

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

True-False Questions

1. Although anthropologists study the unique features of diverse cultures, they also recognize the fundamental similarities among all peoples in the world.

Answer: T

Topic: Introduction

Learning Objective: n/a

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Anthropology courses are more relevant to students interested in obtaining degrees in business than those pursuing careers in education.

Answer: F

Topic: Why Study Anthropology?

Learning Objective: LO 1.5 Describe why any student should study anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Biological anthropologists focus their research in two areas: human evolution and modern human variation.

Answer: T

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Primatology, the study of nonhuman primates, is a specialization within biological anthropology that contributes to our knowledge of human evolution.

Answer: T

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

5. Archaeologists spend more time digging up garbage than digging up treasure.

Answer: T

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Linguistic anthropologists are concerned with discovering how sites and middens are formed and what can be learned from studying these ancient structures.

Answer: F

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The study of life at plantations in the southern United States would be called “classical archaeology.”

Answer: F

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

8. Scientists hope to uncover universals of cultural behavior through the Genographic Project.

Answer: F

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

9. Applied research in anthropology involves using the research methods and findings developed in basic research to solve human problems and fulfill the perceived needs of various societies.

Answer: T

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Cultural anthropology is the branch of anthropology that studies contemporary societies throughout the world in an attempt to understand human diversity and discover similarities.

Answer: T

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. Anthropological scientific knowledge is absolute, complete, and usually the final truth.

Answer: F

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

12. An ethnography is a written description of a society, while ethnology is a process of determining cross-cultural generalizations.

Answer: T

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. The holistic approach is used by anthropologists to find out if there are any missing pieces to a scientific puzzle or problem they are exploring—that is, if there are any “holes in the argument.”

Answer: F

Topic: Holistic Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Research, and the Global Perspective
Learning Objective: LO 1.2 Describe how the field of anthropology is holistic, interdisciplinary, and global.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Cultural anthropologists, unlike sociologists, do not use statistics to analyze social behavior.

Answer: F

Topic: Holistic Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Research, and the Global Perspective

Learning Objective: LO 1.2 Describe how the field of anthropology is holistic, interdisciplinary, and global.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Anthropology, a scientific discipline, has no relationship with history, a humanistic discipline.

Answer: F

Topic: Holistic Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Research, and the Global Perspective

Learning Objective: LO 1.2 Describe how the field of anthropology is holistic, interdisciplinary, and global.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Because of the methods they use, anthropologists avoid interpreting their research results from a global perspective.

Answer: F

Topic: Holistic Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Research, and the Global Perspective

Learning Objective: LO 1.2 Describe how the field of anthropology is holistic, interdisciplinary, and global.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. Anthropologists have found that culturally constituted knowledge is general, universal, and genetic.

Answer: F

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

18. Inductive reasoning takes general statements and develops specific facts.

Answer: F

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

19. Even in the nineteenth century, anthropologists were aware of the dangers of ethnocentric beliefs and carefully promoted objective interpretations of other societies.

Answer: F

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. The scientific method is a logical system used to evaluate data derived from systematic observation.

Answer: T

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

Multiple-Choice Questions

21. Which of the following best summarizes the effect of the rift between anthropologists committed to either a humanistic or scientific approach?

- A. It has fostered a richer understanding of human existence.
- B. It has thwarted growth within the field.
- C. It has forced humanistic anthropologists to employ the scientific method.
- D. It has driven the field to become more sociological.

Answer: A

Topic: Humanistic Interpretive Approaches in Anthropology

Learning Objective: LO 1.4 Discuss how the field of anthropology bridges both the sciences and the humanities.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

22. Historical linguistics has provided evidence to support which of the following?

- A. Chinese speakers view the world differently than English speakers.
- B. Native American populations originated in Asia.
- C. Puerto Rican accents are different from Mexican accents.
- D. Grammatical forms can differentiate socioeconomic groups.

Answer: B

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

23. Which of the following scientific approaches rely on hypothesis testing?

- A. inductive methods only
- B. deductive methods only
- C. both inductive and deductive methods
- D. inductive, deductive, and theoretical methods

Answer: C

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

24. Which of the following illustrates the way anthropology embraces the social sciences as well as the humanities?

- A. a study concerned with the cultural context of Bedouin poetry
- B. an excavation of a seventeenth-century colonial burial ground

- C. an investigation of the way people change which language they speak according to social context
- D. research into the economic effects of migration in Asia

Answer: A

Topic: Humanistic Interpretive Approaches in Anthropology

Learning Objective: LO 1.4 Discuss how the field of anthropology bridges both the sciences and the humanities.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. An anthropologist would agree with which of the following statements concerning ethnocentrism?
- A. Ethnocentrism can help us better understand cultural universals.
 - B. All societies are not created equal; some are more advanced than others.
 - C. It is not appropriate to judge another society by the values and standards of one's own society.
 - D. Ethnocentrism is a core element of scientific research.

Answer: C

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Easy

26. An archaeologist working in applied anthropology might participate in which of the following?
- A. identifying the way a murder victim was killed
 - B. documenting an ancient site threatened by the construction of a new highway
 - C. genetic studies of contemporary immigrant populations
 - D. studying the meaning of symbols inscribed on ancient pottery

Answer: B

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

27. Ethnologists are primarily interested in which of the following?
- A. understanding the evolution of the human species over time
 - B. studying the genetic similarities and differences among contemporary human populations
 - C. making generalizations based on cultural information from many different societies
 - D. conducting participant observation in order to describe a specific culture in detail

Answer: C

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

28. The four subdisciplines of anthropology are _____.
- A. ethnology, classics, physical geography, and geology
 - B. primatology, ethnohistory, paleontology, and archaeology
 - C. biological anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology
 - D. classical anthropology, prehistoric archaeology, evolution, and ethnohistory

Answer: C

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

29. A paleoanthropologist would be most likely to study _____.
- A. fossilized human bones of early human ancestors
 - B. prehistoric tools from a midden in Costa Rica
 - C. a primitive tribe in the rainforests of Zaire
 - D. archival data from church records in Finland

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

30. The evolution of primate teeth is a subject studied by _____.
- A. archaeologists
 - B. social anthropologists
 - C. forensic anthropologists
 - D. biological anthropologists

Answer: D

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

31. Biological anthropologists who study variation within and among human populations would be interested in which of the following?
- A. the range of skin color among populations in different geographical areas
 - B. differences between the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Greece
 - C. the common origins of French and Italian
 - D. similarities in marriage customs between Muslims and Jews

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Easy

32. The study of past cultures and lifestyles is the goal of _____.
- A. ethnologists
 - B. archaeologists
 - C. forensic anthropologists
 - D. primatologists

Answer: B

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

33. Which of the following is a specialization within the discipline of biological anthropology?
- A. ecological anthropology
 - B. ethnology

- C. forensic anthropology
- D. phonology

Answer: C

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

34. The material products of former societies are known as _____.
- A. artifacts
 - B. fossils
 - C. legacies
 - D. antiquaries

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

35. Scott Atran is a cultural anthropologist whose recent research has focused on which of the following?
- A. political and religious terrorism
 - B. the use of new technologies in underdeveloped nations
 - C. language and the Internet
 - D. racial discrimination in the United States

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

36. Kelley Hays-Gilpin, an archaeologist working in the American Southwest, studied which of the following?
- A. the roles of men and women in ancient forms of agriculture
 - B. the way gender ideology is expressed through pottery and rock art
 - C. the different aspects of American culture adopted by Hopi children
 - D. the construction of cliff dwellings by the Anasazi

Answer: B

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

37. The people known as classical archaeologists conduct research on _____.
- A. the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome
 - B. the evolution of prehistoric stone tools
 - C. societies of the recent past
 - D. ancestors of contemporary Native Americans

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

38. Research on artifacts found in the remains of slave quarters at an eighteenth-century tobacco plantation in Virginia is an example of _____.
- A. historical archaeology
 - B. forensic anthropology
 - C. applied anthropology
 - D. classical archaeology

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

39. A study of the garbage that people throw away may reveal more about their lifestyles than surveys and interviews because _____.
- A. garbage is easier to analyze than survey data
 - B. people may not accurately report their behaviors
 - C. fieldwork in garbage dumps is less expensive
 - D. surveys and interviews are done by sociologists

Answer: B

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

40. _____ linguistics, which focuses on the comparison and classification of different languages to reveal historical links, can often be used to confirm inferences derived from archaeological or paleoanthropological research on ancient population movements.
- A. Historical
 - B. Socio-
 - C. Structural
 - D. Evolutionary

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

41. An anthropologist interested in structural linguistics might consider doing research on _____.
- A. the relationship between written forms of Chinese and Japanese
 - B. whether bilingual children think differently than children who know only one language
 - C. why some people speak with a Southern accent only when they are with family members
 - D. the common roots of Indo-European language

Answer: B

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Difficult

42. A. Peter Castro uses his training as a cultural anthropologist to understand which of the following?
- A. the intersection of archaeology and ethnic identity among Native Americans
 - B. gender discrimination through language
 - C. the universal aspects of religion and human cognition
 - D. conflicts over access to and use of the environment

Answer: D

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

43. A unique research strategy of anthropologists that involves learning the language and culture of a group by participating in the group's daily activities is called _____.
- A. assimilation
 - B. holistic interaction
 - C. ethnography
 - D. participant observation

Answer: D

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

44. Anthropology is said to be "holistic" because it _____.
- A. is concerned with primitive societies
 - B. makes use of both written and oral sources
 - C. uses a multidisciplinary approach
 - D. studies the mystical aspects of human experience

Answer: C

Topic: Holistic Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Research, and the Global Perspective

Learning Objective: LO 1.2 Describe how the field of anthropology is holistic, interdisciplinary, and global.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

45. The use of anthropological data to offer practical solutions to problems within a society is called _____.
- A. applied anthropology
 - B. forensics
 - C. ethnography
 - D. participant observation

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

46. An example of "applied anthropology" might be _____.
- A. a study of genetic differences among gorillas, chimpanzees, and humans
 - B. an archaeological dig to recover information on long-distance trade between ancient Mayan cities

- C. research on how to write a computer manual in an indigenous language of Papua New Guinea
- D. reconstructing the kinship terminology utilized in Japan during the twelfth century

Answer: C

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Difficult

47. Popular perceptions and misperceptions of other cultures have often been based on _____.
- A. hypotheses
 - B. variables
 - C. ethnographies
 - D. ethnocentrism

Answer: D

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy

48. When a scientist begins with a general theory from which testable hypotheses are developed, he or she is said to be using the _____ method.
- A. deductive
 - B. paradigm
 - C. inductive
 - D. hypothesis

Answer: A

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

49. Interconnected hypotheses that offer general explanations for natural or social phenomena are called _____.
- A. paradigms
 - B. theories
 - C. deductive methods
 - D. inductive facts

Answer: B

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

50. Bonnie Urciuoli's sociolinguistic research has revealed which of the following?
- A. the ancient migration patterns of people from Latin America
 - B. the differences between European and Latin American forms of Spanish
 - C. the impact of migration on the Puerto Rican community in New York
 - D. the connection between speech and ethnicity in regard to how people are perceived

Answer: D

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

Essay Questions

51. What are the four fields of anthropology, and how are they related?

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

52. What is the scientific method? Do anthropologists use the scientific method? Do the scientific method or scientific explanations have any limitations?

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

53. You are talking with a friend who asks, “Why would anyone want to study anthropology? What practical benefits will be gained from taking a course in anthropology?” How would you answer your friend’s question?

Topic: Why Study Anthropology?

Learning Objective: LO 1.5 Describe why any student should study anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Easy

54. How do anthropologists generate a global perspective? Create a hypothetical example from one of the four fields to illustrate your answer.

Topic: Holistic Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Research, and the Global Perspective

Learning Objective: LO 1.2 Describe how the field of anthropology is holistic, interdisciplinary, and global.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Difficult

55. Aerial photographs have revealed the existence of a previously unknown group of people living in the Amazon rainforest. What are some of the questions about them that anthropologists would want to investigate? Include the perspectives of two subfields in your answer.

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

56. Explain how scientific and humanistic approaches have shaped the field of anthropology. Is it possible to reconcile these two approaches? If so, how?

Topic: Humanistic Interpretive Approaches in Anthropology

Learning Objective: LO 1.4 Discuss how the field of anthropology bridges both the sciences and the humanities.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

57. What kind of research might be undertaken cooperatively by a linguistic anthropologist and an archaeologist?

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Apply What You Know

Difficulty Level: Moderate

58. From reading the short biographies of Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Bonnie Urciuoli, and Scott Atran, what have you learned about how anthropologists become specialists in certain topics?

Topic: Anthropology: The Four Subfields

Learning Objective: LO 1.1 Compare and contrast the four major subfields of anthropology.

Skill Level: Analyze It

Difficulty Level: Difficult

59. Describe a hypothesis that might be formulated by an archaeologist and how the scientific method would be applied in its investigation.

Topic: Anthropological Explanations

Learning Objective: LO 1.3 Explain how the scientific method is used in anthropological explanations.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Moderate

60. Most academic anthropologists work in departments of anthropology. What are the other university departments that might have anthropologists on their faculties, and why?

Topic: Why Study Anthropology?

Learning Objective: LO 1.5 Describe why any student should study anthropology.

Skill Level: Understand the Concepts

Difficulty Level: Easy