

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SECOND YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF ARTS ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 210: RACE, ETHNICITY AND STRATIFICATION

STREAM: BA ECON & SOCI (Y2S1)

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: WEDNESDAY 14/8/2013

11.30 A.M. - 1.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS:

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A CHOOSE ANY TWO QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.

SECTION A

1. Social inequality refers to differences between people in terms of opportunities and rewards. For example, people vary in terms of money, status and power. When people are ranked hierarchically according to their possession of attributes such as income, wealth, power, age, gender and status, this is known as “social stratifications”.

Sociologists suggest that the origins of inequality can be found in the culture and social structures of societies. This is not to deny that there are innate and natural differences between people and that such difference contribute to social inequality. However, the sociological approach emphasizes how cultures and social structures can create and maintain individual inequalities.

Social inequality and stratification greatly affect the quality of peoples lives. It can make the difference between, for example, working in a well paid job or being unemployed, eating well or going hungry, enjoying good health and living to an old age or dying young.

- (a) What is meant by the term status? [2 marks]
- (b) Describe two examples of how natural differences between people may contribute to social inequality. [6 marks]
- (c) Explain how peoples chances of enjoying good health and living to an old age may be influenced by social inequality. [10 marks]
- (d) Assess sociological explanations of why inequality exists. [12 marks]

SECTION B

2. Using contemporary examples, comment critically on levels of discrimination.
3. As Kenya modernizes different ethnic groups in the population are assimilated and ethnically is overcome. Explain and discuss. [20 marks]
4. Describe and assess the position of a minority ethnic group in one society you are familiar with and the extent to which ethnicity has influenced the social position of its members. [20 marks]
5. Assess the claim that social class background is no longer a barrier to achieving social mobility. [20 marks]
6. Evaluate the progress of prejudicial behavior according to Allport. Give examples. [20 marks]
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