

1. “Empirical research on the first generation has developed separately from that on the second generation and these two bodies of research should be bridged to better understand the intergenerational mobility among immigrant families.” Do you agree/disagree with this statement? And why? Support your argument using examples from the reading list.
2. Explain in what ways today’s immigrants and immigrant offspring in Canada incorporate into the host societies differently along the lines of their gender, class, race/ethnicity, religion, and citizenship. And discuss whether and to what extent the existing theories on assimilation can help explain their diverse experiences.
3. The term “visible minority” has become increasingly used in larger political discourse in relation to discussions of inequality, systemic racism, equity programs, and the like. But given the different class and status trajectories of the various groups included in the category and the wide disparity in achievements in terms of income, status, education, and the other indicators of success in our society, discuss whether the concept is still meaningful and if so, in what way(s).
4. Max Weber championed the notion of a value-free social science. In sociology today there has been a growing trend toward advocacy especially in relation to race and ethnicity. Compare and contrast these two very different approaches to research and policy focussing on the justifications offered by each.
5. What is the difference between racism and colonization? How are these processes connected? To what extent, and in what ways, have they impacted Indigenous peoples in Canada?
6. To what extent, and in what ways, have Indigenous peoples in Canada resisted racism and colonization? Is it possible for settlers to be allies? If so, what role might they play?
7. Racism is a complex problem that has been defined, measured, and explained in many ways. Drawing on the reading list, describe the form(s) that racism takes, and compare and contrast the strengths and limitations of social structural and social psychological perspectives for understanding racism today.
8. Is it possible and desirable to generate one synthetic theory of racism or is it more helpful to have multiple theories of racisms? If a synthesis of multiple theories works best from your perspective, which combination is most compelling? If, in your view, one theory is possible, map out the ways in which you think it can be developed.
9. Given your theoretical perspective on the nature of racism, what are the most effective methods to study racism, and what does empirical research tell us about the prevalence and impacts of racism in contemporary North America?
10. When it comes to Indigenous-settler relations in Canada, can there be reconciliation without decolonization? Explain.

11. 'Whiteness' studies have recently problematized white identity. At the same time, a number of critiques of whiteness have emerged. Does the recent literature on the social and historical construction of whiteness help to advance theory in the area of race and ethnicity, or is the analysis of whiteness simply another interesting case study of how identities are socially constructed?

12. The 'American melting pot' and Canadian 'multiculturalism' are often counterpoised as competing principles of managing race and ethnic relations. To what extent is this dichotomy and accurate depiction of the social reality of immigrants and ethnic and racial communities in both Canada and the United States?

13. In what ways are patterns of racism and social exclusion different, in Canada today than they were at the time that John Porter did the research for, and wrote *The Vertical Mosaic*? What evidence is there that there is a new racialized vertical mosaic in Canada today?

14. Is race a foundational or epiphenomenal feature of modern society and social organization? How does it intersect with other key social identities and inequalities? What defines an intersectional approach to studying race?

15. Since the attacks of 9/11 in New York, a renewed debate over multiculturalism in relation to ethnic or racially based terrorism has broken out. The issues in this debate include: ethnic profiling, assimilation, political correctness, freedom of expression, hate laws, immigration, among many others. Select two of these issues and assess the arguments presented by both sides.