

Chapter 3: Culture and Society

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. There is some evidence indicating that as Facebook interaction increases:
- a. self-esteem increases
 - b. self-esteem decreases
 - c. social interaction decreases
 - d. closer relationships decrease

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

2. Most sociologists agree that the effect of social media on young adults' sense of themselves is:
- a. always positive
 - b. more often positive than negative
 - c. more often negative than positive
 - d. always negative

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

3. Features that are found in virtually all societies are called:
- a. multiculturalism
 - b. ethnocentrism
 - c. cultural universals
 - d. cultural relativism

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

4. Which of the following norms is a cultural universal?
- a. competition
 - b. individualism
 - c. personal space between two people
 - d. prohibition against incest

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

5. Marriage is a cultural universal, which means that:
- a. marriage always involves a man and a woman, but other norms may differ across societies
 - b. marriage is present in all societies, but norms related to marriage may differ across societies
 - c. norms related to marriage are the same in all societies
 - d. the increase in divorce in Western societies will spread to other societies

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Understanding

6. Values are:
- a. laws that a society creates
 - b. modes of behavior shared by all human cultures
 - c. concrete rules of behavior
 - d. abstract ideals about what is good and bad

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Remembering

7. A society is:
- an abstract ideal about what is good and bad
 - an enduring system of interrelationships that connects individuals
 - guidelines of behavior for interacting with people from different cultures
 - a set of concrete rules of behavior

ANS: B

DIF: Easy

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Remembering

8. France passed legislation in 2004 prohibiting the wearing of conspicuous religious attire by students in government-operated schools. Muslims were angered and protested the law. This is an example of a conflict of:
- values
 - cultures
 - norms
 - civilizations

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Applying

9. Jody's daughter has been preparing for a school spelling bee by studying several hours a day. Jody feels that by encouraging this behavior, she is instilling a sense of competition in her children. Competition is an example of an American:

- belief
- ritual
- symbol
- value

ANS: D

DIF: Moderate

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Applying

10. Definitive principles or rules of behavior that people are expected to observe are called:
- values
 - signifiers
 - norms
 - culture

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Remembering

11. The idea that you should not cheat during this exam is an example of a:
- cultural universal
 - material good
 - norm
 - value

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Understanding

12. The physical objects a society creates are known as:
- nonmaterial culture
 - symbols
 - material culture
 - cultural universals

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Remembering

13. Which of the following is an example of the globalization of material culture?
- American businesses manufacture goods in other countries.
 - Japanese people are embracing individualism.
 - McDonald's restaurants are found around the world.
 - U.S. technology is distributed worldwide.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

14. The Sapir-Whorf linguistic relativity hypothesis is important in understanding how:
- children learn their gender roles in American society
 - family members play a critical role in personality development
 - language shapes our perceptions and ways of thinking
 - world languages develop over time

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Understanding

15. The linguistic relativity hypothesis was developed by:
- Chomsky and Vidal
 - Durkheim and Weber
 - Picard and Riker
 - Sapir and Whorf

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

16. Professional chefs use terms such as *mince*, *chop*, *dice*, *julienne*, and *chiffonade* to describe ways of cutting up food. Social scientists might argue that this is an example of:
- cultural symbols
 - culinary universals
 - semiotics
 - linguistic relativity hypothesis

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Applying

17. The way that a person dresses, holds a knife and fork, and drives a car are examples of:
- tools
 - symbols
 - signifiers
 - cultural universals

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Applying

18. *Semiotics* is the:
- analysis of nonverbal cultural meanings
 - study of language
 - analysis of verbal cultural meanings
 - understanding of culture's role in everyday life

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

19. In ancient cities, the religious temple was placed in the highest or most central location; in modern cities, skyscrapers occupy that position. What method of analysis allows us to compare symbolic cultural meanings of such physical structures?

a. cultural relativism c. multiculturalism
b. linguistic relativity d. semiotics

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Understanding

20. What makes it possible for culture to be created and transmitted across time and space?

a. cultural universals c. subcultures
b. norms d. writing

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Understanding

21. Because of the recent so-called cultural turn in sociology, most sociologists now agree that:

a. culture has nothing to do with day-to-day behavior
b. different people have different scripts in any encounter
c. the idea of a script is inapplicable to social analysis
d. there is one correct interpretation of reality in social encounters

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture.

MSC: Understanding

22. According to sociologist Ann Swidler, we all possess cultural “tool kits,” which:

a. are the same over the course of an individual’s life
b. are the same for all members of society
c. are independent of the circumstances individuals find themselves in
d. include a variety of social scripts that we can draw on

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture.

MSC: Remembering

23. The first archaeological evidence of humanlike culture dates back:

a. 12,000 years c. 2 million years
b. 100,000 years d. 6 million years

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.

MSC: Remembering

24. Which of the following best explains why different groups of people created different cultures?

a. People are born with distinctive DNA patterns that vary by location.
b. People learned to adapt to their physical surroundings.
c. Some groups of people are genetically less intelligent than other groups.
d. Certain peoples were more technologically and culturally advanced than others.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.

MSC: Understanding

25. Early humans fashioned stone tools to hunt and gather for their subsistence. Another important accomplishment is that they figured out a way to manage fire. This reinforces the idea that early humans were:
- a. capable of abstract thought
 - b. clever scavengers
 - c. superior to apes intellectually
 - d. unable to compensate for physical limitations

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.

MSC: Understanding

26. For most of our existence as a species, humans have lived in what type of societies?
- a. agrarian
 - b. industrial
 - c. horticultural and pastoral
 - d. hunting and gathering

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.

MSC: Remembering

27. What type of society is described as having very little inequality, no divisions of rich and poor, few differences in power, emphasis on cooperation rather than competition, participatory decision making, and an elaborate ceremonial life?
- a. agrarian
 - b. industrial
 - c. horticultural and pastoral
 - d. hunting and gathering

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture.

MSC: Understanding

28. There was little difference among members of hunting and gathering societies, and differences in position or rank were based on the:
- a. amount and type of food gathered during the growing season
 - b. gender and age of the community members
 - c. size of the family
 - d. length of time in which a family resided with the community

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.

MSC: Remembering

29. _____ societies relied mainly on domesticated animals, while _____ societies grew crops for their livelihood.

- a. Agrarian; horticultural
- b. Horticultural; industrial
- c. Hunting and gathering; pastoral
- d. Pastoral; agrarian

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture.

MSC: Remembering

30. What characteristic of an agrarian society led to the increase in material possessions?
- a. They were more settled.
 - b. They had the ability to find more resources.
 - c. They were able to develop trade networks.
 - d. The use of slaves meant that craftsmanship was possible due to more leisure time.

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Understanding

31. In which type of society do most people live and work on the land, growing crops for food and to sell?
- a. horticultural and pastoral
 - b. industrial
 - c. hunting and gathering
 - d. agrarian

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Remembering

32. Most of what sociologists term “civilizations” were empires—settled agricultural cities. We call them civilizations due to:
- a. their larger than normal trade networks
 - b. the presence of science and art
 - c. the presence of a large military force
 - d. their ability to conquer other cities

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Understanding

33. The emergence of machine production, based on the use of inanimate power sources, is known as:
- a. agriculture
 - b. civilization
 - c. industrialization
 - d. pastoralism

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Remembering

34. Which type of society is known for its rapid pace of discoveries, inventions, and technological innovations; a population densest in cities and working primarily in factories, offices, or shops; a social life that is impersonal with many encounters with strangers; and predominately large-scale organizations?
- a. agrarian
 - b. hunting and gathering
 - c. industrial
 - d. pastoral

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Remembering

35. Which type of society saw the advent of the nation-state?
- a. agrarian
 - b. hunting and gathering
 - c. industrial
 - d. postindustrial

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Remembering

36. Political communities with clearly defined borders (rather than vague frontiers) in which the governments have extensive power over citizens’ lives are known as:
- a. civilizations
 - b. empires
 - c. nation-states
 - d. traditional states

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Remembering

37. Based on his or her view of the modern world, which sociological theorist most likely agrees with the following statement about industrial society: Increased specialization in a growing division of labor will benefit industrial society by increasing the bonds of social cohesion?
- a. Max Weber
 - b. Karl Marx
 - c. Ann Swidler
 - d. Emile Durkheim

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture.
MSC: Understanding

38. A central process shaping the social geography of the modern world was:
- a. agriculture
 - b. colonialism
 - c. pastoralism
 - d. industrialism

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Understanding the Modern World
OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world. MSC: Remembering

39. Most nations in the global south became independent states only after:
- a. the Cold War
 - b. they industrialized
 - c. the spread of information technology
 - d. World War II

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Understanding the Modern World
OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world. MSC: Remembering

40. Conditions in countries in the global south today are largely a result of their:
- a. adherence to outdated modes of government
 - b. historical relationships with Western industrialized societies
 - c. lack of natural resources
 - d. inability to “keep up” with worldwide industrialism

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Understanding the Modern World
OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world. MSC: Understanding

41. About one-third of the world’s poor and two-thirds of the world’s hungry live in:
- a. Brazil
 - b. China
 - c. Russia
 - d. South Asia

ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Understanding the Modern World
OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world. MSC: Remembering

42. Those societies in the global south that have begun to successfully develop industrial systems are known as:
- a. impoverished countries
 - b. emerging economies
 - c. more developed countries
 - d. neo-economies

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Understanding the Modern World
OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world. MSC: Remembering

43. Which of the following is an informal method of social control enacted when a person fails to conform?

- a. library fine
- b. gossip
- c. detention
- d. arrest

ANS: B

DIF: Easy

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Understanding

44. Smaller segments of a society with distinct values and norms and their own unique patterns of behavior are called:

- a. individualistic
- b. multiculturalists
- c. nonconformists
- d. subcultures

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Remembering

45. An example of assimilation would be:

- a. A young man who immigrated to the United States from Japan speaks English, but also meets weekly with a group of Japanese Americans to eat traditional Japanese food.
- b. A group of students at a local college start a club for immigrants from South Korea.
- c. A family from Mexico moves to the United States and adopts mainstream U.S. cultural practices, but at the same time loses many of its Mexican cultural practices.
- d. After immigrating to the United States, a young woman from China adopts some American cultural practices but still closely identifies with her country of origin.

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Applying

46. The salad bowl metaphor is used to describe:

- a. assimilation
- b. cultural relativism
- c. subcultures
- d. multiculturalism

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Remembering

47. The disorientation everyone might experience if you took your nieces and nephews to a nude beach to boogie board is called

- a. assimilation
- b. cultural relativism
- c. culture shock
- d. multiculturalism

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Applying

48. Judging other cultures by the standards of one's own is known as:

- a. assimilation
- b. cultural relativism
- c. ethnocentrism
- d. multiculturalism

ANS: C

DIF: Easy

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Remembering

49. An Amish farmer tilling his fields with a horse and plow might be considered backward by some, and is an example of:
- a. cultural relativism
 - b. culture shock
 - c. cultural identity
 - d. ethnocentrism

ANS: D

DIF: Moderate

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Applying

50. Trying to understand the social context of a cultural practice (for example, Muslim women wearing burkas in public) before judging it is called:
- a. cultural relativism
 - b. multiculturalism
 - c. cultural universals
 - d. ethnocentrism

ANS: A

DIF: Moderate

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Understanding

51. Assessing a society by its own cultural standards is known as:
- a. ethnocentrism
 - b. cultural universals
 - c. multiculturalism
 - d. cultural relativism

ANS: D

DIF: Easy

REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Remembering

52. Which of the following best illustrates the relationship between nature and nurture?
- a. In some societies, women grow most of the food; in other societies, men are the primary food growers.
 - b. Men are genetically programmed never to ask anyone for directions, whereas women prefer to ask for directions rather than be lost on a highway.
 - c. Men's interest in having sexual relations with multiple partners is biologically programmed into the Y chromosome.
 - d. A woman's concern for her newborn is partly influenced by the hormonal changes of pregnancy but, more important, by the cultural norms of gender and motherhood.

ANS: D

DIF: Difficult

REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.

MSC: Applying

53. According to sociobiologists, what has led to female chastity and male promiscuity?
- a. a reproductive strategy
 - b. genetic hegemony
 - c. biological instinct
 - d. the decline of cultural values

ANS: A

DIF: Moderate

REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.

MSC: Understanding

54. Sociobiologists argue that:
- a. genes determine all human behavior
 - b. gender roles in society are completely determined by culture
 - c. reproductive strategy shapes the relations between the sexes
 - d. social life is rooted in culture, not genes

ANS: C

DIF: Moderate

REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.
MSC: Remembering

55. Which of the following is an example of an instinct?
- a. wearing clothes
 - b. smiling at strangers
 - c. sleeping
 - d. crying during a sad film

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Unanswered Questions
OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.
MSC: Applying

56. According to sociologists, why would “rooting” be considered an instinct?
- a. Rooting is a type of behavior that evolved over time.
 - b. Rooting behaviors differ across societies.
 - c. It is a biologically fixed pattern of action.
 - d. This instinct developed as a result of how individuals experience stress.

ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Unanswered Questions
OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.
MSC: Understanding

57. Human behavior and cultural beliefs:
- a. are based on instinct common to all societies
 - b. are the result of natural selection
 - c. are only slightly different in different societies
 - d. vary widely across societies

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Unanswered Questions
OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.
MSC: Understanding

58. The variety of products available from around the world on store shelves in American grocery stores indicates the degree to which the world has become:
- a. dominated by countries in the global south
 - b. dominated by Western culture
 - c. separated into isolated nation-states
 - d. a global social system

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Unanswered Questions
OBJ: Learn how the Internet and global culture influence local cultures.
MSC: Understanding

59. According to your text, the world has become a single social system reinforced by continually growing economic and social ties. Because of this, sociologists understand globalization to:
- a. be a negative phenomenon that needs to be stopped
 - b. encourage the growth of world unity
 - c. function only as an economic system
 - d. mean we are increasingly affected by worldwide events

ANS: D DIF: Difficult REF: Unanswered Questions
OBJ: Learn how the Internet and global culture influence local cultures.
MSC: Understanding

60. The resurgence of local cultures is a response to:
- a. global poverty

- b. a fear that global culture will corrupt them
- c. stricter immigration laws
- d. worldwide economic crisis

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Unanswered Questions
 OBJ: Learn how the Internet and global culture influence local cultures.
 MSC: Remembering

61. Which of the following illustrates how nationalism has arisen in response to globalization?
- a. The American government's decision to cut aid to foreign countries
 - b. extreme Islamist movements in the Middle East
 - c. refusal of recent immigrants to the United States to assimilate
 - d. spread of the Internet into previously isolated countries, such as China

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Unanswered Questions
 OBJ: Learn how the Internet and global culture influence local cultures.
 MSC: Applying

SHORT ANSWER

1. List three of the components of *culture*, as used by sociologists.

ANS:
 Answers may vary, but include: Symbols, language, norms, values, and material objects.

DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Remembering

2. Provide three examples of how norms and values change over time. Do all cultures around the world evolve?

ANS:
 Answers may vary, but include: Smoking, sexual mores, religious expression, and fashion.

DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Remembering

3. Describe three different subcultures that stand apart from the rest of society.

ANS:
 Answers may vary, but include: Goths, hackers, hippies, Rastafarians, and gangster hip-hop.

DIF: Easy REF: Basic Concepts
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Understanding

4. Define two key characteristics of agrarian societies and two of hunting and gathering societies. Which had the larger impact on modern societies today?

ANS:
 Answers may vary, but include: Cultural tool kits, nomadic societies, material surplus, and large-scale farming.

DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Remembering

5. Define the “cultural turn” in sociology, and provide two examples.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: The cultural tool kit, cultural scripts, and nonverbal communication.

DIF: Easy REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture.
MSC: Understanding

6. What does the concept of industrialization mean? Provide two examples of changes to the culture as a result of industrialization.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Rise of nation-states, change in nature of work, advent of sociology, and urbanization.

DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture
OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.
MSC: Understanding

7. Is cultural relativism necessary in a global economy?

ANS:

Answers may be yes or no, but include: Market differences and cultural universals.

DIF: Moderate REF: Understanding the Modern World
OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world. MSC: Understanding

8. Is ethnocentrism always wrong?

ANS:

Answers may be yes or no, but include: Genital mutilation, treatment of women in various societies, and cultural universals.

DIF: Moderate REF: Understanding the Modern World
OBJ: Recognize the legacies of colonialism and the effects of globalization on your own life and the lives of people around the world. MSC: Understanding

9. Does the Internet promote a global culture, absorbing local cultures into a single mainstream culture, or does it promote countercultures that directly threaten the larger mainstream cultures?

ANS:

Answers may be global culture or counterculture, but include: Cultural universals, digitally linked “tribes,” ISIS, and Al-Qaeda.

DIF: Difficult REF: Unanswered Questions
OBJ: Learn how the Internet and global culture influence local cultures.

MSC: Remembering

10. Nature or Nurture? Provide two reasons why you favor one over the other.

ANS:

Answers may be Nature or Nurture, but include: Sociobiology, natural selection, culture, and socialization.

DIF: Moderate REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.

MSC: Understanding

ESSAY

1. How does American culture influence individuals' bodies? Describe at least three ways that we express culture through our bodies.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Recognition that culture influences our bodies through norms, material goods (for example, styles of dress, hairstyles, hygiene); tattoos, piercings, and body modification.

DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Applying

2. Are there any values or norms that could be considered universal? If so, what are they (provide three examples), and what evidence can you cite to show that they are truly universal?

ANS:

Answers should be yes or no, but include: Definition of cultural universals, examples, and evidence; may also include counterexamples.

DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Analyzing

3. From the perspective of a cultural outsider (think E.T., not a Canadian), describe three elements of material culture evident in a room in your house (kitchen, living room, family room, bathroom, and so on). Assume no knowledge of the proper names for things or their uses. Describe the activities, rituals, and customs that occur in the room on a typical day. Do any elements appear to be signifiers or symbols? If so, of what are they?

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Descriptions of objects and activities in a room and analysis of symbols and signifiers.

DIF: Difficult REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Evaluating

4. Do you agree with the assertion that “most pupils in the United States would be outraged to find another student cheating on an exam”? Why (or why not)? Discuss this question in terms of your perception of key American values and norms.

ANS:

Answers may be yes or no, but include: Values that this norm embodies, including honesty, integrity, and self-sufficiency. Arguments could touch on competition, winner-take-all norm, and recent cases of dishonesty by entrusted public officials and financiers.

DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Analyzing

5. Can cultural norms and values be deliberately changed? If so, how might that happen? Give two examples. If not, why?

ANS:

Answers may be yes or no, but include: A definition of norms and values, a description of how they are related, and examples of changing norms and/or values; or note emphasis on slow pace of cultural change.

DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Analyzing

6. Discuss how values and norms within a particular society or community might be contradictory. Illustrate using two examples from your own culture.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: A definition of norms and values and a description of how they are related. Examples from American culture include value on life, yet abortion and legality of the death penalty; contradictory values include freedom and rule of government.

DIF: Difficult REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Analyzing

7. Draw a map of your bedroom, labeling at least three material objects it contains. How are these objects signifiers of American culture and the subcultures to which you belong?

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Major elements of material culture present in the room and discussion of symbols and signifiers.

DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Evaluating

8. Explain how language might help give permanence to a culture and identity to a people. Use two specific examples to support your assertions.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Discussion of language; ability of language to transcend space, time, and subcultures; to record history; and to communicate abstract concepts.

DIF: Moderate REF: Basic Concepts

OBJ: Know what culture consists of and recognize how it differs from society.

MSC: Analyzing

9. Explain how culture can be understood as a “tool kit” that includes a variety of “scripts.” Use two examples of a situation in which you would use different “scripts” from your cultural “tool kit,” and explain why these “scripts” would differ (for example, a job interview, a first date, meeting your significant other’s parents, being stopped by law enforcement).

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: The impact of social location and socialization on values and norms of behavior.

DIF: Difficult REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture.

MSC: Applying

10. What role did technology (material culture) play in the transition from agrarian to industrialized societies? What were the major elements of each type of society that resulted? Explain the relationship between the overall social development of a society and its material culture.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Discussion of major technological development; inequality, social institutions, and population size/carrying capacity.

DIF: Moderate REF: The Sociological Study of Culture

OBJ: Understand the processes that changed societies over time.

MSC: Analyzing

11. Using hip-hop as an example, discuss the effects of globalization on the formation of subcultures and cultural diversity.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Description of multicultural roots of hip-hop, and its popularity across diverse cultural groups and societies.

DIF: Difficult REF: Understanding the Modern World

OBJ: Learn about the “cultural turn” and sociological perspectives on culture. | Understand the processes that changed societies over time.

MSC: Analyzing

12. Using two examples of gendered behavior, explain how we are shaped by both our biology (nature) and our learning and culture (nurture).

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: A discussion of possible biological roots of gendered behavior, the role of gender socialization, different gender norms, and lack of cultural universals regarding gender.

DIF: Difficult REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: Understand the debate over the influence of biological and cultural factors on behavior.

MSC: Analyzing

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13. Discuss the rise of nationalism as a response to a globalizing world. How do you explain this phenomenon when globalization seems to lead to homogenization of culture in so many ways? Use at least two examples discussed in the text and class to illustrate your points.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Concerns of non-Western cultures, religious differences, use of the Internet to promote nationalism.

DIF: Difficult REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: Learn how the Internet and global culture influence local cultures.

MSC: Analyzing

14. Your text discusses how Chinese culture has changed over the past 30 years. Drawing from this discussion, examine how American culture has changed in your lifetime, as well as what elements have stayed the same. Discuss at least two major factors that have driven these changes in American culture.

ANS:

Answers may vary, but include: Values and norms that have remained and examples of changes (for example, changes in marriage and families; gender).

DIF: Difficult REF: Unanswered Questions

OBJ: Learn how the Internet and global culture influence local cultures.

MSC: Analyzing