

Chapter 10 – Essay Questions

1. You are at a party with a group of friends. When the conversation turns to sports, one of them says that if it weren't for sports, blacks in the UK would be in much worse shape in terms of social class than they are now. He continues by saying that being a good athlete is still "the best way to escape the 'hood'" for young Black Britons. How would you respond to these comments? Would you agree or disagree, and what would you say to back up your position?
2. Breaking into top sport management jobs has been slow for women and minorities. One of your friends says this is due to a lack of qualified candidates; another says it is due to fears among white men that they are losing all their power. Explain to your friends there is another interpretation, and then explain this alternative interpretation so they will understand.
3. It is popularly believed that all those who become athletes in top-level competitive sports in American society will have no trouble being successful in careers after they retire from active sport participation. Do you agree with this popular belief? What factors are related to career success and mobility for these former athletes?
4. Many adults in your city are very concerned about what they describe as a "youth gang problem." Their goal is to develop programmes to deal with this problem in ways that will really help young people get the experiences they need to be occupationally successful in the future. One person on the city council suggests building a gym to house a boxing programme. You are asked if this would be the correct approach. How would you respond and what would you say is needed for young people to use sport experiences as a means of upward social mobility?
5. Using one of the men's and one of the women's sports teams on your campus as an example, explain how the college experiences of team members may be related to career success and social mobility after they get out of school. What are the things that might contribute to success and mobility? What are the things that might interfere with success and mobility?