

# Governors State University

Sociology 3100, Spring, 2016  
Final Exam

In the weekly quizzes you worked on the core vocabulary, and in the analytic essays you applied key concepts in practice. Now it's time to look at a few of the facts about America that sociologists discover in the course of their investigations. Sociologists who want public policy to be based on honest data and fair analysis are happy to support this goal. So let's see what kinds of trends the data reveal.

All page numbers refer to the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Henslin. Some answers are multiple choice, but for some you need to write in the correct answer itself. Place your answers on the separate answer sheet, not on the body of the test.

1. Look at Figure 1.4 on page 13, and the description that accompanies it. When it comes to job call-backs, just as has been found in AirBnB rentals, responses to classified ad inquiries, and taxicab pickups, an African-American is less likely to receive a positive response than a white person. Having a criminal record also results in a strong reduction in job call-backs. But look at the cumulative effect on African-American men with a criminal record. If the "criminal record" factor and the "African-American" each had a separate effect, the call-back rate for African-American men with a criminal record would be 7%. However, the researchers found the call-back rate was only 5%. This suggests:
  - (a) The researchers must have made incorrect calculations.
  - (b) The "intersection" of race and class has an effect stronger than either one alone.
  - (c) Ex-convicts are too ambitious when they apply for jobs.
  - (d) Potential employers are unfamiliar with the expungement process.
2. Look at Figure 1.5 on page 15. In what year did the number of divorces first reach a peak?
3. Look at Figure 1.5 on page 15. It tells you the number of marriages and divorces in the U.S., by year, from 1890 to 2012. If someone looked at this Figure and said, "Wow, the rate of marriage just kept going up all through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century," would you, again based on the Figure, have the right to (a) agree, (b) disagree, or (c) neither agree nor disagree?
4. Look at the box on p. 48 that discusses the use of Spanish and English in Miami, Florida. The text reports, "Half of Miami's 400,000 residents have trouble speaking English. *Sixty percent* of Miamians speak English at home." Which conclusion is most correct:
  - (a) Ten percent of Miamians speak English at home even though they have trouble with it.
  - (b) Forty percent of Miamians are not American citizens.
  - (c) Only a minority of people use English in Miami.
  - (d) People just say they have trouble with English as an excuse to conceal things from Americans.
5. Look at Figure 3.2 on page 92. When 30-year-old men in 2000 are compared to those in 1960, what has happened to the percentage of men who have reached "structural adulthood"?
  - (a) The percentage increased by 29 percentage points.
  - (b) The percentage dropped by 31 percentage points.
  - (c) The percentage dropped by 69 percentage points.
  - (d) The percentage has dropped by more than half.
6. Look at Figure 6.2 on page 173. When studying people arrested for various criminal offenses in 1992 and 2010, this table shows the *percentage* of arrested persons who were women, then calculates the *change* in the percentage for each year. Henslin claims the change is because women have taken advantage of new opportunities in life, and increased their rate of participation in crime. But is this the *only* plausible reason for the change in the percentage of arrests?
  - (a) Yes

- (b) No, men may have decreased their rates of participation in certain crimes.  
(c) No, police may now arrest women who they used to release.  
(d) No, because of both (b) and (c).
7. Look at Figure 6.1 on page 173. Yes or no: Every state that has one of the ten most populous cities of the country has a violent crime rate that is higher than average.
8. Look at Table 6.3 on page 178. Which age group is the most over-represented in U.S. prisons?  
(a) 18-24   (b) 25-34   (c) 35-44   (d) 45-54   (e) 55 and older
9. Look at Table 6.4 on page 181. Which racial/ethnic category is the most under-represented on death row?  
(a) Whites   (b) African Americans   (c) Latinos   (d) Asian Americans   (e) Native Americans
10. Look at Table 7.3 on page 206. The least industrialized countries have \_\_\_\_ of the world's land mass, but \_\_\_\_ of the population.  
(a) 49 / 68   (b) 51 / 32   (c) 69 / 84   (d) 68 / 49   (e) 50 / 50
11. Look at Figure 8.1 on page 222. The wealthiest 10% of Americans owns 75% of the nation's wealth. This is only a \_\_\_\_ percentage point difference from the ratio found in the world overall, as mentioned in Fig. 7.1 on page 198.  
(a) 10   (b) 20   (c) 30   (d) 39   (e) 64
12. Look at Figure 8.3 on page 224. In what year did the top 20% of income-earners receive the smallest percentage of the nation's income?  
(a) 1941   (b) 1950   (c) 1970   (d) 1990   (e) 2010
13. Look at Figure 8.6 on page 238. When looking at a society's incomes, it is common to group a person's income by which "quintile" it is in. "Quint" equals "five," so each quintile has 20% (1/5) of the society's population. This figure shows how much social mobility there is from one generation to the next. The bottom of the graph shows which quintile a person was in as a child. The bar above it shows which quintile these children were in as adults. (For instance, of all the children who grew up in the "top" quintile, 40% of them were in the top quintile as adults.) Which childhood quintile has the smallest percentage of adults still in the same quintile?
14. Look at Figure 8.7 on page 242. Which racial/ethnic category has the smallest percentage of the elderly living in poverty?
15. Look at Figure 8.9 on page 244. Does the profile of Asian Americans more closely resemble that of Whites, or of the three other minority groups?
16. Look at Figure 8.10 on page 245. For women who have attended college but have no degree, \_\_\_\_ are single when they give birth.  
(a) 5%   (b) 10%   (c) 31%   (d) 40%   (e) 53%
17. Look at Figure 8.11 on page 246. For the majority of people who become impoverished, how long does poverty last?  
(a) 5+ yrs   (b) up to 4 yrs   (c) up to 3 yrs   (d) 2 yrs   (e) A year or less
18. Look at Figure 9.2 on page 241. When comparing applicants whose mortgage applications were denied, did having an income higher than the median improve the approval rates for Latinos and African Americans?  
(a) Yes   (b) No

19. Look at Figure 9.5 on page 256. (a) Among Americans of European descent, which racial or ethnic group has the largest percentage? (b) What is that percent?
20. Look at Figure 9.6 on page 272. Of all the states in the Midwest, which state(s) have a higher than average percentage of members of minority groups?
21. Look at Figure 9.8 on page 274. Of all the Latinos living in the U.S., \_\_\_ live in Illinois.
22. Look at Table 9.2 on page 276. Which racial or ethnic group has the highest poverty rate, compared to Whites?
23. Look at Table 9.3 on page 276. When Whites, the Latino average, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans are compared, which racial or ethnic group has the lowest rate of graduation from college?
24. Look at Table 9.4 on page 279. Which racial or ethnic group has the highest rate of family incomes less than \$15,000 per year?
25. Look at Figure 9.9 on page 280. Which country of origin has the highest percentage of Asian Americans?
26. Look at Figure 9.10 on page 286. Between 2000 and 2050, the percentage of the U.S. that is "White" is expected to drop from 69.4% to 49.9%. This is a decline of:  
(a) 28 percentage points    (b) 10%    (c) 28%    (d) 19.5 percentage points    (e) 75%
27. Look at Figure 10.2 on page 306. In what year did women become the majority of college students?
28. Look at Figure 10.3 on page 306. Which ethnic group has men as the majority of their college students?  
(a) none    (b) Asian Americans    (c) Latinos    (d) White    (e) African Americans
29. Look at Figure 10.4 on page 307. From 1970 to 2010, the percentage of women who were awarded a medical degree that year jumped from (a) \_\_\_ to (b) \_\_\_ percent, and in law from (c) \_\_\_ to (d) \_\_\_ percent.
30. Look at Figure 10.5 on page 308. Over time, the labor force participation rates of men and women have:  
(a) diverged    (b) converged    (c) remained the same    (d) moved parallel to each other
31. Look at Figure 10.7 on page 310. When men and women of similar educations are compared, which education level has the smallest gender pay gap?
32. Look at Figure 10.8 on page 311. In the year 2010 women made, on average, \_\_\_ percent of what men made.
33. Look at Figure 10.11 on page 319. True or false: Until recently, gender oppression in the U.S. was so bad that, on average, men significantly outlived women.
34. Look at Figure 10.12 on p. 320. When the percentage of the population that was elderly in 1900 is compared to that in 2000, there was a \_\_\_ in the percentage of the elderly.  
(a) three-times increase    (b) decrease    (c) 8%    (d) 16 percentage point increase
35. Look at Figures 10.16 and Figure 10.17, pp. 327-328. Are the payments for Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid rising at an "arithmetic" rate, or are they rising at a "geometric" rate? (Look up the difference!)
36. (a) According to Table 11.1 on p. 341, which racial-ethnic category had the highest turnout for Presidential elections from 1988 to 2004? (b) Since 2008, which racial-ethnic category has had the highest turnout for Presidential elections?

37. Look at Figure 11.4 on page 357. In terms of “constant dollars” (adjusted for inflation), in what year did the average hourly earnings of U.S. workers finally reach the same level they were at in 1970?
38. Look at Figure 11.5 on page 362. The top 20% of the U.S. population receives (a) \_\_\_\_ of the nation’s income. This is (b) \_\_\_\_ times as much as the lowest 20% of the population.
39. Look at Figure 12.2 on page 373. It is often said that work is so stressful these days that spouses in two-paycheck marriages have no time to pay attention to their families. When comparing 1965 to 2008, how many hours per week did they give to their children?
- (a) remained the same
  - (b) both decreased
  - (c) both increased
  - (d) men increased, women decreased.
40. Look at Figure 12.3 on page 376. During the decade 2000-2010, which increased more rapidly: (a) African American men married to White women, or (b) White men married to African American women?