

**TEST BANK**

cultural  
anthropology

THIRTEENTH EDITION



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## CHAPTER 2: Culture and Culture Change

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Anthropologists, as well as other social scientists, feel that culture is
  - a. inherited.
  - b. learned and shared.
  - c. transmitted only from one group to another.
  - d. only a small part of how people learn their behaviors.
2. A group within a society that holds commonly shared customs is a
  - a. subculture.
  - b. sodality.
  - c. sub society.
  - d. subgroup.
3. Sets of learned and shared behaviors and ideas that are characteristic of a particular social group comprise the anthropological definition of
  - a. society.
  - b. culture.
  - c. ethnocentrism.
  - d. subculture.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a group of people who occupy a particular territory and speak a common language.
  - a. family
  - b. culture
  - c. society
  - d. subculture
5. The term "subculture" refers to
  - a. the conscious behaviors, beliefs, attitudes, values, and ideals of a society.
  - b. the unconscious behaviors, beliefs, attitudes, values, and ideals of a society.
  - c. a cultural pattern considered inferior by members of a society.
  - d. the variant culture of a group of people within a larger society.
6. The fact that monkeys and apes can learn new behaviors from each other
  - a. does not necessarily mean that they have culture, since their social life may be purely instinctual.
  - b. suggests that they have a culture.
  - c. suggests that they are ancestral to modern humans.
  - d. suggests that they are classified as more cultural than many mammals that spend their lives in isolation.
7. One of the indications of how much an animal depends on learned behavior for survival is the
  - a. distance it travels from its home base.
  - b. amount of social behavior the animal exhibits.
  - c. proportion of an animal's life span spent in childhood.
  - d. size of an animal.
8. The most powerful transmitter of culture is probably
  - a. parents.

- b. the elders of a society.
  - c. the school system.
  - d. language.
9. Because a word or phrase can represent what it stands for, whether or not that thing is present, we say that language is
- a. interpretive.
  - b. adaptive.
  - c. symbolic.
  - d. naturalistic.
10. Particular behaviors and ideas that vary from society to society are \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. genetic
  - b. adaptive
  - c. learned
  - d. taught
11. A complex system of spoken, symbolic communication, which we call "language"
- a. probably originated in a few societies 20,000 years ago.
  - b. has existed in people known to anthropologists.
  - c. does not exist among many of the world's simpler societies.
  - d. probably originated about the same time as agriculture.
12. Which of the following is a behavior that would most likely be subject to direct cultural constraints in American society?
- a. choosing to wear nothing
  - b. a young man's attempt to kiss his girlfriend
  - c. a woman carrying her child in a soft basket hung from her head
  - d. dancing in the street before going to work
13. Standards or rules about what is acceptable behavior are referred to by social scientists as
- a. major rules.
  - b. laws.
  - c. mores.
  - d. norms.
14. In the Asch experiment, \_\_\_\_\_ of the subjects retained their independent opinions.
- a. 2/3
  - b. 1/2
  - c. 1/4
  - d. 5/8
15. Emile Durkheim stressed that culture is something \_\_\_\_\_ us exerting a strong \_\_\_\_\_ power on us.
- a. inside/coercive
  - b. outside/limiting
  - c. inside/limiting
  - d. outside/coercive
16. A person who judges other cultures solely in terms of his or her own culture is said to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. integrated

- b. maladaptive
  - c. ethnocentric
  - d. prejudiced
17. When a member of a group diverges from acceptable standards, or norms, of social behavior, he/she may be ridiculed, arrested, or otherwise pressured into conformity, through what Emile Durkheim referred to as
- a. cultural constraints.
  - b. cultural relativism.
  - c. cultural penalties.
  - d. ethnocentrism.
18. People commonly feel that the behaviors and customs that they've grown up with are the correct ones and that people in other societies who do not share those patterns are immoral or inferior. The tendency to judge other cultures without trying to grasp the reasons behind their customs is what anthropologists refer to as \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. diffusion
  - b. acculturation
  - c. cultural relativism
  - d. ethnocentrism
19. First championed by Franz Boas to challenge the attitude that Western culture was inherently superior to others, which important tenet of anthropology states that a society's customs and ideas should be described objectively and understood in the context of that culture?
- a. ethnocentrism
  - b. participant-observation
  - c. cultural relativism
  - d. evolutionism
20. For something to be cultural it must be
- a. traditional.
  - b. learned and commonly shared.
  - c. part of a society's ideals.
  - d. unchanging.
21. Why would any !Kung individual of the Kalahari Desert give away all of the animals they kill every day?
- a. They are really nice people who care for each other.
  - b. They have learned the true meaning of life.
  - c. To keep the meat to one's self would be wasteful, as it would rot.
  - d. Spiritual beings show them the true way to live in communal harmony.
22. The anthropological attitude that a society's customs and ideas should be described objectively and understood in the context of that society's problems and opportunities is called
- a. ethnocentrism.
  - b. cultural relativism.
  - c. humanistic.
  - d. empathetic.
23. Elizabeth Zechenter suggests that the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ is often used to justify traditions desired by the dominant and powerful.

- a. cultural relativism
  - b. ethnocentrism
  - c. adaptation
  - d. maladaptation
24. The ideal cultural patterns of a society
- a. generally reflect the way a society was in the past.
  - b. consist of the cultural patterns that most people always exhibit.
  - c. consist of the ideas people have about how they ought to behave.
  - d. are usually followed by the most respected members of a community, though not necessarily by others.
25. Which of the following illustrates an example of an *ideal cultural trait* in US society that does not correspond to practical reality?
- a. Workers take the weekend off to have a chance to relax.
  - b. Most children will go off to college, marry, and start households of their own.
  - c. People of all classes and races are equal before the law.
  - d. Children call their mothers on Mother's Day.
26. One example of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ is how far apart people stand when they are having a conversation.
- a. custom
  - b. random sample
  - c. integration
  - d. cultural pattern
27. The frequency distribution of behavior patterns in a group very often takes the form of
- a. a bell-shaped curve.
  - b. a straight line graph.
  - c. an S-shaped curve.
  - d. a Poisson curve.
28. Variations in individual behavior are confined within \_\_\_\_\_ acceptable limits.
- a. legally
  - b. a group's
  - c. socially
  - d. normally
29. Why are maladaptive customs likely to disappear from a society?
- a. No one likes them.
  - b. They diminish the chances of survival and reproduction.
  - c. They are immediately destructive of the group.
  - d. They are too unique for the group.
30. The concept of cultural integration means that
- a. cultural elements or traits are adjusted to or constant.
  - b. various subgroups in the society work together.
  - c. cultural traits that are maladaptive can be made to work with adaptive traits.
  - d. cultural elements relate only in certain ways.
31. The !Kung, hunter-gatherers of the Kalahari Desert in Africa, live in small, nomadic groups and own few material possessions. Anthropologists refer to these cultural traits as \_\_\_\_\_ that help them

- survive in their social and physical environment.
- assimilations
  - maladaptive customs
  - adaptive customs
  - backwards traits
32. Which of the following describe the form of culture change known as diffusion?
- Many of the foods we eat, such as pasta and chicken, and the tools we use to eat them, such as forks and spoons, were introduced to us through contact with different cultures around the world.
  - James Hargreaves developed the spinning jenny to increase the efficiency of textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution.
  - Your parents teach you the proper way to speak to your elders.
  - Medical experiments and discoveries lead to the cure for and epidemic disease such as polio.
33. Which of the following is NOT an accurate description of how cultural elements are borrowed through diffusion?
- Diffusion is a selective process, with societies borrowing cultural elements from each other that fit their cultural needs and values while rejecting elements unsuitable to them.
  - Cultural elements are always imposed by force from dominant societies to subordinate societies.
  - Cultural elements borrowed through diffusion are often modified by the recipient society to satisfy their values.
  - Diffusion can take place either directly through contact between neighboring cultures, or indirectly through third parties such as traveling soldiers and traders.
34. The process of cultural change known as \_\_\_\_\_ describes a situation where a subordinate society adopts cultural traits or technologies through contact with a more powerful society, either through force or due to perceived economic or social advantages.
- unconscious invention
  - stimulus diffusion
  - acculturation
  - enculturation
35. The traditional Bedouin patterns of \_\_\_\_\_ depends on mobility.
- survival
  - herding animals
  - culture
  - customs
36. The widespread flow of people, information, technology, and money over the earth's surface, and a powerful source of cultural exchange, is what anthropologists refer to as \_\_\_\_\_.
- diasporazation
  - melting-pot syndrome
  - cultural adaptation
  - globalization
37. Often, in the aftermath of violent events such as depopulation, relocation, enslavement, and genocide by dominant powers, deprived peoples have created new cultures in a process called \_\_\_\_\_.
- ethnogenesis
  - diasporazation
  - acculturation
  - diffusion

## Essay Questions

31. Define ethnocentrism. What forms does it take in our own society? What can be done to reduce attitudes of ethnocentrism between various groups?
32. How are the two statements “culture is adaptive,” and “culture is always changing,” related?
33. Why may it be necessary for anthropologists to abandon the strong form of cultural relativism in favor of the weaker form?
34. Describe an action that would lead to imprisonment. How does prison act as a constraint to an individual? Why do some people violate norms (and end up in prison)?

## Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. b, 16
2. a, 16
3. b, 16
4. c, 16
5. a, 16
6. b, 17
7. c, 17
8. d, 17
9. c, 17
10. c, 17
11. b, 17
12. a, 17
13. d, 18
14. c, 18
15. d, 18
16. c, 18
17. a, 18
18. d, 19
19. a, 18
20. b, 19
21. c, 19
22. b, 19
23. a, 19
24. c, 21
25. c, 21
26. d, 22
27. a, 22
28. c, 21
29. b, 23
30. b, 23
31. c, 23
32. a, 24-28
33. b, 29
34. c, 29
35. b, 30
36. d, 33-35
37. a, 35