**UCM – Sociology**

**Qualifying Exams**

**Questions**

**RACE AND ETHNICITY**

**Q1. CONCEPTS, HISTORY, AND EVOLUTION OF RACE, ETHNICITY, AND RACISM**

Define race, panethnicity, and ethnicity, and explain the difference between the three as conceptualized in the social science literature. Explain the historical evolution of the concept of race, including shifting explanations that focus on biological, cultural/ethnicity, and sociological understandings.  Using empirical examples from the literature, explain the process of racial formation, and in particular, how institutions such as the law, the state, and science, have conditioned the emergence of racial categories and their reproduction.

**Q2. THEORIES AND METHODOLOGY OF RACE, ETHNICITY, AND RACISM**

Contemporary theories of race and racism in the United States offer several explanations for the emergence and persistence of racial dynamics and inequality. Theories of ethnicity, in contrast, tend to investigate how groups form and how they differ based on ancestry and culture, and ultimately, how they integrate into the United States economy and society. Compare and contrast these theories in terms of their theoretical assumptions, methodological approaches, and empirical implications.

**Q3. INTERSECTIONALITY**

Is intersectionality a theory, a framework, and/or a method? Explain. Using at least three empirical examples from the literature, identify the different theoretical and methodological approaches used, and how these distinct approaches shape the types of questions asked and consequent empirical findings. What are the strengths and weaknesses of using an intersectional approach?

**Q4. RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES**

What are the main theoretical approaches used to explain health disparities in the contemporary United States? Studies of health disparities sometimes use qualitative methods, mixed methods, or quantitative methods, which lead to different explanations. Using at least three empirical examples of racial/ethnic health disparities that also use different methods, offer an explanation as to why different factors might matter differently across groups, and how the methods may influence these outcomes. Describe the strengths or weaknesses of each and offer a suggestion to improve future research.