1. Define scarcity and explain why the concept is so central to neoclassical economics.

2. Discuss the uses and abuses of simplifying assumptions in economic models.

3. What is the difference between sex and gender?

4. According to Julie Nelson, what is gender?

5. In Nelson’s theory, what are the 3 types of difference (as used in the gender-value compass)?

6. Why have feminists abandoned the issue of “primacy”?

7. What are the two variants of conservatism? Briefly define them with examples.

8. Mary Wollstonecraft and John Stuart Mill fall under what type of feminism? According to this type of feminism, what is the primary cause of women’s subordination?

9. According to Friedrich Engels, what is the cause of the subordination of women?

10. How can the oppression of women be eliminated according to Marxist feminists?

11. According to Radical feminists, the oppression of women is subordinate to what other types of oppression? Support/explain your answer.

12. What is a problem with biologically-determined methods of explaining/justifying human behavior?

13. What does Ernestine Friedl argue is the source of women’s status within a household?

14. List and briefly describe the 5 different “eras” of human development. Pay particular attention to the status of women in each era.

15. From a historical perspective, how has the labor market experience of black and white women differed?

16. In moving from a pre-industrial age to an industrial age, how did the American family change? (Hint: think of self-sufficiency)

17. What is the Cult of True Womanhood? Who supported this idea? Why was it supported?

18. What type of household does the neoclassical model predict should occur? Why?

19. What are the disadvantages of specialization within a household? What are the advantages of household specialization? Briefly compare and contrast them.

20. To what extent is the presumption that women have a comparative advantage in housework justified?
21. Explain under what conditions it would be rational for a woman who could earn more than her husband in the labor market to specialize in housework.

22. With what assumption of the specialization/comparative advantage model does the Bargaining/Transaction Cost model disagree?

23. How are threat points determined? What can affect a person’s willingness to bargain within a marriage?

24. According to the bargaining model, how might men and women spend their money differently?

25. What groups are included in the definition of the labor force? Briefly describe these groups.

26. Historically, what have been the trends in women’s labor force participation rates? What have been the trends in men’s labor force participation rates? Briefly compare and contrast them.

27. Why are indifference curves curvy? In other words, why does the slope of an indifference curve change as you move along it?

28. Suppose the government were to provide a $2-per-hour subsidy for families with an employed mother who purchases childcare. A). Consider a mother with a preschool-age child who is currently not employed. How would this affect her decision to work, all else equal? B). Consider a mother with a preschool-age child who is currently employed. How would this affect the number of hours that she chooses to work (assuming she can vary them), all else equal?

29. What is a reservation wage? How does it affect a person’s decision to participate in the labor market?

30. Why have women been increasingly eager to move into men’s occupations? Why do you think men have generally been less eager to move into women’s occupations?

31. In which occupations/professions are men’s labor concentrated? In which occupations/professions are women’s labor concentrated?

32. Why is hierarchy within an occupation important? What implications does it have for gender? In other words, why is the occupational segregation index lower when you consider the nine major occupational categories than when you consider a large set of detailed occupations?

33. What is human capital? Why should you be concerned about its rate of return?

34. When do people invest in human capital?

35. According to the human capital model, why do women get less education?

36. Briefly list and describe the influence of societal discrimination upon the human capital investment decision.
37. What is the motivation behind statistical discrimination? (In other words, why else might employers discriminate other than for personal reasons?)

38. How do the different types of on-the-job training affect an individual’s human capital investment decision? Illustrate your answer graphically. How might an individual’s perception of his or her expected work life affect your answer? Illustrate graphically and please note the differences between general and specific on-the-job training.


40. How might other determinants besides human capital investment influence an individual’s labor supply decision? Briefly explain.