

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.
2. The field of anthropology has been divided into four branches: physical anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology or ethnology.
3. Physical anthropologists focus their research in two areas: human evolution and human variation.
4. Primatology, the study of non-human primates, is a specialization within physical anthropology that explores human evolution.
5. Archaeologists spend more time digging up garbage than digging up treasure.
6. Linguistic anthropologists are concerned with discovering how sites and middens are formed and what can be learned from studying these ancient structures.
7. The study of life at plantations in the southern U.S. would be called "classical archaeology."
8. Archaeology has provided valuable information on alcohol use in contemporary U.S. society.
9. Historical linguistics has provided evidence to support an Asian ancestry for Native American populations.
10. Ethnology, or cultural anthropology, is the branch of anthropology that studies contemporary societies throughout the world in an attempt to understand human diversity and discover similarities.
11. All human cultures have a form of "baby talk" that adults use when they are speaking with small children.
12. An ethnography is a written description of a society.
13. The holistic approach is used by anthropologists to find any missing pieces to a scientific puzzle or problem that they are exploring; that is, are there any "holes in the argument?"
14. Cultural anthropologists, unlike sociologists, do not use statistics to analyze social behavior.
15. Anthropology, a scientific discipline, has no relationship with history, a humanistic discipline.
16. Because of the methods they use, anthropologists avoid interpreting their research results from a global perspective.
17. Anthropologists have found that culturally constituted knowledge is general, universal, and genetic.
18. Ethnocentrism is the practice of judging another society by the values and standards of one's own society.
19. Even in the 19th century, anthropologists were aware of the dangers of ethnocentric beliefs and carefully promoted objective interpretations of other societies.

20. The scientific method is a logical system used to evaluate data derived from systematic observation.
21. Inductive reasoning takes general statements and develops specific facts.
22. 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.
23. The deductive method of scientific research begins with a general theory from which scientists then develop hypotheses to be tested.
24. Anthropological scientific knowledge is absolute, complete, and usually the final truth.
25. As a holistic field, anthropology embraces the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities.

Multiple Choice Questions

26. One methodology for the study of extraterrestrial cultures that would come from anthropology would be:
 - A. field studies of planetary geography and geology
 - B. participant observation to get an "insider's" perspective
 - C. lab studies of comparative anatomy and physiology
 - D. interpretations of alien songs and poetry
27. According to the author of your textbook, the major goal(s) of anthropology is/are:
 - A. to understand diversities and similarities among human societies, both past and present
 - B. to study differences between distinct races of mankind and discover why some are superior to others
 - C. to rescue indigenous cultures from extinction
 - D. to explain the relationships between the actions of an individual and the behavior of a group
28. The four subdisciplines of anthropology are:
 - A. ethnology, classics, physical geography, and geology
 - B. primatology, ethnohistory, paleontology, and archeology
 - C. physical anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology
 - D. classical anthropology, prehistoric archaeology, evolution, and histrionics
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
30. The evolution of human teeth is a subject studied by:
 - A. archaeologists
 - B. social anthropologists
 - C. forensic anthropologists
 - D. physical anthropologists

31. Physical anthropologists who study variation within and among human populations would be interested in questions such as:
- A. Why do most Africans have dark skin?
 - B. What did the civilizations of Egypt and Greece have in common with one another?
 - C. Why are French and Italian similar to one another?
 - D. Are there similarities in marriage customs between Muslims and Jews?
32. The study of past cultures and lifestyles is the goal of:
- A. ethnologists
 - B. archaeologists
 - C. forensic anthropologists
 - D. primatologists
 - E. anthropological linguists
33. Which of the following would NOT be considered a specialization within the discipline of physical anthropology?
- A. human anatomy
 - B. paleopathology
 - C. primatology
 - D. phonology
34. The material products of former societies are known as:
- A. artifacts
 - B. fossils
 - C. legacies
 - D. antiquaries
35. Anthropologist Spencer Wells is the director of the Genographic Project which:
- A. is making significant contributions to the philosophy of archaeology
 - B. is conducting ethnographic fieldwork among the Yanomamö Indians of Venezuela
 - C. is helping to illuminate the migrations of humans throughout the world
 - D. is using computer technology to do cross-cultural comparisons
36. Kelley Hays-Gilpin, a southwestern U.S. archaeologist, studied:
- A. Brazil
 - B. gender approaches to the archaeological record
 - C. tropical rainforests
 - D. East Africa
37. The people known as classical archaeologists conduct research on:
- A. ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome
 - B. the evolution of prehistoric stone tools
 - C. societies of the more recent past
 - D. ancestors of contemporary Native Americans

38. Research on artifacts found in the remains of slave quarters at an 18th century tobacco plantation in Virginia would be an example of:
- A. historical archaeology
 - B. forensic anthropology
 - C. applied anthropology
 - D. classical archaeology
39. A study of the garbage 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 will often lie about their bad habits.
 - C. Fieldwork in garbage dumps is less expensive.
 - D. Surveys and interviews are done by sociologists.
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
 - E. Ethnological
41. An anthropologist interested in structural linguistics might consider doing research on:
- A. the relationship between Chinese and Japanese
 - B. whether bilingual children think differently from children who know only one language
 - C. why some people speak with a Southern accent only when they are with family members
 - D. what languages are spoken in highland Peru
42. Most of the research of anthropologist Bambi Schieffelin falls under the category of:
- A. sociolinguistics
 - B. ethnomusicology
 - C. forensic anthropology
 - D. prehistoric archaeology
43. A unique research strategy of anthropologists which 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
 - E. cultural probing

44. Anthropology is said to be "holistic" because it:
- A. is concerned with primitive societies
 - B. makes use of both written and spoken sources
 - C. combines studies of biological and cultural phenomena
 - D. studies the mystical aspects of human experience
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
 - E. holism
46. An example of "applied anthropology" might be:
- A. a study of genetic differences between gorillas, chimpanzees, and humans
 - B. an archaeological dig to recover information on long-distance trade between ancient Maya 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 12th century
47. Popular perceptions and misperceptions of other cultures have often been based on _____.
- A. hypotheses
 - B. variables
 - C. ethnographies
 - D. ethnocentrism
 - E. scientific methodology
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
49. Interconnected hypotheses that offer general explanations for natural or social phenomena are called:
- A. paradigms
 - B. theories
 - C. deductive methods
 - D. inductive facts

Essay Questions

50. What are the four fields of anthropology, and how are they related?
51. What is the scientific method? Do anthropologists use the scientific method? Are there any limitations of the scientific method or scientific explanations?

52. 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?
53. How might an anthropologist combine the methods of "participant observation" and a "comparative technique" to study human culture?
54. As the anthropologist on a starship in the 21st century, you are a specialist in "first contact" situations. Briefly describe your goals and methods.
55. Discuss the overlap of the disciplines of anthropology and history. What can the various subdisciplines of anthropology contribute to our understanding of history?
56. Aerial photographs have revealed the existence of a previously unknown group of humans living in the Amazon rainforest. What are some of the questions about them that anthropologists would want to investigate?
57. What are the situations in which an archaeologist might choose to work together with a physical anthropologist?
58. What kind of research might be undertaken cooperatively by a linguistic anthropologist and an archaeologist?
59. From reading the short biographies about C. Loring Brace, Patti Jo Watson, Bambi Schieffelen, and Bruce Knauft, what have you learned about how anthropologists become specialists in certain topics?
60. Describe a hypothesis that might be formulated by an archaeologist and how the scientific method would be applied in its investigation.
61. Most academic anthropologists work in departments of anthropology. What are the other university departments that might have anthropologists on their faculties, and why?

Answer Key with Page Numbers

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