

**Questions on Jacobson, Rouse and Hoskins, Orwell (2), Mantsios,  
Baca Zinn and Eitzen, VanderStaay, Newman**

1. Compare the conservatism of fundamental Baptist beliefs and practices to the conservatism of Argentinean haredi Jews described by Jacobson.
2. Jacobson says that context plays a fundamental role in determining the meanings haredi beliefs and practices in Argentina—even though “haredi Judaism is perhaps an archetype of such standardization” (p. 337). What are these meanings?
3. We have looked at the concept of performing identity, thereby instantiating—creating it. Compare how the haredi women instantiate identity to how the River High School heteronormative boys discussed by Pascoe instantiate masculinity.
4. Discuss the discrimination experienced by Sephardic Jews as opposed to Ashkenazi Jews (p. 340). What are the social class elements here? Are these women betraying their ancestral, traditional identity in making these changes toward Ashkenazi versions of haredism?
5. Jacobson discusses consumerism’s role in the haredi lifestyle. How do foreign-obtained “modern” goods like slow cookers fit into haredi women’s lives?
6. Jacobson warns against a tendency to “reduce women to their gender.” Discuss.
7. “Is conversion a reinstatement of patriarchy?” (p. 228 of Rouse and Hoskins). Compare African American Sunni Muslims to Argentinean haredi in this regard.
8. List five examples of how the production and eating of food constitutes performance of identity.
9. Describe how perceptions of lawful and unlawful foods changed over time due to the relationship between the Nation of Islam and Sunni Islam as practiced by African Americans.
10. Discuss how women’s bodies pollute in haredism and African American Sunni Islam/Nation of Islam.
11. Is food an obsession in contemporary America? What is your evidence? What examples can you provide of the role of food in religion? In social class?
12. “The Nation, with its focus on hard work, discipline, and community empowerment...” (p. 239). Compare to Jacobson’s analysis of what haredism means to Argentinean women.
13. How do you embody your identity?

14. Orwell's essays are about England and were written in 1933 and 1937. Choose one of his themes and describe how it would have to be changed to fit present-day America.
15. How, according to Mantsios, do the media make class invisible?
16. What are some of the structural causes of inequality?
17. Do the brief essays by VanderStaay and Newman remind you of a family you know?
18. Provide one or two examples of how the essays by VanderStaay and Newman counteract stereotypes about the nation's poor.

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