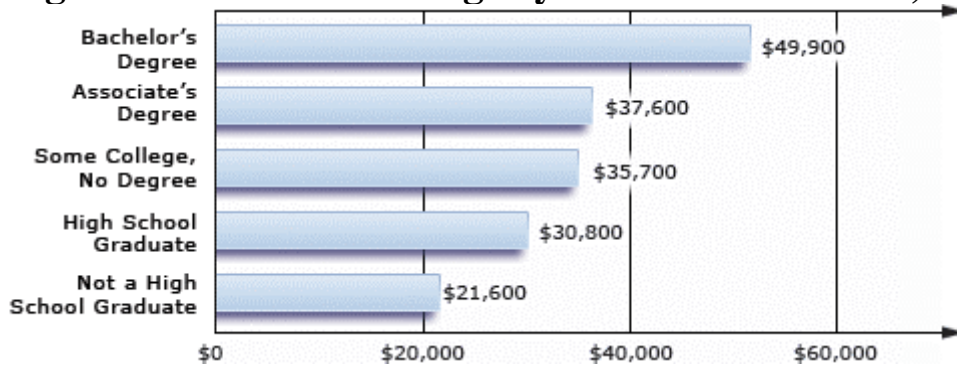


Figure 1: Median Earnings by Level of Education, 2003



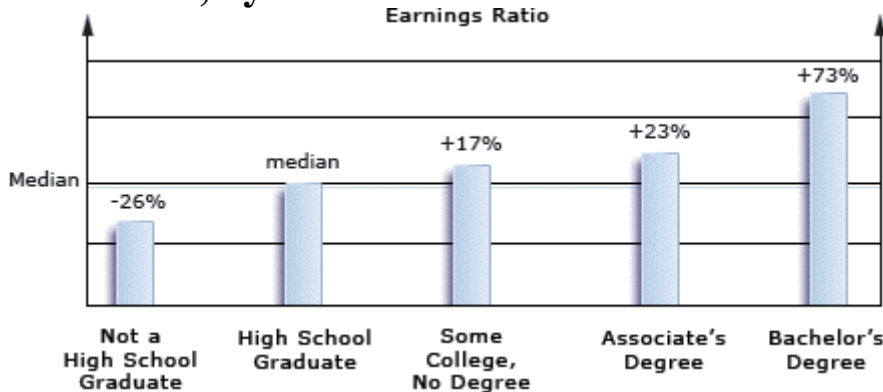
Note: Includes full-time year-round workers age 25 and older.

Questions:

1. How much more can adults with a Bachelor's Degree expect to earn than high school graduates?
2. How much more can adults with an Associate Degree expect to earn than high school graduates?
3. What conclusion can you make from this data?

III. Importance of a Degree – Figure 2

Figure 2: Expected Lifetime Earnings Relative to High School Graduates, by Education Level



Notes: Based on sum of mean annual 2003 earnings from ages 25 to 64. Future earnings are discounted using a 5 percent annual rate

Questions:

1. How much more can the typical Bachelor's Degree recipient expect to earn over a 40-year working life than the typical high school graduate earns over the same time period?
2. How do the average lifetime earnings for individuals with associate degrees compare to the average lifetime earnings for high school graduates?
3. What conclusion can you make using this data?

Source of Data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004, PINC-03