

## CHAPTER 2: IDEAS

---

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Distinction is a foundation concept for an understanding of the sociology of gender because
  - a. without distinguishing men from women, there would be no basis for gender difference or inequality.
  - b. empowering women is about achievement and distinguishing oneself from others.
  - c. there are two, distinct sexes and that difference is gender.
  - d. gender inequality is distinctively different and operates on different principles than other types of inequality.

ANS: A                      REF: pp. 4–6

2. The word *sex* refers to
  - a. biological differences in primary and secondary sexual characteristics.
  - b. the symbolism of masculinity and femininity that we connect to being male or female.
  - c. the fact that the shape of our body may not extend to how a person feels or acts.
  - d. the primary way we naturalize and justify inequality.

ANS: A                      REF: pp. 4–6

3. The word *gender* refers to
  - a. biological differences in primary and secondary sexual characteristics.
  - b. the symbolism of masculinity and femininity that we connect to being male or female.
  - c. the fact that the shape of our body may not extend to how a person feels or acts.
  - d. the primary way we naturalize and justify inequality.

ANS: D                      REF: pp. 4–6

4. Describing people as male-bodied or female-bodied helps capture the fact that:
  - a. there are biological differences in primary and secondary sexual characteristics
  - b. we connect to being male or female to symbols of masculinity and femininity.
  - c. the shape of our body may not extend to how a person feels or acts.
  - d. we naturalize and justify inequality.

ANS: C                      REF: pp. 4–6

5. Which of the following is correct?
  - a. Seventeenth century anatomists believed that females had the same bodies as males, only inverted, while today we know that female and male bodies are completely different.
  - b. Seventeenth century anatomists believed the female body was completely different than the male body. By contrast, we now know that some female and male genitalia develop from the same fetal tissue.
  - c. Seventeenth century anatomists believed that females were “men turned outside in”; however, today we know that female and male bodies are neither the same, nor absolute opposites.
  - d. Ninety-nine percent of the population who are either female or male have opposite

bodies, but some individuals who are either intersexed or transsexuals display a combination of female and male characteristics.

ANS: C REF: pp. 9–10

6. Which of the following descriptions best conveys the meaning of the term *gender binary*?
- a system with two and only two separate and distinct parts
  - the idea that there are only two types of people—male-bodied people and female-bodied people
  - the idea that there are two types of people—male-bodied people who are masculine and female-bodied people who are feminine
  - a system with masculine and feminine persons

ANS: C REF: p. 10

7. Which of the following concepts describes the capacity to assume that we are unique by reconciling our own complex identity with what is known about men and women?
- gender binary
  - gender ideology
  - the personal exception theory of gender
  - gender identity

ANS: C REF: p. 11

8. What is the personal exception theory of gender?
- that everyone has a gender, except for intersex persons
  - that we think gender stereotypes apply for everyone else but ourselves
  - the process by which something becomes a man or a woman
  - that everyone is gendered except when they deviate from gender norms

ANS: B REF: p. 11

9. Which of the following statements expresses the personal exception theory of gender?
- “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” (title of a 1983 Cyndi Lauper song)
  - Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* (title of a 1992 book by John Gray)
  - “What Does a Woman Want?” (*Sigmund Freud: Life and Work*, 1953)
  - Not That Kind of Girl* (title of a 2014 book by Lena Dunham)

ANS: D REF: p. 11

10. Which of the following groups is evidence that the gender binary fails to describe reality?
- People with intersexed bodies
  - Transsexuals
  - We feel compelled to work hard to make our body appear feminine or masculine.
  - All of the above

ANS: D REF: p. 25

11. Which one of the following examples demonstrates that gender ideologies vary considerably from culture to culture?
- In Albania, girls can live as boys and grow up to be socially recognized men.
  - In Afghanistan, families without sons pick a daughter to become a boy. This way the child “dressed up like a boy” can obtain an extensive education and/or support their family by working outside the home.

- c. The Dutch do not teach children that men have “male” hormones and women have “female” hormones, but that hormone levels vary among men and among women and that these levels rise and fall in response to different situations and as people of both sexes age.
- d. All of the above.

ANS: D

REF: pp. 12–16

12. During her research in the community of Gerai in West Borneo, anthropologist Christine Helliwell described how her gender was uncertain among the Dayak for the duration of her fieldwork. This was because
- a. they didn’t know she had breasts and a vagina due to the sarong she wore.
  - b. for the Dayak, a “woman” has children and at that time Helliwell didn’t have any.
  - c. for the Dayak, a “woman” is a person who excels at distinguishing types of rice and its preparation, but Helliwell did not master these tasks.
  - d. none of the above.

ANS: C

REF: p. 14

13. In the Dominican Republic, a rare genetic condition made male children appear to be female until puberty, at which time what had been thought to be a clitoris grew into a penis and their testes suddenly descended from their abdomen. What happened then?
- a. These children would keep their feminine identities and cover their genitals for the rest of their lives.
  - b. These children would be women but remain sexually inactive for the rest of their lives.
  - c. These children would grow with the stigma of having abnormal bodies.
  - d. These children would adopt masculine identities and live as men the rest of their lives.

ANS: D

REF: p. 14

14. What percentage of the population are estimated to be intersexed or transsexual?
- a. 10 percent
  - b. 0.2 percent
  - c. 95 percent
  - d. 1 percent

ANS: D

REF: p. 18

15. According to a social constructionist approach to gender, which of the following statements is NOT true?
- a. Some societies have more than two genders; some even have five.
  - b. The gender binary is universal.
  - c. In some countries, feminine men are a third gender.
  - d. Genitals don’t always determine one’s gender.

ANS: B

REF: pp. 25–26

16. The fact that men are more likely than women to get breast reductions, and women are more likely than men to get breast implants is an example of
- a. efforts to enhance the illusion of the gender binary.
  - b. efforts by intersex people to fit into their given sex.
  - c. gender dysphoria.

d. the personal exception theory of gender.

ANS: A                      REF: pp. 21–25

17. The authors of your textbook claim that
- there is no biological basis to gender.
  - men and women are genderless at birth and only become male or female through socialization.
  - in some societies, gender isn't important.
  - if we didn't work so hard at it, men and women wouldn't look as different as they do.

ANS: D                      REF: pp. 21–25

18. How does our associative memory work to make the gender binary seem more real than it is?
- We constantly overlook, forget, or misremember any exceptions to the gender binary.
  - We recall gender stereotypes during childhood only, but misremember experiences in later years.
  - We tend to better remember bodies that are stereotype-inconsistent with the gender binary.
  - All of the above.

ANS: A                      REF: pp. 29–30

19. Which one of the following statements is NOT about gender binary glasses?
- They allow us to separate everything we see into masculine and feminine categories.
  - They provide us with cultural competence.
  - They exaggerate biological reality.
  - They help us interact with others in a meaningful way.

ANS: C                      REF: p. 26

20. What does the Implicit Association Test (IAT) demonstrate?
- That men and women have different brains.
  - That we unconsciously associate feminine things with one another and masculine things with one another.
  - That our gender binary glasses help us to remember things better.
  - That our brain is not well-suited to register the gender binary.

ANS: B                      REF: p. 29

21. When someone reads the words *wrestling*, *pickup truck*, and *steak* and automatically thinks “man,” they are experiencing the effect of
- gender binary glasses.
  - the gender similarities hypothesis.
  - associative memory.
  - the difference between sex and gender.

ANS: C                      REF: pp. 29

22. Which of the following is NOT a message of this chapter?
- Much of the difference we attribute to bodies is a result of us working hard to make them appear different and even opposite.

- b. Gender ideologies shape our cognition through both perceptions and misperceptions.
- c. All cultures have gender ideologies, but only ours (the gender binary ones) distorts our cognition.
- d. Wearing gender binary glasses makes us culturally competent.

ANS: C

REF: pp. 9–32

## **ESSAY**

1. If the gender binary doesn't describe a large number of the people we know, where does the idea come from?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

2. What does it mean to say that gender is a social construct? What biological evidence led scholars to conclude that gender is a social construct? How about cultural or historical evidence? Is there anything in your own life that could be used as evidence that gender is a social construct?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

3. The logic behind the gender binary neither accounts for the 1 percent whose biological markers aren't clearly in the male/female category, nor the 99 percent who are actively working to improve the fit of their bodies into the binary. What are the implications of this conclusion?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

4. What does it mean to say that we use gender ideologies to organize our worlds?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

5. If bodies are functional, but don't fit into the gender binary, is that a problem? For who, and why?

ANS:

Answers will vary.