## **Chapter 8 Discussion Questions**

### 8.1.1 Class Consciousness

Think about your family’s social interactions with other families when you were growing up. Did you associate and spend time socially with families from various social classes? Or did you primarily interact with families from your social class?

Do you conform to class consciousness now that you are an adult? Why or why not?

### 8.2.1 New and Old Money

Consider the social differences between individuals who inherited their wealth and individuals who made their “new” money. How might they differ in how they display their wealth and their lifestyles?

### 8.3.1 Economic Stratification

In your opinion, for some people to be rich, do others have to be poor? Is extreme wealth in and of itself a social problem? Try to think of some examples to support your discussion.

### More Than a Theory

### 8.3.2 Functionalist

What function does the disparity in college preparedness testing scores have in maintaining the system of stratification? Is test score disparity detrimental to society overall? How does the educational system maintain social stratification?

### 8.3.3 Conflict

How does the wage gap increase long-term inequality for women? Who benefits from maintaining wage inequality between the sexes? Is gender inequality a necessary and inevitable part of social stratification?

### 8.3.4 Symbolic Interactionist

How do different variables impact a person’s position in society? What role does the cycle of poverty play in maintaining social stratification? Can policies and procedures be implemented in society to help break the cycle of poverty?

### 8.4.1 Social Capital

Who is responsible for promoting social and cultural capital? Parents? Schools? Mentors?

How does a person without social and cultural capital go about acquiring it?

### 8.5.1 Social Policy and Stratification

Can policies be designed to legislate away various forms of inequality? Why or why not? What would be the pros and cons of enacting such legislation?