Chapter 2: Wealth and Poverty: US and Global Economic Inequality;

Due Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Name: __________________    Date: __________________

SOC 102: Social Problems   T/R 9-10:15A

1. _______ are highly industrialized, have a high per capita income, and are technologically advanced, while _______ are primarily agrarian and have low national and personal income levels.
   a. High income nations / middle income nations
   b. Low income nations / middle income nations
   c. High income nations / low income nations
   d. None of the above are correct.

2. Which of the following advanced industrial nations has the highest poverty rate?
   a. Great Britain
   b. Japan
   c. United States
   d. The Netherlands

3. Describe the disparities between high-, middle-, and low-income nations.

4. Julie is a high school drop out and a single mother with three children who works as a waitress earning minimum wage. Julie spends 30% of her income on food and 70% on rent for her and her children. She doesn't earn enough to pay for utilities and other many other needed items. Julie and her children are in _______ due to the _______.
   a. absolute poverty / feminization of poverty
   b. relative poverty / feminization of poverty
   c. absolute poverty / welfare state
   d. relative poverty / welfare state

5. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 created which of the following programs?
   a. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
   b. Aid to Families with Dependent Children
   c. WIC for women, infants, and children
   d. Child Care Assistance Incentive

6. "There are countless opportunities for success in America, so anyone who is poor is simply lazy and lacks initiative." This statement is an example of:
   a. blaming the victim.
   b. blaming "the man."
   c. playing the blame game.
   d. blaming the system.

7. The belief that some poor people develop a separate and self-perpetuating system of beliefs and values that keeps them trapped in poverty is referred to as the:
   a. theory of human capital.
   b. theory of cultural capital.
   c. culture of disbelief thesis.
   d. culture of poverty thesis.
8. Which of the following statements most accurately describes class inequality in the United States?
   a. Despite the American dream, the U.S. remains highly stratified.
   b. The wealth and income gap between the richest and poorest U.S. households has continued to narrow over recent decades.
   c. Middle-class African Americans are beginning to accumulate as much wealth as white Americans due to high-paying jobs.
   d. Marx and Weber agreed on stratification issues.

9. When people are unable to attain food, shelter, and clothing, ______ exists.
   a. absolute poverty
   b. relative poverty
   c. lifestyle poverty
   d. downward social poverty

10. All the following were identified by Erik O. Wright as part of the four classes in the United States economy, EXCEPT:
    a. the capitalist class.
    b. the underclass.
    c. managerial class.
    d. the working class.

11. Cultural explanations of poverty have focused on the lack of ______ that keeps low-income people in subordinate positions.
    a. cultural capital
    b. representation in Congress
    c. investment capital
    d. All of these are accurate.

12. Nations undergoing transformation from agrarian to industrial economies are referred to as:
    a. transitional states.
    b. middle-income nations.
    c. agri-industrial countries.
    d. low-income nations.

13. All of the following are factors that Max Weber included in his multidimensional class model, EXCEPT:
    a. wealth.
    b. prestige.
    c. authority.
    d. power.

14. The chronically poor make up _____ percent of the United States population.
    a. 5
    b. 10
    c. 15
    d. 20
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15. In their study of wealth and income inequality in the United States, sociologists Melvin L. Oliver and Thomas M. Shapiro found that:
   a. African Americans have accumulated much less wealth than white Americans because they have had fewer opportunities in the past to acquire assets and pass them on from generation to generation.
   b. African Americans have accumulated more wealth than white Americans in recent years because they have had more opportunities because of affirmative action and other programs.
   c. African Americans are less interested in accumulating wealth than white Americans.
   d. There is no relationship between racial-ethnic characteristics and the accumulation of wealth in the United States.

16. Approximately 2.5 billion people (40 percent of the world's population) exist on less than ______ per day and primarily live in low income nations.
   a. two dollars
   b. one dollar
   c. fifty cents
   d. none of the above are correct.

17. A _______ is based on individual ownership and resource control which is founded in the type of work people do.
   a. caste system
   b. class system
   c. democracy
   d. socialism

18. The most significant factor influencing rates of poverty is:
   a. race.
   b. gender.
   c. single-parent households with no husband present.
   d. the aging U.S. population.

19. Describe the American Dream and explain why the contemporary U.S. class structure may make it difficult for some people to achieve this dream. Provide five examples to support your explanation.

20. According to the text, which of the following groups have the highest median income?
   a. Asian/Pacific Islander
   b. Blacks
   c. Hispanics
   d. Whites