

# **The Gendered Society, Sixth Edition**

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

## Short-answer prompts:

1. Describe the interplanetary theory of gender.
2. Identify the key differences between biological determinism and differential socialization in the development of gender difference and inequality.
3. Explain the concepts of hegemonic masculinity and emphasized femininity.

## Essay prompts:

1. Considering the rise in mass shootings, explain how they are related to the invisibility of masculinity and how this perpetuates gender inequality.
2. Explain the mean difference comparison and how this can be used to support either the nature or nurture argument.
3. What are deceptive distinctions? How does the mean difference comparison contribute to an experience of deceptive distinctions?

## Multiple-choice questions:

1. What is the “interplanetary theory” of gender difference?  
(a) The idea that gender is analogous to universal forms

- (b) A theory that proposes that men and women are more similar to each other than they are to anything else in the universe
- (c) A proposal that we should consider gender difference on planets other than the earth
- \*(d) The widespread notion that men and women are so different from each other that we might as well have come from different planets

2. When it comes to gender, what is “biological determinism”?

- (a) The Darwinian theory that men dominate because they have evolved to do so over time
- \*(b) The theory that men and women are “hardwired” to be different
- (c) The idea that our experience of gender depends on variable factors such as hormones, which determine how “gendered” we are
- (d) The theory that the way cultures express gender actually changes biological components of gender, such as musculature

3. When it comes to gender, what is “differential socialization”?

- \*(a) The theory that men and women are different because we have been taught to be different
- (b) The idea that we can distinguish between men and women by looking at the way each group socializes
- (c) The theory that what you teach a child about gender has no effect on the child’s eventual experience of gender

(d) The notion that each human actually has multiple genders, which come out depending on the social situation

4. What is the difference between “sex” and “gender”?

(a) “Gender” refers to physiological differences between men and women; “sex” refers to differences that various cultures attach to physiological sexual differences.

(b) “Gender” is about thought; “sex” is about emotion.

\*(c) “Sex” refers to physiological differences between men and women; “gender” refers to differences that various cultures attach to physiological sexual differences.

(d) They are essentially the same thing.

5. What do the nature and nurture sides of the gender debate have in common?

\*(a) They both consider gender difference to be irreversible.

(b) They both see gender difference as greater than differences among women or among men.

(c) They both assume that gender domination is the inevitable outcome of gender difference.

(d) All of the above

(e) a and c

6. What does the author mean when he says that “men are invisible”?

\*(a) We rarely consider gender when we study men; gender only comes into discussion when we study women.

- (b) Men are also oppressed; the women's movement has suppressed this fact, which is further evidence of men's oppression.
- (c) Men frequently commit violent crimes and get away with it.
- (d) Men have a seldom-noted psychological propensity for insecurity because of the pressures of patriarchal culture.

7. What is "the privilege of invisibility"?

- (a) A theory that states that oppressed people do not acknowledge that their oppression actually affords them the advantage of having a "low profile"
- (b) The idea that people in majority identities cannot get recognition for their identities
- \*(c) The way in which people in majority identities can consider themselves generic and universally generalizable and not acknowledge their privileged position, while also assuming others have the same opportunities and rights as they do
- (d) The way in which people in minority identities endure a lack of representation in the media

8. What is one example of the national debate about masculinity that Kimmel believes we are having?

- \*(a) The crisis of young men and violence, which is generally discussed as a problem of "youth"
- (b) The overturning of male newscasters in favor of female ones
- (c) The appearance of men's studies courses in universities

(d) The increased discussion in the media of men's responsibilities with regard to birth control

9. Why is it useful to speak of “masculinities” and “femininities” in the plural?

(a) Because we are never speaking about just one individual, but rather about groups of people

(b) Because gender is plural, whereas sex is singular

(c) Because we cannot know in advance how many genders we are speaking of

\*(d) Because this allows us to acknowledge that masculinity and femininity mean different things to different groups of people at different times

10. What does the “hegemonic” definition of masculinity refer to?

(a) The definition of masculinity that Marx refers to in the *Communist Manifesto*

(b) The idea that masculinity is defined not by ideological forces but rather by the individual

\*(c) The idea that there is one ideal way to be male in our culture and all other versions fail

(d) The definition of masculinity that Kimmel believes is the correct definition

11. What is “emphasized femininity”?

(a) The parody of femininity most often associated with drag performance

(b) The feminist theory that femininity is an essence of the self and should therefore be accentuated