

Essay Questions for Test #2

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) What methods are used to provide evidence of sex discrimination in the workplace? What are their relative advantages and drawbacks?
- (2) Describe the different discrimination theories and indicate for each how potentially applicable it is to explaining the U.S. gender earnings gap.
- (3) Explain what a national comparable worth policy would entail and discuss the pros and cons of implementing such a policy in the U.S.
- (4) What lessons can one learn from cross-national comparisons within the set of OECD countries about how governmental policies can help women achieve economic equality?
- (5) Consider the relative status of women and men in socialist and cooperative societies, contrast this to that found in capitalist societies at a similar level of development, and consider broadly the question of whether ideological outlook regarding gender roles affects women and men's relative economic position in a substantive way.
- (6) Discuss the relationships between the level of economic development of a society and the relative status of women and men in the society.
- (7) Describe the U.S. trends in female labor force participation, occupational sex segregation, and the gender pay gap since the late nineteenth century.
- (8) How might incorporation of racial, ethnic, cultural, and/or class considerations alter one's analysis of economic differences by gender?