

Chapter 1. Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology

1.1 Multiple choice questions (key terms)

1. The critical and comparative study of cultural effects on human psychology is called:

- a. multiculturalism
- b. cross-cultural psychology
- c. cultural relativism
- d. cultural psychology
- e. cultural absolutism

Answer: b

2. _____ refers to behavior based on traditions, concerns for other people, and values they share together.

- a. individualism
- b. power distance
- c. uncertainty avoidance
- d. collectivism
- e. femininity

Answer: d

3. _____ is the study that seeks to discover systematic relationships between culture and psychological variables.

- a. multiculturalism
- b. cross-cultural psychology
- c. cultural relativism
- d. cultural psychology
- e. cultural absolutism

Answer: d

4. The degree to which the members of a society feel uncomfortable with uncertainty and ambiguity is called in cross-cultural psychology:

- a. comfort zone
- b. uncertainty avoidance
- c. societal uncertainty
- d. degree of ambiguity
- e. inexact vagueness

Answer: b

5. The term _____ refers to a set of attitudes, behaviors, and symbols shared by a group of people and usually communicated from one generation to the next.

- a. nation
- b. collectivism
- c. cultural relativism
- d. cultural psychology
- e. culture

Answer: e

6. What is the term for a cultural heritage shared by a category of people who also share a common ancestral origin, language, and religion?

- a. ethnicity
- b. collectivism
- c. cultural psychology
- d. anthropology
- e. cultural absolutism

Answer: a

7. The view that supports judgment about other ethnic, national, and cultural groups and events from the observer's own ethnic, national, or cultural group's outlook is called:

- a. ethnocentrism
- b. cross-cultural psychology
- c. cultural relativism
- d. cultural absolutism
- e. cultural psychology

Answer: a

8. Complex behavior rooted in the pursuit of interpersonal goals, friendly atmosphere, consensus, modesty, caring for the weak, and quality of life is defined as:

- a. individualism
- b. power distance
- c. uncertainty avoidance
- d. collectivism
- e. femininity

Answer: e

9. Complex behavior based on concern for oneself and one's immediate family or primary group as opposed to concern for other groups to which one belongs is defined as:

- a. ethnocentrism
- b. individualism
- c. culture concern
- d. cultural relativism
- e. family values

Answer: b

10. Which type of knowledge in cross-cultural psychology exists in the form of laws and other prescriptions established by authorities?

- a. authoritarian
- b. collectivist
- c. prescribed
- d. legal
- e. popular beliefs

Answer: d

11. What is the term for the view that encourages recognition of equality for all cultural and national groups and promotes the idea that various cultural groups have the right to follow their own paths of development and have their own unique activities, values, and norms?

- a. individualism
- b. multiculturalism
- c. femininity
- d. cultural relativism
- e. uncertainty avoidance

Answer: b

12. The term _____ indicates an individual's acceptance of knowledge, beliefs, and practices related to a particular faith.

- a. attitudes
- b. religious affiliation
- c. ethnic affiliation
- d. cultural dichotomy
- e. social identity

Answer: b

13. What is the term for the extent to which the members of a society accept that power in institutions and organizations is distributed unequally?

- a. individualism
- b. power distance
- c. uncertainty avoidance
- d. collectivism
- e. femininity

Answer: b

14. A large group of people distinguished by certain similar and genetically transmitted physical characteristics is called:

- a. race
- b. crowd
- c. ethnicity
- d. culture
- e. nation

Answer: a

15. The term _____ refers to people's common ways to handle uncertainty in their daily situations and lives in general.

- a. individualism
- b. power distance orientation
- c. uncertainty orientation
- d. conservative orientation
- e. femininity

Answer: c

16. The term _____ is used to describe cultures based largely on beliefs, rules, symbols, and principles established predominantly in the past, confined in local or regional boundaries, restricting and mostly intolerant to social innovations.

- a. advanced culture
- b. collectivism
- c. traditional culture
- d. power distance
- e. uncertainty avoidance

Answer: c

17. Cultures based largely on modern beliefs, rules, symbols, and principles relatively open to other cultures, absorbing and dynamic, science-based, technology-driven, and relatively tolerant to social innovations are referred as:

- a. advanced cultures
- b. collectivist norms
- c. non-traditional cultures
- d. individualist norms
- e. industrial communities

Answer: c

1.2. Multiple choice questions (comprehension and application)

1. If a psychologist examines a degree to which people in a certain country accept inequality between the leaders and the led, the elite and the commons, what psychological phenomenon does this researcher actually study?

- a. collective identity
- b. uncertainty avoidance
- c. power sharing
- d. power distance
- e. democratic collectivism

Answer: d Section: Empirical Examination of Culture

2. People in cultures considered “high” on the measure of _____ tend to support beliefs promising certainty, and to maintain social institutions protecting conformity (find a missing term).

- a. collectivism
- b. uncertainty avoidance
- c. power distance
- d. femininity
- e. masculinity

Answer: b Section: Empirical Examination of Culture

3. Since the beginning of scientific polling almost seventy years ago, how many Americans report consistently that they believe in God?

- a. about 35%
- b. about 55%
- c. about 65%
- d. about 75%
- e. about 95%

Answer: e Section: Religious Affiliation

4. In South Korea, there are several hundred thousands of professional mediators, called *manshin*. What is their role?

- a. teaching traditional medicine
- b. teaching the legal aspects of marriage and divorce
- c. direct communication with multitudes of gods and spirits
- d. mediating interpersonal conflicts between spouses
- e. mediating interpersonal conflicts between parents and children

Answer: c Section: Knowledge in Cross-Cultural Psychology

5. Imagine an editor asks you to write a journal article about “indigenous psychologies.” This means that your article is likely to be about _____.

- a. culture-rooted hostility
- b. large cultural groups that migrate from place to place and mix with other groups while preserving some of their own customs and beliefs
- c. cultural groups understood from “within” with the help of methodologies associated almost exclusively with these groups
- d. small groups of collectivist tribes living in the mountains
- e. small urban communities pursuing an ethnocentric view of reality

Answer: c Section: Indigenous Psychology

6. If a psychologist studies the hidden meanings that people of different countries attach to their birthday greetings, she is studying which cultural characteristics?

- a. explicit
- b. collectivist
- c. implicit
- d. individualist
- e. power-distance related

Answer: c Section: Culture

7. What is the second largest racial group recognized by the U.S. Bureau of the Census?

- a. Hispanic
- b. White
- c. Black
- d. Asian and Pacific Islander
- e. American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut

Answer: a Section: Society, Race, and Ethnicity

8. The Cultural Mixtures Approach challenges this concept in cross-cultural psychology:

- a. cultural dichotomies
- b. power distance
- c. uncertainty avoidance
- d. collectivism
- e. individualism

Answer: a Section: The Cultural Mixtures Approach

9. The United States' culture is commonly associated with individualism. This means that most likely _____.

- a. about 90 percent of Americans are individualists
- b. most people in the USA enjoy individual freedom
- c. there are more individualist than collectivist features in the US culture
- d. the individualists influence the level of power distance
- e. the individualists influence the level of uncertainty avoidance

Answer: c Section: Cultural Traditionalism

10. Which of the following is not typical of traditional cultures?

- a. most social roles are prescribed individuals
- b. there is a clear distinction between good and evil in behavior
- c. individuals' choices are restricted to the boundaries of social perceptions
- d. truth is revealed through the competition of ideas
- e. all these features are typical in traditional cultures

Answer: d Section: Cultural Traditionalism

11. According to evolutionary psychologist, Geoffrey Miller, the brain, like the peacock's tail, is designed through evolution to _____

- a. attract attention of enemies
- b. attract the opposite sex
- c. help in searching for food
- d. intimidate enemies
- e. help in case of bad weather

Answer: b Section: Evolutionary theories

12. At the turn of the twentieth century, the American sociologist Fredrick Turner (1920) argued that while facing the challenges of the frontier, Americans as conquerors and builders developed both _____

- a. individualistic and egalitarian culture
- b. violent and religious culture
- c. traditional and non-traditional culture
- d. respect to authority and desire to make money
- e. unruly behavior and individual ambition

Answer: a Section: Ecocultural Approach

13. A kind of multiculturalism that involves combining features of two cultures into one unique blend is called:

- a. twin culture
- b. double-sided cultural influence
- c. dual culture
- d. biculturalism
- e. twofold dilemma

Answer: d Section: Multiculturalism

1.3. True/false questions

1. Cross-culturally, poverty and life expectancy (the measure of how long the individual is expected to live in that country) are correlated.

Answer: T Section: The Integrative Approach

2. Individuals from “high-power-distance” cultures tend to reject inequality between various social groups, such as parents and children.

Answer: F Section: Empirical Examination of Culture

3. Cultural psychology advocates the idea that mental processes are the products of an interaction between education and the individual.

Answer: F Section: What is Cross-cultural Psychology?

4. Although the word “Hispanic” has been the official government term in the United States since 1980, this term is generally not used in Latin America.

Answer: T Section: Society, Race, and Ethnicity

5. Two people can belong to different nationalities but share the same ethnicity.

Answer: T Section: Society, Race, and Ethnicity

6. Studies show that compared with Asians, Western Europeans such as the British and the Germans tend to be more independent in their relationships and decisions.

Answer: T Section: Collectivism and Individualism:
Further research

7. Traditional cultures embrace the ideology of liberal individualism.

Answer: F Section: Cultural Traditionalism

8. Research shows that people in Eastern and Western cultures are generally similar in how they handle uncertainty.

Answer: F Section: Uncertainty Orientation

9. Max Weber believed that in success-oriented societies, people tend to see each other on the basis of “what they are,” not “who they are.”

Answer: T Section: Sociological Approach

10. Atheists or agnostics account for 4 percent of the total population of the United States, according to surveys.

Answer: T Section: Religious affiliation

11. Psychologists H. Hermans and H. Kempen suggest that the “old” cross-cultural psychology is captivated by an illusion that cultures are confined within certain geographic locations.

Answer: T Section: The Cultural Mixtures Approach

12. It was shown that people in colder areas, by far, are poorer economically than those in hotter areas.

Answer: F Section: Ecocultural Approach

1.4. Short-answer questions

1. Some ethnic groups in Nepal use the term, “spirit loss”. What does this term mean?

Answer: stressful symptoms such as fatigue, lack of motivation,
loss of appetite and sleep

Section: Knowledge in Cross-Cultural Psychology

2. Name two major racial categories, besides Black, White, and Native American, historically identified in the United States.

Answer: Asian and Hispanic

Section: Society, Race, and Ethnicity

3. When was the Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology first published?

Answer: 1970

Section: A Brief History of the Field

4. Which view supports judgment about other ethnic, national, and cultural groups and events from the observer's own ethnic, national, or cultural group's outlook?

Answer: ethnocentrism

Section: Ethnocentrism

5. The view that not only encourages recognition of equality for all cultural and national groups, but also promotes the idea that various cultural groups have the right to follow their own unique paths of development and have their own unique activities, values, and norms is called _____

Answer: multiculturalism

Section: Multiculturalism

6. Pinar was born in New York and is a U.S. citizen. Her father was born in Turkey. Her mother was born in Argentina. What is Pinar's nationality?

Answer: USA

Section: Society, Race, and Ethnicity

7. Racial and ethnic minorities are expected to become _____ of the U.S. population by 2050.

Answer: 50%

Section: Society, Race, and Ethnicity

8. Psychologist Harry Triandis describes the individualism-collectivism phenomenon from two dimensions. Which ones?

Answer: vertical and horizontal

Section: Collectivism and Individualism: Further Research

9. The process of globalization in the 21st century is based on three particular cultural-psychological principles. Names these principles.

Answer: freedom of choice, tolerance, and openness to experience

Section: The Cultural Mixtures Approach

10. When was the International Society of Cross-Cultural Psychology established?

Answer: 1972

Section: A Brief History of the Field

11. People who are _____ tend to refer to rules, customs, or opinions of other people, including authority figures, to resolve uncertainty

Answer: certainty oriented

Section: Uncertainty Orientation

12. According to psychologist Satoshi Kanazawa, people tend to act in accordance with the situations that existed in their ancestral environment. Thus, humans are evolutionarily designed to be altruistic toward:

Answer: their family members or ethnic groups

Section: Evolutionary Approach

13. Psychologists develop at least three views on how local cultures will respond to globalization. The first view predicts that globalization will inevitably lead to a new international culture. The second view is based on the assumption that today's globalization patterns will eventually pull cultures further apart. What is the third view?

Answer: globalization will probably make a difference probably for only half of the world's population.

Section: Cultural Mixtures Approach

14. What is the name of popular beliefs, a type of "everyday psychology" created by the people and for the people?

Answer: folk theories

Section: Knowledge in Cross-Cultural Psychology

15. Embeddedness as a cultural syndrome means that embedded cultures focus on the welfare of the in-group and limit concern for:

Answer: outsiders' well-being

Section: Cultural Syndromes

1.5.Essay questions

1. What is the major difference between nationality and ethnicity? Give examples.
2. Describe the similarities between cultural psychology and cross-cultural psychology
3. Describe the differences between cultural psychology and cross-cultural psychology.
4. Provide examples of vertical and horizontal collectivism.
5. What is the difference between explicit and implicit characteristics of a culture?
6. Describe the main differences between traditional and nontraditional cultures.

7. What makes the Cultural Mixtures Approach distinct from the cross-cultural theories that preceded it?
8. Describe three views in psychology on how local cultures will respond to globalization.
9. Briefly describe the Ecocultural Approach to cross-cultural psychology.
10. Provide examples of behavior that might arise in “high uncertainty avoidance” cultural settings.
11. Research shows that people in egalitarian, low power-distance cultures are less preoccupied with the behavioral rules attached to the high social status. Could you explain why?
12. Discuss how unequal access to resources in different societies might affect several cultural syndromes.
13. Describe the differences between scientific knowledge and popular beliefs.
14. Describe the differences between legal knowledge and scientific knowledge.
15. Explain embeddedness as a cultural syndrome.

