

## Knapsack exercise

Please respond to the following by marking either true or false.

	<u>true</u>	<u>false</u>
1. I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of their race.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I can go into a music shop and count on finding the music of my race represented, into a supermarket and find the staple foods which fit with my cultural traditions, into a hairdresser's shop and find someone who can cut my hair.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Whether I use checks, credit cards, or cash, I can count on my skin color not to work against the appearance of financial reliability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I can swear, or dress in secondhand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, the poverty, or the illiteracy of my race.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. I can speak in public to a powerful male group without putting my race on trial.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. I can remain oblivious of the language and customs of persons of color who constitute the world's majority without feeling in my culture any penalty for such oblivion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior without being seen as a cultural outsider.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to "the person in charge," I will be facing a person of my race.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 19. If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I will be facing a person of my race.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. I can easily buy posters, postcards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys, and children's magazines featuring people of my race.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. I can go home from most meetings of organizations I belong to feeling somewhat tied in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, out-numbered, unheard, held at a distance, or feared. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. I can take a job with an affirmative action employer without having co-workers on the job suspect that I got it because of my race.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. I can choose public accommodation without fearing that people of my race cannot get in or will be mistreated in the places I have chosen.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25. If my day, week, or year is going badly, I need not ask of each negative episode or situation whether it has racial overtones.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

from Peggy McIntosh, "Unpacking the Knapsack of White Privilege," 1988

**For parishioners/church members:**

- |  | <u>true</u>              | <u>false</u>             |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I expect that my theology will be the norm, rather than "specialized" or "marginalized" discourse.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I expect that the research upon which the primary books and resources that informs my pastor and the preaching from the pulpit were written and done in communities of people who look like me.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I expect that the hymns I grew up with and music I am most comfortable with will likely to be present in "typical" national denominational worship gathering rather than in "enculturation" or cross-cultural / multicultural services. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I can walk in late into a committee or session meeting without it being attributed to my race.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I can easily find artists' depictions of God, Jesus, and other biblical figures that match my skin.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Adapted from Mary Hess and Stephen Brookfield, "How Can White Teachers Recognize and Challenge Racism? Acknowledging Collusion and Learning an Aggressive Humility"

And [http://www.uua.org/documents/gardinerwilliam/whiteness/power\\_privilege.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/gardinerwilliam/whiteness/power_privilege.pdf)