAR (2024/2025) - SEMESTER TWO
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE : SOC113
COURSE TITLE : STRATIFICATION SYSTEMS
LECTURER(S) : MOSES, PHILOMENE
DATE : FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025
TIME : 9:00 AM
DURATION : 2 HOURS
STUDENT ID # : _____

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Students must sign **IN** and **OUT** on the examination class list.
- Write your ID number on the question paper.
- This examination consists of **TWO (2) sections**.
- Section A consists of Fifty (50) **Multiple Choice Questions**.
- Section B consists of Three (3) **Short Answer questions**. Answer **ANY TWO** questions.
- Number your responses accurately.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION A

Instructions: Circle the correct answer on the answer sheet provided.

1. Which of the following argues that the service class is largely self-recruiting, reserving its privilege positions for its own offspring?
 - A. The Closure Thesis
 - B. The Buffer Zone Thesis
 - C. The Counterbalancing Thesis
 - D. Elite Self Recruitment

2. The process by which members of wealthy and powerful groups are drawn from children of those who already belong to it is known as:
 - A. Natural inequalities
 - B. Elite self-recruitment
 - C. Direct recruitment
 - D. Long range mobility

3. Movement from one job to another job in a similar position is defined as:
 - A. Long range mobility
 - B. Short range mobility
 - C. Intergenerational mobility
 - D. Vertical mobility

4. When a son moves further up the social scale than his father, this is an example of:
 - A. Long range mobility
 - B. Short range mobility
 - C. Intragenerational mobility
 - D. Intergenerational mobility

5. A domestic worker whose son becomes a neurosurgeon is a typical example of:
 - A. Intergenerational mobility
 - B. Intragenerational mobility
 - C. Long range mobility
 - D. Short range mobility

6. Jane has been a nurse at St Jude's hospital for the past five years, but she recently got a transfer to the Soufriere hospital where she is due to start working as a nurse. This is an example of:
 - A. Horizontal mobility
 - B. Vertical mobility
 - C. Intergenerational mobility
 - D. Long range mobility

7. The movement of an individual within their working life otherwise known as career mobility is also referred to as:
 - A. Long range mobility
 - B. Short range mobility
 - C. Intragenerational mobility
 - D. Intergenerational mobility

8. All of the following are ways in which a person can experience upward social mobility except:
- A. Promotion at work
 - B. Being laid off from work
 - C. Marriage
 - D. Inheritance
9. Which of the following biological or genetically based differences among individuals is determined on the basis of a group's bloodline?
- A. Ethnicity
 - B. Gender
 - C. Race
 - D. Culture
10. All of the following characteristics are related to race except:
- A. The color of one's skin.
 - B. The texture of one's hair.
 - C. The color or shape of one's eyes.
 - D. The culture of the group to which one belongs.
11. All of the following are biological differences between men and women except:
- A. Hormones
 - B. Brain size
 - C. Body mass
 - D. Gender roles
12. All of the following are cited as problems in measuring social mobility except:
- A. Individuals may not have stable career paths which make comparisons difficult.
 - B. The extremely wealthy may be unidentifiable because their private investments are unlikely to be reflected in their occupations.
 - C. Different occupational scales may be used for different studies which make comparison difficult.
 - D. Historical comparisons can be made because information on social mobility can be obtained from the archives.
13. Which of the following statements is proposed by the functionalists about gender differences?
- A. Contribute to integration and stability in society.
 - B. Cause conflict and confusion.
 - C. Promote domestic violence.
 - D. Result in oppression and male dominance.
14. The main tenet of the radical feminist is:
- A. The main reason for women's oppression is the exclusion of women from the productive processes.
 - B. That the male control of women or patriarchy is the basis for gender inequality.
 - C. To identify the main forms of discrimination against women in society and to fight for legal and other reforms to overcome them.
 - D. To fight for the liberation of black women in particular.

15. All of the following are true with regards to the division of labor in pre-industrial society except:
- A. All members of the family participated in the productive activity.
 - B. Women had considerable influence within the household.
 - C. Politics remained the male domain.
 - D. Women worked alongside their husbands in factories.
16. This theory argues that the occupations clustered tightly around the manual/non manual zone act as a kind of brake, which prevents long range mobility.
- A. The closure thesis
 - B. The buffer zone thesis
 - C. The counterbalancing thesis
 - D. Elite self-recruitment
17. An exclusive network that links members of a profession, social class, or organization or the alumni of a particular school through which the individuals assist one another in business, politics, etc. is called_____.
- A. Old Boys network.
 - B. The Closure Thesis.
 - C. The Buffer Zone thesis.
 - D. Elite Self Recruitment.
18. Social status refers to:
- A. A person's level of social importance
 - B. A person's family of origin
 - C. Physical factors such as genetic disorders
 - D. Cultural factors such as gender ethnicity
19. Which of the following systems enables an individual to experience social mobility?
- A. The Hindu Caste System
 - B. The Class System
 - C. The Estate System
 - D. The South African Apartheid System
20. _____ refers to the total number of people who have been upwardly or downwardly mobile in a country or a measure of the total amount of mobility in a given country.
- A. Absolute mobility
 - B. Relative mobility
 - C. Short range mobility
 - D. Long range mobility
21. All of the following are examples of ascribed characteristics except:
- A. Heir to the throne of England.
 - B. Biological factors such as your sex.
 - C. Genetic disorders such as autism.
 - D. Being a professional basketball player.

22. When a person's status is gained through hard work, educational success, marriage, special talent, or good fortune this is referred to as:
- A. Ascribed status
 - B. Achieved status
 - C. Short range mobility
 - D. Long range mobility
23. The division of members of society into a hierarchy based on characteristics such as wealth, power, and status, is referred to as:
- A. Social stratification
 - B. Social class
 - C. Social discrimination
 - D. Social classification
24. When an individual has no control over the status he or she occupies, which may be determined by a person's sex or who their parents are this is referred to as:
- A. Achieved status
 - B. Role expectancy
 - C. Ascribed status
 - D. Role conflict
25. Theorists from which of the following sociological perspectives argue that the education system in contemporary society is meritocratic and egalitarian?
- A. Feminism
 - B. Functionalism
 - C. Marxism
 - D. Interactionism
26. _____ theorists argue that meritocracy is a myth.
- A. Feminist
 - B. Functionalist
 - C. Marxist
 - D. Interactionist
27. Jane is a young lady of African descent but she plans to marry a man from a different race, ethnic group, and social class. This is referred to as:
- A. Affiliation
 - B. Differentiation
 - C. Exogamy
 - D. Endogamy
28. Which of the following is not a system of social stratification?
- A. Slavery
 - B. Caste
 - C. Estate
 - D. Status

29. The division of society into a pattern of layers or strata where groups are ranked in a hierarchical order with those at the top having more than those at the bottom is called:
- A. Social Mobility
 - B. Social hierarchy
 - C. Social stratification
 - D. Social order
30. Social class is the ranking or grouping of individuals according to their_____.
- A. Economic position
 - B. Religious affiliation
 - C. Ascribed status
 - D. Gender
31. In which of the following stratification systems will stratification based largely on individual achievement be found?
- A. Caste system
 - B. Class system
 - C. Classless system
 - D. Estate system
32. The Caste system is generally associated with which of the following religions?
- A. Islam
 - B. Judaism
 - C. Hinduism
 - D. Christianity
33. Which of the following is true of a closed society?
- A. Social mobility is rare and people stay in the social class they were born.
 - B. People may experience upward social mobility from winning the lottery.
 - C. These societies are usually patriarchal and there is a high level of mortality.
 - D. People can move up or down the social ladder regardless of family background.
34. Which of the following are examples of closed stratification systems?
- A. Apartheid and class
 - B. Class and estate
 - C. Slavery and class
 - D. Slavery and Feudalism
35. In the study of social stratification Weber focused three factors, economic social class as well as party and ____.
- A. Equality
 - B. Life chances
 - C. Politics
 - D. status

36. Which of the following is true of an open stratification system?
- A. There is no movement up or down the social hierarchy.
 - B. There is movement up and down the social hierarchy.
 - C. There is only horizontal mobility.
 - D. There is only vertical mobility.
37. A clash of roles in which one supersedes the other, for example a lawyer attending a court session instead of attending a parent/teachers meeting is referred to as:
- A. Role expectancy
 - B. Role Conflict
 - C. Role play
 - D. Role negotiation
38. Apartheid was a stratification system based on which of the following factors?
- A. Social class
 - B. Gender
 - C. Race
 - D. Religious beliefs
39. The Estate system is also known as:
- A. Feudalism
 - B. Slavery
 - C. Apartheid
 - D. Nobility
40. Which of the following systems of social stratification was based on ascribed racial characteristics?
- A. Apartheid
 - B. Feudalism
 - C. The Caste system
 - D. The Class system
41. Which of the following were true of the white plantocracy (plantation owners) during slavery?
- A. They occupied the top stratum in the hierarchical structure.
 - B. They engaged in activities as trade persons or part of the clergy.
 - C. They were responsible for lighter domestic duties.
 - D. They were involved in manual work on the plantation.
42. Where was the Apartheid system of social stratification practiced?
- A. India
 - B. The Caribbean
 - C. South Africa
 - D. South America

43. Sociologists use the term gender to refer to:
- A. Biological differences between men and women
 - B. Physical differences between men and women
 - C. Social, cultural, and psychological construction of masculinity and femininity.
 - D. Both the biological and physical differences between males and females.
44. All of the following are cultural traits associated with ethnicity except:
- A. Ancestry and language
 - B. Common nationality
 - C. Facial structure
 - D. Dietary preferences
45. Ascribed status can be determined by all of the following except:
- A. A chosen career path.
 - B. A person's sex.
 - C. One's placement in the family structure.
 - D. One's parents.
46. In which of the following territories was the estate system found?
- A. India and Pakistan
 - B. Europe
 - C. The Americas
 - D. The Caribbean
47. All of the following are considered to be objective indicators or measures of social class except:
- A. Wealth
 - B. Occupation
 - C. Status
 - D. Income
48. The plural society theory is associated with which of these theorists?
- A. George Beckford
 - B. M. G. Smith
 - C. Lloyd Braithwaite
 - D. Selwyn Ryan
49. According to Derek Gordon the poor in particular and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds are unable to improve their social status because:
- A. They do not aspire to experience upward social mobility.
 - B. They do not possess the right work ethic.
 - C. They are never given a fair chance to move up the social ladder.
 - D. They are trapped in a cycle of poverty.

50. Functionalists Davis and Moore argue that stratification:

- A. Reflects a historical link from slavery to independence in the Caribbean.
- B. Is universal and necessary so that people will be motivated to fill important positions in society.
- C. Is neither necessary nor inevitable and is a product of the capitalist system.
- D. Relates to people's position in society and is bound up with inequality and power.

SECTION B

Instructions: This section comprises three structured questions with different parts. Answer only TWO (2) questions in this section.

Question One

- a) Define the term "social mobility." **2 marks**
- b) Explain the difference between ascribed and achieved status. **4 marks**
- c) Describe two ways in which an individual can experience upward vertical mobility. **4 marks**
- d) Discuss two factors that may prevent an individual from experiencing upward social mobility. **5 marks**

Question Two

- a) Define the term "meritocracy." **2 marks**
- b) Give two reasons why the functionalist consider modern industrial society to be meritocratic. **4 marks**
- c) Explain why some jobs in society are considered to be more functionally important than others. **4 marks**
- d) Discuss the Marxist views of meritocracy. **5 marks**

Question Three

- a) Define the term "race". **2 marks**
- b) Explain the difference between a closed and an open stratification system. **4 marks**
- c) Discuss two factors that have contributed to racial discrimination among the different ethnic groups in the Caribbean. **4 marks**
- d) Discuss the reasons why Beckford presented the plantation as having rigid patterns of social stratification. **5 marks**

END OF EXAMINATION