

# Class and Poverty Awareness Quiz

(Are you being misled?)

By Paul C. Gorski ([gorski@edchange.org](mailto:gorski@edchange.org))  
for **EdChange** and the *Multicultural Pavilion*  
<http://www.mhhe.com/multicultural>

Please circle the correct answer for each question. We will discuss the answers when everyone has completed the quiz.

1. In 1978 corporate CEOs in the United States earned, on average, 35 times more than the average worker. Today, they earn \_\_\_ times more than the average worker.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. 35
  - b. 150
  - c. 240
  - d. 300
2. The majority of poor people in the U.S. live in
  - a. urban areas
  - b. rural areas
  - c. suburban areas
3. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 33% of the U.S. workforce was unionized in 1962. What percentage is unionized today?
  - a. 85.6%
  - b. 50.8%
  - c. 27.1%
  - d. 12.5%
4. Which of the following variables most closely predicts how high someone will score on the SAT test?
  - a. Race
  - b. Region of residence
  - c. Family income
  - d. Parents' academic achievement
5. How many children around the world die each day from hunger-related causes?<sup>2</sup>
  - a. 160,000
  - b. 16,000
  - c. 1,600
  - d. 160

6. The U.S. military budget is by far the highest of any country in the world. By 2003, the U.S. military budget was roughly equal to that of:

- a. the next 5 countries combined
- b. the next 10 countries combined
- c. the next 15 countries combined
- d. the next 20 countries combined

7. What percentage of people around the world lives on less than \$750 per year?

- a. 10%
- b. 33%
- c. 50%
- d. 75%

8. According to UNICEF, the wealth of the three richest people in the world is roughly equal to the Gross Domestic Product of:

- a. the 5 poorest countries
- b. the 18 poorest countries
- c. the 48 poorest countries
- d. the 308 poorest countries

9. How many people in the U.S. live in poverty according to the U.S. Census Bureau?

- a. 1 million
- b. 12 million
- c. 37 million
- d. 120 million

10. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, how much more likely are African American and Latino mortgage applicants to be turned down for a loan, even after controlling for employment, financial, and neighborhood factors?

- a. 15%
- b. 30%
- c. 45%
- d. 60%

11. According to a Catalyst study, what percentage of Fortune 500 CEOs are women?

- a. 50%
- b. 22.4%
- c. 8.3%
- d. 1.2%

12. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, how many millionaires are there in the U.S.?
- a. roughly 3,500,000
  - b. roughly 1,000,000
  - c. roughly 500,000
  - d. roughly 150,000
13. Which of the following statements is consistent with research on poverty and education in the U.S.?
- a. Economically disadvantaged people do not value education as much as people of economic means.
  - b. Wealthy students who attend high-poverty schools perform worse than poor students who attend low-poverty schools.
  - c. Illicit drugs are more prevalent at high-poverty schools than low-poverty schools.
14. According to United for a Fair Economy, how much money did the U.S. government spend in 2005 on corporate welfare (economic incentives, often provided to support corporations' expansions into overseas markets)?
- a. \$1,250,000,000
  - b. \$12,500,000,000
  - c. \$125,000,000,000
  - d. \$1,250,000,000,000
15. What percentage of the U.S. Government budget goes to welfare and Social Security?
- a. 25% to welfare and 25% to Social Security
  - b. less than 1% to welfare and 20% to Social Security
  - c. 20% to welfare and 1% to Social Security
  - d. less than 1% to welfare and less than 1% to Social Security

### Notes

1. *The State of Working America 2004/2005* by Lawrence Mishel, Jared Bernstein, and Sylvia Allegretto, 2005, p. 214.
2. "Where and Why Are 10 Million Children Dying Every Year" (2003) by Robert Black, Saul Morris, and Jennifer Bryce in *The Lancet*, 361.