Chapter 2: Culture

Multiple Choice

1. Which of these statements best describes culture from the perspective of anthropology?
   a. Culture is strongly related to level of education.
   b. Culturally sophisticated people have higher status than others.
   c. Culture is socially transmitted.
   d. The culture of some groups is often better than that of others.
   ANS: c  REF: p. 22  LO: 1  MISC: NEW

2. Anthropologists tend to agree that culture
   a. is responsible for the differences in thinking and behaving between different groups.
   b. is better developed and easier to understand in industrialized societies.
   c. is a matter of individual preferences and attitudes.
   d. cannot be studied in a systematic way.
   ANS: a  REF: p. 23  LO: 1  MISC: NEW

3. How do cultural anthropologists use the word culture?
   a. to refer to unchanging, traditional ways of doing things
   b. to designate which practices are more worthy of study than others
   c. to refer to the beliefs and customs of a people that distinguish them from others
   d. to describe a situation of high sophistication and education
   ANS: c  REF: p. 23  LO: 1  MISC: NEW

4. Ideas about the proper behavior for men and women are part of the _____ components of culture.
   a. material
   b. mental
   c. behavioral
   d. biological
   ANS: b  REF: p. 23  LO: 2  MISC: NEW
5. What are the most important aspects of culture for anthropologists?
   a. genetic differences  
   b. rewarded behaviors  
   c. immoral behaviors  
   d. patterns of behavior  

ANS: d  REF: p. 24  LO: 1

6. Which of the following is not considered a component of cultural knowledge?
   a. norms  
   b. values  
   c. belongings  
   d. perceptions  

ANS: c  REF: p. 23  LO: 2

7. Part of the anthropological definition of culture is that it is shared or collective. This means that
   a. the people who share a culture are all members of the same nation-state.  
   b. people who share a culture are able to communicate and interact without serious misunderstandings or needing to explain their behavior.  
   c. culture is always shared by an easily identifiable group of people.  
   d. people who share a culture have a single, shared cultural identity.  

ANS: b  REF: p. 24  LO: 3  MISC: NEW

8. Anthropologists use the term cultural system to emphasize the point that culture is _____.
   a. learned  
   b. shared  
   c. innate  
   d. integrated  

ANS: d  REF: p. 24  LO: 3  MISC: NEW

9. According to the discussion in the text, what is the end result of globalization likely to be?
   a. a global Western culture  
   b. global cultural isolationism  
   c. assimilation to mainstream cultures  
   d. a process of continual change  

ANS: d  REF: p. 28  LO: 1, 3  MISC: NEW
10. Enculturation is

a. the total knowledge of a culture.
b. the process by which the young learn the culture of those around them.
c. unique to some cultures, and absent in others.
d. thought to be immoral in some societies.

ANS: b  REF: p. 26  LO: 3  MISC: NEW

11. Social learning refers to learning by which of these methods?

a. trial-and-error
b. instinct
c. enculturation
d. technological know-how

ANS: c  REF: p. 26  LO: 3

12. Which of these is not a characteristic that defines culture?

a. genetically transmitted
b. shared
c. socially learned
d. patterned behavior

ANS: a  REF: p. 24  LO: 3  MISC: NEW

13. Because culture is learned socially,

a. human infants are able to learn the culture of any human group.
b. cultural knowledge from one generation is available to members of future generations.
c. human groups can change their ideas and behaviors very rapidly.
d. all of these are implications of the fact culture is socially learned

ANS: d  REF: p. 26  LO: 3  MISC: NEW

14. Nonviolence among the Semai is _____.

a. a pattern of behavior
b. very rare
c. learned through teasing their children
d. seen in women but not in men

ANS: a  REF: p. 30  LO: 3
15. Dressing correctly at a wedding is an example of what component of cultural knowledge?

   a. norms  
   b. values  
   c. symbols  
   d. world view  

ANS: a  

REF: p. 31  

LO: 2

16. A people’s beliefs about the way of life that is most desirable for them and for their society are called _____.

   a. norms  
   b. world view  
   c. values  
   d. collective understandings  

ANS: c  

REF: p. 32  

LO: 2

17. The emphasis on the rights of individuals in the Bill of Rights is an example of American _____.

   a. values  
   b. norms  
   c. material culture  
   d. ethnocentrism  

ANS: a  

REF: p. 32  

LO: 2  

MISC: NEW

18. Two important properties of all symbols are that their meanings are conventional and _____.

   a. iconic  
   b. arbitrary  
   c. religious  
   d. concrete  

ANS: b  

REF: p. 32  

LO: 3  

MISC: NEW
19. Symbols have the ability to express many ideas at the same time. Victor Turner termed this property of symbols _____.
   a. condensation
   b. multivocality
   c. arbitrary
   d. conventionality

ANS: b       REF: p. 33       LO: 3       MISC: NEW

20. What is the personal zone of interpersonal spacing in Americans?
   a. the same as all cultures
   b. farther than in other cultures such as Arabic and Iranian
   c. not important
   d. apparently a genetically learned behavior

ANS: b       REF: p. 34       LO: 2, 3

21. The text describes the people of one Micronesian island who point with their _____.
   a. finger
   b. foot
   c. nose
   d. none of these; they believe it is very rude to point

ANS: c       REF: p. 33       LO: 2, 3

22. A culture that names the sister of one’s mother differently from the sister of one’s father
   a. classifies reality differently than we do.
   b. must hold a very different world view than we do.
   c. is very different from us in terms of the interpretation of symbols.
   d. is being ethnocentric.

ANS: a       REF: p. 34       LO: 2

23. Why is understanding the cultural construction of reality so important within anthropology?
   a. It motivates anthropologists to recognize the objective truth in situations.
   b. It implies that there are universal meanings for all cultural phenomena.
   c. It suggests that humans to not all perceive and interpret the world in the same ways.
   d. None of these; this is not a particularly useful concept within anthropology.

ANS: c       REF: p. 35       LO: 4       MISC: NEW
24. With which of these statements about race do most anthropologists agree?

   a. Race is obvious.
   b. There is more genetic variation within a race than between races.
   c. There are only three races.
   d. It is better to classify race using blood groups than skin color.

ANS: b  REF: p. 35  LO: 4

25. What course of action does the AAA (American Anthropological Association) recommend in terms of the use of the concept of race?

   a. eliminating the word “race” from the 2010 U.S. census
   b. establishing a biological definition for race
   c. adding the term Hispanic as a race instead of an ethnicity.
   d. using the concept of race to explain cultural differences.

ANS: a  REF: p. 37  LO: 4  MISC: NEW

26. Any culture’s classification of time is

   a. “natural” and based on movements of the sun.
   b. biologically based.
   c. part of its classification of reality.
   d. the same everywhere.

ANS: c  REF: p. 35  LO: 4

27. Which of these is an example of a worldview?

   a. the Hindu taboo on eating pork
   b. the Muslim taboo on eating pork
   c. the meanings of nonverbal behavior
   d. explanations for human existence

ANS: d  REF: p. 35  LO: 4

28. Most ethnologists believe that the essential basis for culture is _____.

   a. the ability to use tools
   b. the discover of agriculture
   c. the ability to create and use symbols
   d. division of labor based on gender

ANS: c  REF: p. 38  LO: 5  MISC: NEW
29. In order to research when human culture first developed, anthropologists
   a. research when human anatomy permitted the use of speech.
   b. explore the archaeological record for evidence of symbols.
   c. search for evidence of non-utilitarian human creations.
   d. all of these are means of studying the origins of human culture

ANS: d  REF: p. 38  LO: 5  MISC: NEW

30. Currently, anthropological research indicates that humans first had the capacity for culture by around ______ years ago.
   a. 1 million
   b. 500,000
   c. 80,000
   d. 4,000

ANS: c  REF: p. 39  LO: 5  MISC: NEW

31. Which of these does not explain the importance of culture for people?
   a. Culture provides genetic and biological changes that promote innovation.
   b. Culture provides the knowledge necessary for adapting to the physical environment.
   c. Culture provides the norms and values that are the basis for social life.
   d. Culture provides the mental concepts by which people interpret the world around them.

ANS: a  REF: p. 40  LO: 6  MISC: NEW

32. Which of these statement best describes the relationship between culture and individual behavior?
   a. Culture dictates individual behavior.
   b. Culture exists external to individuals and controls their behavior.
   c. Culture provides rough and sometimes conflicting guidelines for behavior.
   d. There is no relationship between culture and individual behavior.

ANS: c  REF: p. 40  LO: 6  MISC: NEW

33. What is the idea that physical differences cause cultural differences called?
   a. cultural universals
   b. biological determinism
   c. evolutionary theory
   d. cultural integration

ANS: b  REF: p. 42  LO: 6, 7
34. Anthropologists explain the differences between East African Kikuyu culture and Vietnamese culture by researching their _____ differences.

   a. genetic  
   b. racial  
   c. biological  
   d. none of the above  

ANS: d  REF: p. 44  LO: 6

35. All human cultures have methods of communication, family systems, and means of social control. These are termed _____ by anthropologists.

   a. cultural universals  
   b. cultural generalities  
   c. cultural particulars  
   d. cultural norms  

ANS: a  REF: p. 44  LO: 6  MISC: NEW

36. Which of these terms best relates to cultural incest taboos?

   a. biological determinism  
   b. cultural universal  
   c. world view  
   d. instinct  

ANS: b  REF: p. 46  LO: 6

**True/False**

1. Culture is the genetically transmitted knowledge that is shared by a group of people.

ANS: False  REF: p. 26  LO: 1, 3

2. Culture is necessary to make individuals into complete people.

ANS: True  REF: p. 23  LO: 3  MISC: NEW

3. From an anthropological perspective, culture is fixed and unchanging.

ANS: False  REF: p. 28  LO: 1  MISC: NEW
4. Anthropologists are more interested in patterns of behavior than in the behavior of individuals.
ANS: True  REF: p. 24   LO: 3   MISC: NEW

5. A person’s cultural identity is the same thing as one’s nationality.
ANS: False  REF: p. 25   LO: 3   MISC: NEW

6. Cultural differences and biological differences are largely independent of each other.
ANS: True  REF: p. 26   LO: 4   MISC: NEW

7. Cultural norms are not always followed by everyone within the same group.
ANS: True  REF: p. 31   LO: 2

8. Anthropologists are not in agreement as to whether or not material objects should be considered a part of culture.
ANS: True  REF: p. 31   LO: 1, 2   MISC: NEW

9. The meanings of symbols within any particular culture are easily explained by other aspects of the culture.
ANS: False  REF: p. 32   LO: 3, 4   MISC: NEW

10. All symbols are either objects or written depictions.
ANS: False  REF: p. 33   LO: 3   MISC: NEW

11. People are not always conscious of what they are communicating symbolically.
ANS: True  REF: p. 33   LO: 3   MISC: NEW

12. While much knowledge is culturally specific, people everywhere view the natural world in the same way.
ANS: False  REF: p. 35   LO: 4   MISC: NEW

13. Most anthropologists believe that race is a biological reality.
ANS: False  REF: p. 35   LO: 4
14. Different cultures have different racial classification systems.
ANS: True     REF: p. 36     LO: 4     MISC: NEW

15. Not all cultures define reality in the same way.
ANS: True     REF: p. 34     LO: 4     MISC: NEW

16. Religion and worldview are essentially the same thing.
ANS: False    REF: p. 35     LO: 4     MISC: NEW

17. Most ethnologists think that the essence of culture is the ability to create and use tools.
ANS: False    REF: p. 39     LO: 5     MISC: NEW

18. Culture controls and determines individual behavior.
ANS: False    REF: p. 40     LO: 6     MISC: NEW

19. Recreational or leisure activities are an example of cultural universals.
ANS: True     REF: p. 45     LO: 6     MISC: NEW

20. Biologically the people of the world are overwhelmingly similar to each other.
ANS: True     REF: p. 46     LO: 6     MISC: NEW

**Essay**

1. Define culture and describe its components.
ANS: Not Given     REF: p. 24-31

2. Define the five components of cultural knowledge and give an example of each.
ANS: Not Given     REF: p. 31-38

3. Define how anthropologists use the term subculture and describe potential problems with the how it is used as part of “common sense.”
ANS: Not Given     REF: p. 25
4. Explain the evidence that justifies the anthropological stance that race is a cultural construction.

ANS: Not Given  REF: p. 36-38

5. Describe the relationship between cultural diversity and biological diversity. How has understanding of this relationship changed over the past century?

ANS: Not Given  REF: p. 43-44

6. Discuss the reasons that culture is essential to human life. How does it make our life possible?

ANS: Not Given  REF: p. 44-45