

Pop Quiz

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You have twenty minutes to complete this quiz. Answer all four questions thoroughly, based only on the facts and ideas that you have learned through experience. You will be graded on the honesty, logic, and cultural sensitivity shown in your responses. All work must be your own; any usage of classmates, notes, or textbooks is strictly prohibited. You may begin work now.

Question #1

Two applicants are vying for the same position at a prestigious advertising agency. Both candidates are African-American males with comparable educational backgrounds, experience, and computer skills. They both seem articulate and personable, so they would fit well inside the corporate culture of the company. Both guys also claim to be seeking long-term employment. One man is named Bradley Newton, while the other is named LaTavian Woods.

Q: Based only on the information given, which man actually receives the job offer? Discuss the pros and cons of this choice. For extra credit, calculate the difference in lifetime earnings between these two men, considering projected time spent unemployed, base salary, 401k earnings, and annual bonuses. Show all your work.

Question #2

A white man has spent twenty-one years living in a government subsidized housing project. His roots are on the north side of a major metropolitan area, in a poorer neighborhood where he is actually in the minority. This man has grown up immersed in hip-hop culture, and he closely follows the latest urban fashion trends. He listens exclusively to hardcore rap music, known for its profanity and abundant usage of a certain ethnic slur.

Almost all of his friends are African-American. He was the only white person on the basketball team during his senior year. The man has been seriously dating his high school sweetheart, who is African-American, for five years. He plans on proposing to her next month.

- Q.
- (a) Considering his background and cultural influences, has this man ever said "the n-word" or an equivalent racial epithet during his lifetime?
 - (b) If the answer to (a) is no, does he have a right to use such words based on where he has grown up and his close associations with African-Americans?
 - (c) If the answer to (a) is yes, how many times has he said it? Round your answer to a multiple of five.

Question #3

A veteran security guard at an upscale department store receives an urgent call on his two-way radio saying there's a shoplifter on the first floor. He quickly abandons his fourth floor post to stop the thief from leaving the store with merchandise. As he runs downstairs, the reception on his walkie-talkie fades, so he cannot hear the description of the shoplifter.

As he bursts onto the first floor, he spots four different customers heading off towards four different exits. One is an elderly Asian lady, who has an oversized purse that could hold a lot of stolen goods. The second is a destitute-looking African-American woman wearing a bulky winter coat that has a surplus of pockets. Heading towards the third door is a Caucasian man dressed in a three-piece pinstriped suit; he is suspiciously clutching a briefcase that is half-open. The fourth suspect is a heavily-pierced Hispanic teenager sporting baggy clothes and a backwards baseball cap.

Q: Which person does the security guard choose to chase down? Does this make him a bad person? Prove your work.

Question #4

Two African-American males, Al and James, started working at the same business consulting firm seven years ago. Both are ambitious college graduates who use their education and skills to the fullest. They have advanced in their professional development, and both are due for upper-level promotions. These two guys are the only employees of their ethnicity in the company. Al and James consider each other good friends and allies, and they are also well respected by clients and their peers.

Both men are African-American, but skin color is where the similarities in their appearance end. Al usually dresses business casual, keeps his hair in a low-cropped, wavy style, and has a full grown beard. James has a completely shaven head, typically has a thin mustache or goatee, and dresses up fancily, often wearing designer ties and sportcoats to work. These two guys look nothing alike, yet their co-workers sometimes say "Hello Al" when greeting James in the hallway, and vice versa. This mistake happens periodically, but always seemingly by accident.

Q: Is one of these workers justified in feeling offended when he's inadvertently called by the other's name? Should this type of mistaken identity still be taking place after this many years of loyal employment? Why or why not?