

Sociology MA Comprehensive Exam Areas and Sample Questions
 University of Colorado Colorado Springs

1. Race & Ethnicity

2. Gender/Sexuality

The “pro-choice” movement, connected with the second wave of the women’s movement, has been critiqued by women of color as well as disability studies scholars. What has been the basis of these critiques and why do they instead advocate for “reproductive justice”?

1. Family

2. Culture

3. Research Methods

Content analysis of a video clip. Watch the YouTube video “school lunch in Japan” at <https://youtu.be/hL5mKE4e4uU?t=76> and complete the following observation scheme so that you can answer two research questions: (1) How was the lunch at a typical Japanese primary school served? (2) What are major Japanese cultural elements of self-management at a typical Japanese primary school? This is a typical descriptive content analysis. The following coding scheme is an example. You can add more items to better answer two research questions. Guided by this coding scheme, use no more than 4 paragraphs to answer two research questions above.

Coding Scheme for “School Lunch in Japan”

How lunch was served		
Attributes	Time/Descriptions	Additional notes/thoughts
Who / how many people cooked the lunch		
Cleanness of kitchen		
How long was the cooking		
Time of serving lunch		
Place of having lunch		
The lunch menu		
How long is the lunch period		
How to prepare the table		
Procedures of serving the lunch:		
Step 1		
Step 2		
Step 3		
Step 4		
Step 5		
<Add new row(s) if you see further step(s)>		
Japanese cultural elements (you may complete this during or after watching the video)		

Name of cultural element	Detailed descriptions / reflective thinking / summarizations
Politeness / respect	
Obedience	
Emphasizing healthy eating behaviors	
<Add new row(s) if you see more cultural element(s) of self-management>	

4. Theory

5. Justice Studies

6. Globalization and Global Studies

7. Disability

8. Social Movements

9. Demography/Population Studies

August Comte, the founding father of sociology, is believed to have stated that “Demography is destiny.” Why is it beneficial or even necessary to study demography? Give a couple of examples in your answer about how demography affects the destiny and daily lives of a population.

10. Food Security/Sovereignty

11. Intersectionality

In 1993 a seminal text was published with the title “All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, But Some of Us are Brave: Black Women’s Studies.” Explain the title, and examples from the history of women of color in a range of social movements, that necessitated the development of Black and/or Women of Color Feminism.