

Essay Questions for Test #1

Three of the following eight questions will be randomly picked for the test. You should allocate twenty minutes of exam time for answering each question. Your grade on these answers will depend on the coherence and completeness of the answer and on your demonstrating knowledge of the material covered in this course. Use equations, graphs, or diagrams to illustrate your points when that would be helpful.

There will also be twenty minutes of very-short-answer, true/false, and multiple choice questions on the test based on material in the book, handouts, and lectures.

- (1) In what ways is economics a useful tool for analyzing gender differences?
In what ways do assumptions used in economic theory tend to cloud rather than clarify gender-related issues?
- (2) Describe U.S. employment and earnings patterns by sex.
- (3) What are the advantages and disadvantages of the "traditional" household division of labor?
- (4) What is the effect, if any, of increased female labor force participation on the formation, operation, and dissolution of families?
- (5) Describe the current system of welfare provision (TANF) in the U.S. and discuss whether or not TANF has been an improvement over AFDC.
- (6) What is the relationship, if any, between workforce sex segregation patterns and the gender wage differential?
- (7) What light does human capital theory shed, if any, on the gender wage differential?
- (8) Explain the pros and cons of mandating employer provision of child care benefits for all firms employing more than 100 workers, and indicate whether or not you would vote for the policy and why.