

**Department of Sociology  
University of California-Berkeley  
Professor Samuel R. Lucas  
Preliminary Exam**

**Part I -- Morning**

**ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND EITHER QUESTION 2 OR 3 (Devote about 1.5 hours to question 1, and 1.5 hours to either question 2 or 3.)**

**(1) [REQUIRED]**

For each of **EIGHT (8)** of the following concepts or terms, provide a definition, discuss the significance of the concept or term in the sociology of education, and cite the principal sources in which the concept or term figures prominently.

- (a) human capital
- (b) reproduction
- (c) IQ
- (d) acting white
- (e) significant others' influence
- (f) penetrations
- (g) loose coupling
- (h) unremarked revolution
- (i) symbolic violence
- (j) Effectively Maintained Inequality
- (k) sponsored mobility
- (l) selective attrition

**AND**

**Question 2**

State the key tenets of Ogbu's explanation for the lower achievement of African-Americans. Then, relate the research that has attempted to assess his explanation. Evaluate the evidence bearing on the theory, and then accept, reject, or reformulate that theory in light of the diverse types of evidence; if you accept or reject the theory, explain why.

**OR**

**Question 3**

**(3)** Outline the research bearing on the development of aspiration, motivation, and effort, and their role in education. Relate the theories that connect any or all of these factors to educational success. Then, considering the weight of the evidence and the limitations of the studies, evaluate whether we can or cannot conclude that aspiration, motivation, and/or effort are the major conduits for parental characteristics to affect educational attainment.

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**Part II -- Afternoon**

**ANSWER TWO (2) OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (Devote approximately one and one-half hours to each question.)**

**(1)** Sociology of education has been of interest not only to social scientists, but also to policy-makers and others concerned with addressing social problems. Select **ONE (1)** of the following issues, and discuss how theory and research in the sociology of education has contributed and/or potentially can contribute to understanding the problem and to assessing the merits of possible policy responses:

- (a) Lower rates of college entry for socioeconomically disadvantaged students.
- (b) The effects of poverty on children's learning.
- (c) The imperviousness of schools to reform.
- (d) Differences in achievement gains in public and private schools.

**(2)** Write an essay in which you describe and critically analyze the major trends in measured achievement in the United States population since 1950. In your essay address the following topics:

- (a) The trend in levels of achievement in the population as a whole.
- (b) Trends in the DIFFERENCES in achievement by gender, race and ethnicity, and socioeconomic background.
- (c) Theory and research proposing and evaluating explanations for the trends identified in Parts (a) and (b).

**(3)** In the last century the comprehensive high school came to be a dominant form of schooling in the United States. Write an essay in which you:

- (a) Identify and explicate the claims that one might advance to support the promulgation of the comprehensive high school
- (b) Discuss the extent to which each of the claims you have identified enjoys empirical support, and the extent to which empirical evidence places in doubt

the validity or applicability of each claim.

(c) In light of existing currents in school reform, critically evaluate the proposition that the comprehensive high school will continue to be the dominant form of secondary schooling in the United States.