

Chapter 2 Understanding Culture

- 1) Which of the following is NOT part of the anthropological definition of culture?
- A) bounded by geography and politics
 - B) shared ideas.
 - C) adaptive.
 - D) constantly changing.
 - E) learned ideas.

Answer: A

- 2) The concept defined in the text as "learned, shared ideas about and patterns of behavior" is the concept of
- A) race.
 - B) pre-destination.
 - C) biocultural inheritance.
 - D) culture.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: D

- 3) Cultures are
- A) both externally consistent and contradictory.
 - B) neither consistent nor contradictory.
 - C) both internally consistent and contradictory.
 - D) neither internally consistent nor contradictory.
 - E) none of the above.

Answer: C

- 4) The patterns that constitute a culture form are described as
- A) unbounded and poorly defined.
 - B) bounded and sociopolitically defined.
 - C) "fuzzy categories."
 - D) both A and C.
 - E) none of the above.

Answer: D

- 5) Shared cultural ideas and behaviors that are embedded within a larger, more general culture is called
- A) national culture.
 - B) subculture.
 - C) international culture.
 - D) global culture.
 - E) none of the above.

Answer: B

- 6) Which of the following is not true about the way cultures change?
- A) All cultures change all of the time.
 - B) Culture change is taught and learned.
 - C) Environmental shifts do not effect culture.
 - D) Cultures change in response to other cultures.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: C

- 7) Which of the following is true about the concept of race?
- A) Used extensively as a cultural category to label and sort people.
 - B) Is no longer considered valid by most scientists.
 - C) Is proof that biological traits co-vary, showing clear patterns.
 - D) Race and culture are interchangeable terms.
 - E) Race cannot be measured.

Answer: A

- 8) Racism is a phenomenon encountered
- A) only in Western cultures.
 - B) only in the past.
 - C) in virtually all cultures and groups.
 - D) both A and C
 - E) none of the above

Answer: C

- 9) Human biology
- A) is unrelated to culture.
 - B) drives culture.
 - C) is the basis for the general acceptance of Race Theory.
 - D) certainly plays some part in human behavior.
 - E) all of the above

Answer: D

- 10) Innate behavior found among humans
- A) varies between races.
 - B) varies between cultures.
 - C) varies between social groups.
 - D) is species-wide.
 - E) all of the above

Answer: D

- 11) According to the biocultural model
- A) learned behavior is built upon a biological base.
 - B) behavior is prescribed by biology only.
 - C) behavior is entirely a product of culture.
 - D) biology and culture are unrelated.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: A

- 12) Malaysia, a Southeast Asian country,
- A) has a cold desert climate.
 - B) is sparsely populated and primarily Christian.
 - C) has a culture that has historically influenced the Balinese.
 - D) has never been colonized.
 - E) B, C, and D only

Answer: E

- 13) Latahs of Malaysia are most often
- A) women.
 - B) men.
 - C) adolescent boys.
 - D) adolescent girls.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: A

- 14) The startle reaction is seen
- A) in Malaysian culture only.
 - B) in Western cultures only.
 - C) in Eastern cultures only.
 - D) only among females.
 - E) in all human societies.

Answer: E

- 15) In the film *Latah*, several examples of latah are shown visually, NOT including
- A) hyper-startle of a woman when pans are thrown behind the woman.
 - B) latah when a woman is poked under the legs with a stick.
 - C) startle reaction by a man when a motor vehicle backfires.
 - D) latah of a woman after she is poked in the ribs from behind.
 - E) three of the above

Answer: D

- 16) One cultural-insider explanation for latah states
- A) latah is inherited.
 - B) men are more susceptible.
 - C) latah is mainly a means of getting attention.
 - D) latahs are the most powerful members of society.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: A

- 17) The religion of the people in the *Latah* film predominately is
- A) Islam.
 - B) Hinduism.
 - C) Christianity.
 - D) Buddhism.
 - E) none of the above

Answer: A

- 18) Where does the film *Rabbit-Proof Fence* take place?
- A) Eastern Papua New Guinea
 - B) Western Australia
 - C) Malaysia
 - D) Western South Africa
 - E) Eastern Sri Lanka

Answer: B

- 19) In the film *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, the following happens EXCEPT
- A) Children and their mother and grandmother track and catch a large lizard and bring it home for food.
 - B) Three girls leave their mother and grandmother and are driven to a boarding school.
 - C) The girls are initially wary, then happy to be at the school with its opportunities.
 - D) Women are shown slides detailing supposed physical characteristics of “aborigines”, “half-castes”, and “whites”.
 - E) A man showing slides describes how racial characteristics are being bred out.

Answer: C

20) Three primary characteristics of culture are: learn, shared, ideas about behavior.

Answer: TRUE

21) Anthropologists today believe that ideas about behavior form consistent sets.

Answer: FALSE

22) Culture is groups of physically alike people.

Answer: FALSE

23) A cline is the continuous variation in human physical attributes.

Answer: TRUE

24) The biocultural model says that specific, learned cultural behavior is built upon a general, innate, species-wide biological base.

Answer: TRUE

25) The ability to learn language is a human universal.

Answer: TRUE

26) In the film *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, "fullblood" are forcibly taken off to school.

Answer: FALSE

27) Heider states, "Culture is not geographically or politically bounded" (p. 32). Apply this concept to your own area. Are there towns near your town that you classify as "different?" How are they "different?" What makes them "different?" Is your state "different" from the neighboring states?

28) "Not only does this practice [using pan-Indonesian artifacts] deemphasize regional culture, but it also serves as a model and guide to show Balinese, Minangkabau, and Javanese how to be Indonesian" (p. 46). Do people learn how to be American from TV and movies? If so, what is it to "be" American that is learned from the media?

29) Describe the biocultural model. How does this model effect how we study cultures?

- 30) Folk wisdom says not all culture is learned. What arguments are used to support this hypothesis? Does the biocultural model support this hypothesis?
- 31) Does latakia support the biocultural model? If so, how? If not, why not?
- 32) Describe and define (giving specific examples) race and ethnicity. Are these a matter of choice? What is your race and ethnicity? Now imagine you are reborn and choose your race and ethnicity. Your new race and ethnicity must be different from your own. How do you see the world, that is, what is your new perspective? How do you treat others? How do others treat you? In your concluding words, compare and contrast race and ethnicity.
- 33) Social Darwinism preached survival of the fittest. It believed that the fittest should rule and that we would be violating sound scientific principles if we interfered with nature by caring for and protecting those who lost out in the battle of survival. What do you think of Social Darwinism? Why? Can it lead to racism and sexism? How? Why?
- 34) Although we are one species, physical variations exist. What are these physical variations? Why did they arise? Define and evaluate the concept of biological and social race.
- 35) Clyde Kluckhohn and Henry Murray once remarked that in some respects every person is like every other person. In other respects every person is different from every other person. And in some other respects some people are like some other people. Which of the theoretical orientations and/or disciplines stress the essential similarities of all humans? Which stress the unique characteristics of each society or individual? Which stress the ways some people or cultures are like some other people? Which approach is most useful?
- 36) How can cultures be both internally consistent and inconsistent? How is your culture internally consistent and inconsistent? Use specific and concrete examples.
- 37) Define, describe, evaluate, and discuss the statement, "Race and culture are connected." How? Why? Give concrete and specific examples.
- 38) Folk wisdom says not all culture is learned. What arguments are used to support this hypothesis? Does the biocultural model support this hypothesis? How? Do you think that not all culture is learned? Why or why not?

- 39) "One month later, the Zepher II returned from Mars with 21 of the creatures aboard. The Judicial Committee of the World Council was immediately requested to give an advisory opinion as to whether or not these creatures should be treated as human beings or whether they could be canned in olive oil as a snack. Thus begins one of the most bitterly contested disputes in recent history." You are on the Judicial Committee. Describe and define a human being. Explain your criteria for determining something human.
- 40) Locate yourself culturally and socially. In which cultures do you share? Of which societies or social units are you a member? What are some of the statuses, roles, and ranks coming out of this? What role conflicts are you experiencing?
- 41) What are the defining characteristics of "culture"? Explain the importance of each characteristic in the final definition. Do animals have a human-like culture? Why? How? Is the existence of social or cultural constraints incompatible with individuality? What is the importance of nonconformist behavior in a culture and intracultural variation? What do anthropologists mean when they say that cultures are generally adaptive or integrated?