

## Chapter 2 – Characteristics of Culture

---

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The gradual process of making beneficial adjustments to the environment is called
  - a. adjustment.
  - b. adaption.
  - c. adaptation.
  - d. acclimatization.
  - e. alteration.

ANS: C                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Culture and Adaptation  
OBJ: 1                      MSC: New

2. Humans' major mode of adaptation, which enables them to live effectively in diverse environments, is
  - a. education.
  - b. culture.
  - c. bureaucracy.
  - d. religion.
  - e. biology.

ANS: B                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Culture and Adaptation  
OBJ: 1                      MSC: Pickup

3. All of the following are long-term challenges associated with high-yield marginal farmlands in the U.S. except:
  - a. loss of topsoil.
  - b. high cost of fossil fuel.
  - c. decreasing salinity of soil.
  - d. silting of irrigation works.
  - e. high cost of fresh water.

ANS: C                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 1                      MSC: New

4. The ability to build homes and make clothing to insulate us against cold environments is a(n)
  - a. physiological adaptation.
  - b. evolutionary adaptation.
  - c. physical adaptation.
  - d. cultural adaptation.
  - e. congenital adaptation.

ANS: D                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 1                      MSC: New

5. The first clear and comprehensive definition of culture was made by
- Franz Boas.
  - Ralph Linton.
  - Edward B. Tylor.
  - Bronislaw Malinowski.
  - Clyde Kluckhohn.

ANS: C                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 2                      MSC: Pickup

6. The process by which culture is transmitted from one generation to the next is called
- enculturation.
  - pluralism.
  - adaptation.
  - cultural relativism.
  - subcultural variation.

ANS: A                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

7. Which of the following statements about society and culture is incorrect?
- Culture can exist without a society.
  - Every culture is learned, shared, based on symbols, integrated, and dynamic.
  - All culture is learned rather than biologically inherited.
  - A culture is shared by the members of a society.
  - Although members of a society may share a culture, their behavior is not uniform.

ANS: A                      DIF: Conceptual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 2                      MSC: Pickup

8. The cultural definitions of what it means to be a male or female today
- are determined by biological differences.
  - are independent of biological differences.
  - stem from biological differences that are less significant today.
  - developed about 60 million years ago when our species first emerged.
  - have no relationship to sex.

ANS: C                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 2                      MSC: Pickup

9. Which of the following statements about the relationship between sex and gender is incorrect?
- Sex is the same as gender.
  - Sex refers to physical differences between males and females, whereas gender refers to the cultural meanings assigned to sex.
  - Sexual differences are biological; gender differences depend on cultural definition.
  - Gender differences began with human culture, several million years ago.
  - The biological differences between males and females have decreased since the time of the earliest humans.

ANS: A                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 2                      MSC: Pickup

10. People share the same culture if they
- are dependent on each other for survival.
  - are able to interpret and predict each other's actions.
  - live in the same territory.
  - behave in an identical manner.
  - have the same last name.

ANS: B                      DIF: Applied              REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

11. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
- All culture is learned.
  - All learned behavior is cultural.
  - Culture is humankind's "social heredity."
  - Culture is not biologically inherited.
  - Culture is transmitted from one generation to the next through enculturation.

ANS: B                      DIF: Conceptual              REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

12. In the movie *Witness*, a policeman named John Book was able to hide from his corrupt boss by staying with the Amish. He was protected by adopting their mode of dress, by the fact that they had no telephones, and by their being a close-knit community united by shared values that differed from those of the larger society. The Amish in the United States are an example of a(n)
- pluralistic society.
  - subculture.
  - integrated culture.
  - world culture.
  - complex society.

ANS: B                      DIF: Applied              REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

13. The Amish may be used as an example of subcultural variation because
- they are racially different.
  - they share the values of thrift, hard work, independence, and close family ties that Americans respect.
  - they maintain a distinctive way of life that emphasizes agrarian living and loyalty to fellow Amish rather than to the state.
  - they participate in a rite of passage called *rumschpringe*.
  - they have their own church and do not speak English.

ANS: C                      DIF: Applied              REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

14. Which of the following statements is correct?
- a. Subcultural groups always have separate religious affiliations.
  - b. Ethnic groups live outside of national borders.
  - c. Subcultural groups have biological differences that ethnic groups do not have.
  - d. Ethnic groups collectively and publicly identify themselves as distinct.
  - e. Subcultural groups collectively and publicly identify themselves as distinct.

ANS: D                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

15. A set of cultural ideas held by a group that collectively and publicly identifies itself as distinct based on shared features is called
- a. tradition.
  - b. custom.
  - c. subculture.
  - d. culture.
  - e. ethnicity.

ANS: E                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: New

16. The belief that one's own way of life is superior to others is called
- a. ethnocentrism.
  - b. cultural relativism.
  - c. egocentrism.
  - d. kulturpride.
  - e. ethnicity.

ANS: A                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

17. A sound, emblem, or other sign that is arbitrarily linked to something else and represents it in a meaningful way is called a(n)
- a. myth.
  - b. symbol.
  - c. omen.
  - d. subculture.
  - e. ethnic group.

ANS: B                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

18. As a result of \_\_\_\_\_ work, in 1981, the Apaches were able to move into houses that had been designed with their participation, for their specific needs.
- Walter Goldschmidt's
  - George Esber's
  - David Maybury-Lewis's
  - Bronislaw Malinowski's
  - Margaret Mead's

ANS: B                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

19. As a prelude to social interaction, Apache hosts feel compelled to offer their guest
- cattle.
  - beer.
  - food.
  - small gifts.
  - seats.

ANS: C                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

20. China is a pluralistic society. Which ethnic group dominates others in China and has a socially and politically ethnocentric ruling policy?
- Buddhists
  - Uyghur
  - Li
  - Mongol
  - Han

ANS: E                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: New

21. All of the following statements about pluralistic societies are correct except:
- these are societies in which two or more ethnic groups coexist within the same state.
  - together these societies comprise a nation.
  - pluralistic societies did not exist before about 5,000 years ago.
  - these societies have a more complex order than those states composed of a single ethnic group.
  - ethnocentrism can be maladaptive within pluralistic societies.

ANS: B                      DIF: Conceptual                      REF: Characteristics of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: New

22. The most important symbolic aspect of culture is

- a. art.
- b. language.
- c. religion.
- d. money.
- e. politics.

ANS: B

DIF: Factual

REF: Characteristics of Culture

OBJ: 3

MSC: Pickup

23. A society is held together by a shared sense of identity and worldview. This collective body of ideas allows a society to make sense of the world, its challenges, and opportunities. It is known as

- a. infrastructure.
- b. cultural relativism.
- c. superstructure.
- d. religion.
- e. structure.

ANS: C

DIF: Factual

REF: Functions of Culture

OBJ: 3

MSC: Pickup

24. Culture is an integrated and interrelated whole, which means that

- a. people of all different races get along well together.
- b. subcultural variations can be tolerated and are of great benefit to a state.
- c. if you alter one aspect of a culture, you can drastically affect and possibly even endanger the functioning of the whole.
- d. primitive people live in harmony and do not require contact with other cultures, nor do they undergo internal change.
- e. society maintains a fragile balance that can be destroyed by any contact with an outside influence.

ANS: C

DIF: Conceptual

REF: Characteristics of Culture

OBJ: 3

MSC: Pickup

25. Infrastructure can be best described as a society's

- a. subsistence system.
- b. religious system.
- c. political system.
- d. domestic activities and daily life.
- e. kinship system.

ANS: A

DIF: Applied

REF: Functions of Culture

OBJ: 3

MSC: New

26. The rule-governed relationships that hold a society together, with all their rights, duties, and obligations, are known as its
- constitution.
  - social structure.
  - cultural relativism.
  - laws.
  - ethnocentrism.

ANS: B                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Functions of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

27. Which of the following is not an element associated with the barrel model of culture?
- Interstructure
  - Social structure
  - Infrastructure
  - Superstructure
  - Environment

ANS: A                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Functions of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

28. As represented by the barrel model of culture, culture is an integrated system that responds to a combination of
- structural integrity.
  - ideology and religion.
  - international factors.
  - ethical integrity.
  - internal factors.

ANS: E                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Functions of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

29. Among the Kapauku Papuans of New Guinea, the fact that an attempt to eliminate warfare (which would create a balanced sex ratio) would affect the practice of polygyny, which would affect the economy (since women raise pigs, and the more wives a man has, the more pigs he can keep), shows that culture is
- materialistic.
  - relative.
  - pluralistic.
  - integrated.
  - enculturated.

ANS: D                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Functions of Culture  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: Pickup

30. Cultures respond to motions and actions within and around them because they are
- symbolic.
  - functional.
  - ethnocentric.
  - dynamic.
  - integrated.

ANS: D                      DIF: Conceptual      REF: Culture, Society, and the Individual  
OBJ: 3                      MSC: New

31. According to Bronislaw Malinowski, the nature of an institution is determined by its
- structure.
  - function.
  - culture.
  - superstructure.
  - infrastructure.

ANS: B                      DIF: Applied              REF: Culture, Society, and the Individual  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: Pickup

32. \_\_\_\_\_ set a new standard for fieldwork in anthropology through his research with the Trobriand people.
- E.E. Evans-Pritchard
  - Claude Levi-Strauss
  - Bronislaw Malinowski
  - Ruth Benedict
  - Alfred Wallace

ANS: C                      DIF: Factual              REF: Culture, Society, and the Individual  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: Pickup

33. Which of the following statements is correct?
- A society is a union of multiple cultures.
  - Human survival depends on every individual being fit.
  - A correctly functioning culture has consistency across all of its parts, though not necessarily harmony.
  - Unregulated self-gratification does not impact the society as a whole.
  - Although all individuals are not exactly the same, all are enculturated equally.

ANS: C                      DIF: Applied              REF: Culture and Change  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: Pickup



34. What does Laura Nader mean when she says that the beauty industry and many plastic surgeons are involved in “standardizing” bodies?
- They focus on the cultural body, treating others as in need of changes and adjustments to be culturally normal
  - They are working to sell cosmetics only to people who meet cultural ideals and do not address their markets to other women
  - They are not interested in selling their products anywhere but in the United States
  - They work together and have the same advisory boards so that there will be no competition between each other’s companies
  - They are working on cloning experiences so that future people will have a perfect body

ANS: A                      DIF: Conceptual      REF: Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: New

35. What percentage of cosmetic procedures and nonsurgical procedures were done on women in the United States in 2011?
- 100
  - 91
  - 83
  - 61
  - 47

ANS: B                      DIF: Factual              REF: Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: New

36. Though pastoral nomadic peoples are often blamed for causing environmental degradation, the fault is often not theirs. Rather, in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa it is caused by
- unrestricted development.
  - a tremendous increase in tourism.
  - the ever-burgeoning use of off road vehicles.
  - governments that restrict their movements causing overgrazing.
  - global warming.

ANS: D                      DIF: Applied              REF: Evaluation of Cultures  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: New

37. All of the following are common causes of cultural change except:
- ecological shifts.
  - cultural relativism.
  - foreign invasion.
  - new trade goods.
  - new technology.

ANS: B                      DIF: Applied              REF: Evaluation of Cultures  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: New

38. The position that because cultures are unique, each one can be evaluated only according to its own standards and values is called
- ethnocentrism.
  - cultural relativism.
  - cultural materialism.
  - adaptation.
  - pluralism.

ANS: B                      DIF: Factual                      REF: Evaluation of Cultures  
OBJ: 5                      MSC: Pickup

39. Most cultures are ethnocentric. In fact, the way that most societies name and refer to themselves is typically a word that translates into
- funny talkers.
  - the only adults.
  - true gods.
  - all people.
  - true human beings.

ANS: E                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Evaluation of Cultures  
OBJ: 5                      MSC: New

40. All of the following are signs that a culture is not adequately satisfying the needs and expectations of those who live by its rules except:
- recovering environments.
  - high crime rate.
  - high delinquency rate.
  - malnutrition (including obesity).
  - emotional disorders.

ANS: A                      DIF: Applied                      REF: Evaluation of Cultures  
OBJ: 5                      MSC: New

### TRUE/FALSE

1. Everything that humans do well is adaptive.

ANS: F                      REF: Culture and Adaptation                      OBJ: 1  
MSC: New

2. Behavior that has been adaptive at one time may become maladaptive later.

ANS: T                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 1  
MSC: New

3. Examples of socially learned behavior are particularly evident among other primates.

ANS: T                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: New

4. A group of people without a common culture who are stranded together for a month on a desert island and who learn to work together for survival while they are there, may be said to constitute a society.
- ANS: F                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 2  
MSC: Pickup
5. To say that culture is shared means that all members of a society behave in the same way.
- ANS: F                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 2  
MSC: Pickup
6. A larger culture is more likely to tolerate a subculture if their values and physical appearance are similar.
- ANS: T                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: Pickup
7. George Esber worked with architects to create more culturally responsive houses for the Navajo.
- ANS: F                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: New
8. North American Indians form subcultures within the United States.
- ANS: T                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: New
9. States are socially organized bodies of people who share ethnicity.
- ANS: F                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 2  
MSC: New
10. Symbols are arbitrary.
- ANS: T                      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: New
11. Cattle herding is the mainstay around which all of Kapauku Papuan society revolves.
- ANS: F                      REF: Functions of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: Pickup
12. A society's economic base is part of the superstructure.
- ANS: F                      REF: Functions of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: Pickup

13. The most important symbolic aspect of culture is religion.
- ANS: F                      REF: Functions of Culture                      OBJ: 3  
MSC: Pickup
14. Bronislaw Malinowski used standard methods of fieldwork for his work among the Trobriand.
- ANS: F                      REF: Culture, Society, and the Individual  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: Pickup
15. Every culture provides its members ways to think of the meaning of life and death.
- ANS: T                      REF: Culture, Society, and the Individual  
OBJ: 4                      MSC: New
16. A culture must strike a balance between the needs and desires of the individual and those of society as a whole.
- ANS: T                      REF: Culture and Change                      OBJ: 4  
MSC: New
17. All societies require the same degree of cultural uniformity in order to function properly.
- ANS: F                      REF: Culture and Change                      OBJ: 4  
MSC: New
18. Most cultures are ethnocentric.
- ANS: T                      REF: Evaluation of Cultures                      OBJ: 5  
MSC: New
19. Because of the objectivity of anthropological training, anthropologists are able to eliminate the biases that might affect their descriptions of culture in the field.
- ANS: F                      REF: Evaluation of Cultures                      OBJ: 5  
MSC: Pickup
20. Cross-cultural studies show that homicide rates mostly decline after the death penalty is abolished.
- ANS: T                      REF: Evaluation of Cultures                      OBJ: 5  
MSC: Pickup

### **SHORT ANSWER**

1. What is cultural adaptation? Provide an example.

ANS: Will vary      REF: Characteristics of Culture                      MSC: New

2. How are modern definitions of culture different from the first definition of culture in 1871?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: Pickup
3. Distinguish between the terms “society” and “culture.”  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: New
4. Describe the process by which culture is learned.  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: New
5. What are the characteristics of culture?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: New
6. How was the rise of the state linked to the emergence of plural societies?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: Pickup
7. How did an anthropologist assist in house design for Apache Indians?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: Pickup
8. What is a subculture, and how do they fit within a larger society? Provide an example.  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: New
9. Distinguish between a nation and a state.  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: New
10. How can ethnocentrism be maladaptive?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: New
11. What is the “barrel model of culture”?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Functions of Culture    MSC: Pickup
12. What is a pluralistic society? Give an example of a country that is pluralistic in nature.  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: Pickup
13. Why is language the most important symbolic aspect of culture?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Characteristics of Culture    MSC: Pickup

14. Describe how the culture of the Kapauku is integrated.  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Functions of Culture    MSC: New
15. What did Malinowski mean by biological, instrumental, and integrative needs that must be resolved by culture?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Culture, Society, and the Individual    MSC: Pickup
16. What is the relationship between the individual and culture and society?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Culture and Change    MSC: New
17. How does the beauty industry reinforce the cultural ideal?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Culture and Change    MSC: New
18. What is cultural relativism?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Evaluation of Cultures    MSC: Pickup
19. How can we evaluate how adaptive a culture is for its people? What are the signs of a culture that is functioning well and one that is stressed?  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Evaluation of Cultures    MSC: New
20. Name four signs of a culture that is not functioning well.  
ANS: Will vary    REF: Evaluation of Cultures    MSC: New

## ESSAY

1. What does it mean to say that a culture has adaptive characteristics?  
ANS: Will vary    MSC: New
2. Anthropologists say that “culture is learned and shared.” What do they mean by this, and how does this occur?  
ANS: Will vary    MSC: New
3. Why do cultures exist? Consider why humans have culture and why there is cultural diversity.  
ANS: Will vary    MSC: New
4. Compare and contrast the earliest definition of culture provided by E.B. Tylor and those that we use today. How are they alike and different?  
ANS: Will vary    MSC: New

- Using the Amish as an example of subcultural variation, discuss the factors that seem to determine whether or not subcultural variation is tolerated by the larger culture. Compare the Amish with another group less well tolerated in our own society.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup

- Discuss the role of culture in architecture.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup

- Explain the statement that people everywhere are ethnocentric in nature and practice.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup

- How has technology changed the biological basis for contrasting gender roles?

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup

- Using the example of the Kapauku Papuans, explain the idea that culture is “integrated”. Illustrate the concept of the integration of culture with another example as well.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup

- What is the role of the individual in culture?

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup

- Apply the “barrel model of culture” to your own culture.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: New

- Bronislaw Malinowski said that the ethnographer’s goal is “to grasp the native’s point of view.” Discuss the meaning of this statement and how it affects the way anthropologists do fieldwork.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: New

- What is the relationship between culture, society, and the individual?

ANS: Will vary    MSC: New

- Discuss the effects of commercial industry on the individual in society. Consider examples such as that of the beauty industry.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: New

- What is the measure of a society’s success?

ANS: Will vary    MSC: New

16. Someone once remarked that a Holocaust survivor was hardly likely to be a confirmed cultural relativist. How is cultural relativism related to moral relativism? That is, can we think about the Nazis, or similar movements, in relativistic terms? Is there a role in anthropology for a universalistic conception of human rights?

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup

17. Explain how ethnocentrism impacts culture change.

ANS: Will vary    MSC: Pickup