Gender Stratification Study Questions

1. Based on her research in New Guinea, what did Margaret Mead conclude about gender?

2. What does Naomi Wolf mean by the term "beauty myth"?

3. Why is “earning an income” no longer a man’s role in the United States?

4. What three factors account for most of the income disparity between women and men?

5. The socialization process links gender to personal identity (gender identity) and to distinctive behavior and activities (gender roles). In this essay, describe the importance of gender to socialization across the life course from birth through early adulthood. Begin by addressing the fact that people are quick to ask about the sex of a newborn child. Consider parental expectations, peer group activity, and school life.

6. Apply the structural-functional and social-conflict approaches to the issue of gender. What are key insights offered by each theoretical approach? How does each approach view gender differences and gender inequality? How does each respond to the changes in gender across the twentieth century?

7. Define feminism. Describe the three main types of feminist thinking in the United States today. What do the approaches have in common? How do they differ? Also suggest reasons for resistance to feminism. What is your view of the various types of feminism? Why?