

Chapter 2 Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. According to a 2007 study, rates of autism in the United States have risen dramatically and now affect as many as one in every _____ children.
 - a. 10
 - b. 50
 - c. 150
 - d. 250
 - e. 500

Answer: C Page: 24

2. Which of the following statements best illustrates the experience of mild autism?
 - a. It is an inability to understand any form of language and communication.
 - b. It is a physical impairment that leads an individual to be able to hear words aloud, but the individual cannot respond in any way.
 - c. It is an emotional impairment, and autistic individuals have no ability to feel anything at all.
 - d. It is a social impairment that leads autistic individuals to avoid all forms of human contact.
 - e. It is an inability to intuitively understand the meaning and feelings that accompany very basic human interactions.

Answer: E Page: 24

3. The process of learning to be a member of a specific cultural group is called:
 - a. cultururation.
 - b. enculturation.
 - c. acculturation.
 - d. transculturation.
 - e. diffusion.

Answer: B Page: 25 MSC: WWW

4. Which of the following statements best illustrates the significance of culture for most anthropologists?
- Anthropologists agree on the basic characteristics of culture, but they vary on the significance they attach to each of the characteristics and how they study culture.
 - Anthropologists agree on the characteristics of culture and on the importance of each of these, but they do not all study observable behavior.
 - Anthropologists see culture distinctly and do not agree on the characteristics of culture.
 - Anthropologists study observable behavior, but only a few of them study cultural attributes.
 - Anthropologists study observable behavior, but the meanings and understandings that people attach to their behavior is not important to anthropologists.

Answer: A Page: 26 MSC: WWW

5. All of the following statements about the lengthy period of human immaturity are correct except:
- it allows time for an enormous amount of learning to occur.
 - it demands that human cultures provide stable environments for their young.
 - it allows mature individuals in a society to function as teachers and no longer be in a role as learners.
 - it requires human cultures to protect their young for long periods of time.
 - it leaves few specific human behaviors directly under genetic control.

Answer: C Page: 27

6. Child-rearing practices in all cultures are designed to:
- produce adults who are submissive to the cultural content.
 - allow adults to work as teachers only during a child's early period of development.
 - produce children who know all cultural content at an early age.
 - produce adults who know the cultural content.
 - instill in children a sense of creativity and self-fulfillment.

Answer: D Page: 27

7. Which of the following statements about Inuit child-rearing is true?
- Inuit children do not have formal schooling and are rarely taught to read or write.
 - Inuit peoples do not practice enculturation.
 - Inuit children are discouraged from asking direct questions and primarily learn experientially.
 - Inuit children are taught to be expressive and to consult adults about problems.
 - Inuit children have an especially long period of child immaturity in which they have little or no adult responsibilities.

Answer: C Page: 28

8. Among the Inuit, childhood play is useful in enculturation for all of the following except:
- teaching cooperation.
 - keeping a child under strict adult supervision.
 - making a child physically adept.
 - developing attention to details.
 - testing a child's psychological endurance.

Answer: B Page: 28-29

9. Which of the following anthropologists was classified primarily as a culture and personality theorist?
- Margaret Mead
 - Victor Turner
 - A.R. Radcliffe-Brown
 - Bronislaw Malinowski
 - Oliver Sacks

Answer: A Page: 29

10. Which of the following is not a true statement?
- All shared mental models are biological constructs in humans.
 - Human perception is affected by an individual's culture.
 - People understand their world by means of culture.
 - Humans fit experiences into systems of organization.
 - It is virtually impossible for humans to see things without evaluating them.

Answer: A Page: 30 MSC: WWW

11. Which of the following focuses primarily on describing human systems of organization and classification used by individual cultures?
- cognitive anthropology
 - culture and personality
 - ethnoscience
 - interpretive anthropology
 - ethnobotany
- Answer: C Page: 30
12. The theoretical perspective focused on the relationship between mind and society is called:
- symbolic anthropology.
 - interpretive anthropology.
 - culture and personality.
 - ethnoscience.
 - cognitive anthropology.
- Answer: E Page: 30
13. Which of the following anthropologists would be most interested in studying the role of the muddy tree, with its white, sticky sap, for girls' puberty rites among the Ndembu of East Africa?
- Margaret Mead
 - Victor Turner
 - A.R. Radcliffe-Brown
 - Bronislaw Malinowski
 - Franz Boas
- Answer: B Page: 31
14. The study of cultural texts in public events, celebrations, and rituals is a major part of:
- ethnoscience.
 - culture and personality theory.
 - symbolic anthropology.
 - interpretive anthropology.
 - cognitive anthropology.
- Answer: D Page: 31
15. Culture is an "ensemble of texts...which the anthropologist strains to read over the shoulders of those to whom they properly belong." Whose words are these?
- Bronislaw Malinowski
 - Franz Boas
 - Victor Turner
 - Clifford Geertz
 - Margaret Mead
- Answer: D Page: 31

16. Which of the following is a weakness in using an organic analogy for human culture?
- The organic analogy allows us to think about society as composed of different elements working together.
 - The organic analogy implies that properly functioning human societies are stable and conflict-free.
 - The organic analogy implies that different systems are coordinated in the function of society.
 - Using an organic analogy means that the anthropologist should describe the shape and role of different cultural elements.
 - There are no weaknesses in using an organic analogy for human culture.
- Answer: B Page: 32 MSC: WWW
17. In what kind of society would you be most likely to find inherent conflict?
- geographically stratified
 - egalitarian
 - socially stratified
 - socially-nonstratified
 - subsistence-based
- Answer: C Page: 33
18. Functionalism is the study of:
- cultures as texts that can be read and analyzed.
 - symbols and their meanings.
 - the relationship between subsistence production and social structure.
 - relationships between kinship, religion, and politics in order to find laws.
 - how the mind functions to regulate human society.
- Answer: D Page: 33
19. The study of the relationship between environment and society is called:
- ecological functionalism.
 - geographical functionalism.
 - political functionalism.
 - symbolic functionalism.
 - social functionalism.
- Answer: A Page: 34
20. The notion that technological improvements are good and beneficial to society is classified as a:
- symbol.
 - belief.
 - analogy.
 - norm.
 - value.
- Answer: E Page: 35

21. How would you best characterize a subculture?
- a. It is a dominant cultural group within a society that does not hold a majority of the population.
 - b. It is a group within a dominant society that does not share the society's norms and values.
 - c. It is a cultural group that is oppressed and subordinated by a dominant culture.
 - d. It is a cultural group made up of immigrants into a dominant society who do not speak the same language or have the same culture.
 - e. It is a group that manages and guides all political and social decisions within a state society.

Answer: B Page: 35 MSC: WWW

22. Which theoretical school of thought focused on presenting objective descriptions of cultures within their historical and environmental context?
- a. cognitive anthropology
 - b. culture and personality
 - c. ecological functionalism
 - d. symbolic anthropology
 - e. historical particularism

Answer: E Page: 37

23. Postmodernism is an approach that focuses specifically on:
- a. the relationship between environment and society.
 - b. the negotiation of norms and values within a society.
 - c. the relationship between mind and body.
 - d. the evolution of technology and society.
 - e. how culture has changed over time.

Answer: B Page: 37

24. Which of the following statements is true?
- a. Humans adapt to their environments purely through biological mechanisms.
 - b. Humans are plastic and are able to change their behavior in order to adapt to changing social and ecological conditions.
 - c. Humans are not constrained biologically, only culturally.
 - d. Humans are plastic and biologically adaptive to any kind of social and environmental condition.
 - e. All of the statements listed are true.

Answer: B Page: 38

25. The primary means through which humans adapt to their environment is:
- society.
 - biology.
 - culture.
 - technology.
 - values.
- Answer: C Page: 38
26. Since the 16th century, which of the following has been the most dramatic source of culture change?
- development of a world economic system
 - discovery of the internet
 - development of new religious movements
 - the establishment of empires
 - innovations in horticulture
- Answer: A Page: 39
27. Which of the following is not considered a major means of diffusion?
- trade
 - warfare
 - travel
 - missionization
 - enculturation
- Answer: E Page: 40
28. Which of the following statements is true?
- Innovation is usually welcomed by cultures, while diffusion is often a source of conflict.
 - Diffusion is usually welcomed by cultures, while innovation is often a source of conflict.
 - Both innovation and diffusion are often sources of conflict within cultures.
 - Both innovation and diffusion are highly valued and usually welcomed openly by virtually all cultures.
 - Neither innovation nor diffusion operates on a cultural level.
- Answer: C Page: 41
29. Which of the following disciplines is best suited to discuss the intricacies and complexities of culture in our world today?
- anthropology
 - psychology
 - history
 - sociology
 - political science
- Answer: A Page: 42

30. The scientific nature of anthropology has been long debated in the discipline. Which aspect of the study of culture makes it most difficult to study as a science?
- a. Culture is a system of related elements working together.
 - b. Almost all human behavior is learned.
 - c. Cultural systems include contradictions that lead to conflict.
 - d. Humans understand the world by using symbols to give it meaning.
 - e. Humans are vitally dependent on their culture for their existence.

Answer: D Page: 43

31. Much of the current-day understanding of scientific theory is due to the work of:
- a. Stephen Tylor.
 - b. Clifford Geertz.
 - c. Margaret Mead.
 - d. Ruth Benedict.
 - e. Karl Popper.

Answer: E Page: 43

32. Which of the following is not a characteristic shared by all cultures?
- a. Cultures are subject to change.
 - b. Cultures are shared.
 - c. Cultures are transmitted biologically.
 - d. Cultures are patterned and integrated.
 - e. Cultures are made up of learned behaviors.

Answer: C Page: 25

33. Which characteristic of theory is necessary in order for it to be considered scientific in nature?
- a. falsifiability
 - b. predictability
 - c. stability
 - d. credibility
 - e. uniqueness

Answer: A Page: 43

34. The culture with the greatest wealth and power in a society that consists of numerous subcultures is referred to as the:
- a. national culture.
 - b. head culture.
 - c. primary culture.
 - d. predominant culture.
 - e. dominant culture.

Answer: E Page: 35

35. The rapid transfer of American music all over the world is a form of:
- a. innovation.
 - b. indoctrination.
 - c. enculturation.
 - d. invention.
 - e. diffusion.
- Answer: E Page: 40

True/False

1. Anthropologists do not all agree on a single way to study culture in human beings.
Answer: True Page: 26
2. Learned behavior is found exclusively in humans beings.
Answer: False Page: 26-27
3. Very few human behaviors are under direct genetic or biological control.
Answer: True Page: 27
4. Language is a symbolic system.
Answer: True Page: 31
5. Interpretive and symbolic anthropologists primarily use methods drawn from the natural sciences.
Answer: False Page: 31
6. In non-industrial societies, there is no conflict socially.
Answer: False Page: 33
7. The Hindu religious taboo on eating any kind of protein is part of a larger ecological pattern that includes the subsistence system.
Answer: False Page: 34
8. Sometimes minority subcultures protect themselves through religion.
Answer: True Page: 35
9. Cultural innovations tend to move by means of diffusion.
Answer: True Page: 40
10. Today, anthropologists are focused especially on culture change.
Answer: True Page: 42

Short Answer

1. Name the six characteristics of culture.
Answer: It is learned, patterned and integrated, shared, adaptive, subject to change, and makes use of symbols.
Page: 25-26
2. Anthropologists who focused on the study of child-rearing and who were most influential from the 1920s to 1950s were called _____ theorists.
Answer: culture and personality
Page: 29
3. Symbols have the ability to condense meaning. What does this mean?
Answer: Symbols can be used to stand for and represent an entire range of ideas and emotions.
Page: 31
4. Distinguish between norms and values.
Answer: A norm is a shared idea about the way things should be done; a value is a shared idea about what is true, right, and beautiful.
Page: 35
5. The theoretical position that most focuses on the adaptive aspect of culture is _____.
Answer: cultural ecology
Page: 39

Essay

1. Describe how food and the institution of eating are the result of enculturation. Use examples from your own cultural background.
Answer: Will vary
2. How is culture like and unlike a biological organism? Describe the advantages and disadvantages of using an organic analogy to explain culture.
Answer: Will vary
3. What is the role of adaptation in human society? Use examples to show what you mean.
Answer: Will vary
4. What is culture? Using each of the six characteristics of culture, discuss the meaning behind this term.
Answer: Will vary

5. Scientific theory should be falsifiable, according to most scientists. What are the benefits and challenges of using a scientific theory in the study of human beings and their cultures?

Answer: Will vary