

## Chapter 1: Anthropology in a Global Age

---

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Audrey Richards conducted a detailed ethnography of the coming-of-age rituals of the Bemba, and is often credited with opening the door to the study of health and nutrition among women and children. Which of the four fields of anthropology was Richards working in?
- archaeology
  - biological anthropology
  - historic ethnology
  - cultural anthropology

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate                      OBJ: 1.1 What is anthropology?  
MSC: Understanding

2. Which concept refers to anthropology's commitment to looking at the full scope of human diversity and experience, including cultural, biological, historical, and linguistic aspects?
- ethnology
  - fieldwork
  - holism
  - inclusivity

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy                      OBJ: 1.1 What is anthropology?  
MSC: Understanding

3. Anthropology has long studied the marginalized and remote segments of human society. Recently, a lot of research has begun to look at the upper segments of society, which can help us understand how the other marginalized groups come into being and exist at all. What is this process called?
- studying up
  - marginalization
  - deep ethnography
  - thick description

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate                      OBJ: 1.1 What is anthropology?  
MSC: Understanding

4. Archaeology, the study of cultures in the human past, focuses on what?
- human adaptation to the environment in the past
  - human evolution from the fossil record
  - any human material remains
  - any human burial sites

ANS: C                      DIF: Moderate  
OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?  
MSC: Understanding

5. What type of anthropologist focuses on how humans have adapted to their environments over time?
- physical anthropologist
  - descriptive linguist
  - paleoanthropologist
  - cultural anthropologist

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate  
OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?  
MSC: Remembering

6. Anthropology looks at the complete diversity of human life across space and time. This kind of study requires a(n):
- belief that other cultures are normal
  - belief that one's own culture is normal
  - belief in the power of globalization

d. ability to evaluate others on the basis of one's own beliefs

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Analyzing

7. Which subfield of anthropology traces the history of human evolution in fossils?



a. prehistoric archaeology

c. evolutionary archaeology

b. primatology

d. paleoanthropology

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Remembering

8. Both historic archaeologists and prehistoric archaeologists study the past through the analysis of artifacts. What do historic archeologists have access to that prehistoric archaeologists do not?

a. larger numbers of artifacts

c. works of art

b. written records

d. burial sites

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Understanding

9. What is considered the most distinctive feature of being human?

a. tool use

c. bipedal locomotion

b. an opposable thumb

d. language

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Remembering

10. Cultural anthropologists employ the process of *ethnology* to:

a. challenge ethnocentrism.

b. challenge ethnographic authority.

c. ethnographically document other cultures.

d. compare cultures.

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Understanding

11. Material remains help prehistoric archaeologists reconstruct:

- a. human behavior.
- b. written records.
- c. garbage dumps.
- d. burial sites.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Understanding

12. What do garbage dumps offer to both anthropologists and archaeologists?
- a. understanding burial practices
  - b. analysis of nutritional intake
  - c. a deeper understanding of climate change
  - d. understanding cultural practices

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

13. The so-called “N-word” would be most likely studied for its origins, uses, and meaning by a(n):
- a. descriptive linguist.
  - b. historic linguist.
  - c. biological anthropologist.
  - d. sociolinguist.

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Analyzing

14. In order to gain a complete understanding of any aspect of human behavior, the field of anthropology adopts what strategy?

- a. four-field approach
- b. cultural evolution
- c. physical anthropology
- d. ethnobiology

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Understanding

15. In late nineteenth-century debates on American immigration, many scholars and government officials privileged immigrants from northern Europe over those from southern Europe, such as Italians and Greeks, because the officials felt these southern people were a separate and inferior biological race with primitive ways. This is an example of:

- a. holism.
- b. ethnocentrism.
- c. genocide.
- d. ethnocide.

ANS: B                      DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

16. Pablo is an anthropologist studying the Japanese tea ceremony. He considers Japanese religion and history, as well as social relations, the politics of gender, and the language used to talk about the tea ceremony. Pablo’s approach to studying the Japanese tea ceremony is an example of what aspect of anthropology?

- a. participant observation
- b. physical anthropology
- c. four-field approach
- d. holism

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

17. The sequencing of mitochondrial DNA to trace changes in human ancestors over time involves which specialization of anthropology?
- a. prehistoric archaeology
  - b. forensic anthropology
  - c. paleoanthropology
  - d. historic archaeology

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

18. Studying how men and women use language differently and how this regularly leads to miscommunication between them would demand a close examination of the cultural context of language. This would be the work of what type of anthropologist?
- a. biological linguist
  - b. sociolinguist
  - c. historical linguist
  - d. descriptive linguist

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

19. What do we call the belief that one's own culture or way of life is normal and natural and the practices of other people are abnormal and unnatural?
- a. holism
  - b. relativism
  - c. "walking in their shoes"
  - d. ethnocentrism

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Remembering

20. Cultural anthropologists like to hang out with the people they are studying and ask lots of questions as the people work, celebrate, dance, or play games. What is the term used for this process?
- a. ethnology
  - b. participant observation
  - c. cultural anthropology
  - d. cognitive anthropology

ANS: B                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Remembering

21. An anthropologist who has conducted fieldwork on Mormon fundamentalists and their marriage patterns wants to now compare those patterns to those of Muslim tradition. What would this require?
- a. conducting ethnological analysis
  - b. undertaking comprehensive holistic analysis
  - c. carrying out additional ethnographic fieldwork
  - d. locating informants who are both Mormon and Muslim

ANS: A                      DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

22. The Latin language of ancient Rome is no longer spoken routinely. What kind of work is needed to examine how Latin changed into the Romance languages of today (French, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, and Italian)?
- a. descriptive linguistics
  - b. comparative research
  - c. classical linguistics
  - d. historic linguistics

ANS: D DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

23. Participant observation as a research strategy is an essential part of which subfield of anthropology?

a. ethnological analysis c. primatology  
b. cultural anthropology d. descriptive linguistics

ANS: B DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Understanding

24. What type of anthropologists explore all aspects of living human culture—from war and violence to love, sexuality, and child rearing—and look at the meanings that people from all over the world place on these things?

a. ethnologists c. holistic anthropologists  
b. sociolinguists d. cultural anthropologists

ANS: D DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Understanding

25. Anthropologists take a comprehensive approach to understanding human beings. They accomplish this task by:

a. exploring the past. c. looking at biology.  
b. using the four-field approach. d. using participant observation.

ANS: B DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Understanding

26. The scientific discipline that looks at genetics, evolution, the fossil record, and our closest relatives in the animal kingdom in order to gain a greater understanding of what it means to be human is known as:

a. evolutionary biology. c. primatology.  
b. physical anthropology. d. cultural anthropology.

ANS: B DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Remembering

27. What do we call an anthropologist working among a Native American group to map their spoken language into a written form?

a. descriptive linguist c. sociolinguist  
b. cultural anthropologist d. historical linguist

ANS: A DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

28. What kind of researchers work to record languages that are disappearing by finding the last speakers and making recordings and dictionaries to preserve them for the future?

a. descriptive linguists c. cultural anthropologists  
b. historic linguists d. sociolinguists

ANS: A DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

29. Ancient rift valleys and deep caves often contain human fossils that can provide clues about human evolution and the lives of our ancestors. What do we call an anthropologist who examines just the human evolutionary aspect of fossils?

a. prehistoric archaeologist  
b. archaeologist  
c. paleoanthropologist  
d. paleoprimateologist

ANS: C DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

30. What field of anthropology studies monkeys and apes, but not human beings?

a. evolutionary biology  
b. paleoanthropology  
c. paleoprimateology  
d. primatology

ANS: D DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Remembering

31. The huge inflow of refugees from the wars in the Middle East to parts of Europe and Scandinavia has created a lot of social and political problems in those countries where the refugees wind up. What kind of anthropologist would offer useful input to the politicians making decisions about resettlement programs?

a. physical anthropologist  
b. cultural anthropologist  
c. holistic anthropologist  
d. sociolinguist

ANS: B DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Applying

32. Which discipline of anthropology studies human beings through the excavation and analysis of human material artifacts?

a. archaeology  
b. cultural anthropology  
c. physical anthropology  
d. ethnology

ANS: A DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Remembering

33. Human beings have long been migrant, moving themselves, their material goods, and even ideas from one part of the world to another. What makes this process, which is now called *globalization*, seem so different today than in the past?

a. the four-field approach  
b. migration  
c. intensification  
d. ethnocentrism

ANS: C DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Understanding

34. The theory of time-space compression suggests that the way we think about time and space has been transformed. What do anthropologists think might be the underlying reason for this?

a. flexible time scales

- b. rapid economic growth
- c. rapid accumulation of profits
- d. rapid innovation of communication and transportation

ANS: D                    DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Remembering

35. When companies move their production facilities around the world to take advantage of cheaper labor and lower taxes, what is this called by anthropologists?
- a. marginal exploitation
  - b. technological migration
  - c. labor-tax compression
  - d. flexible accumulation

ANS: D                    DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Remembering

36. Global poverty has risen dramatically over the past twenty years, and is generally considered a sign of what by anthropologists?
- a. economic elitism
  - b. uneven development
  - c. marginalization
  - d. neocolonialism

ANS: B                    DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Understanding

37. Many large corporations—Walmart, General Motors, and others—routinely operate larger numbers of factories in places like China in order to take advantage of very cheap wages, putting workers in their home country out of a job. What is this an example of?
- a. uneven development
  - b. workload migration
  - c. flexible accumulation
  - d. global regulation

ANS: C                    DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Applying

38. Changes in communication technology that have allowed military spouses to switch from mailing letters to their partners in Afghanistan to chatting with them on Skype are an example of what dynamic of globalization?
- a. Internet communication
  - b. technological adaptation
  - c. flexible accumulation
  - d. time-space compression

ANS: D                    DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Applying

39. In the “Social Life of Things,” we follow the path of a shoe. In this example, a corporation in the United States makes a large profit. At the same time, almost half of the people in Senegal live in poverty and many children suffer poor living conditions. What is this an example of?
- a. uneven development
  - b. flexible accumulation
  - c. elitism
  - d. marginalization

ANS: A                    DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Applying

40. Nepali workers building roads in India, Filipino maids in Saudi Arabia, and Turkish street repairmen in Germany are examples of which global dynamic?
- a. time-space compression
  - b. uneven development
  - c. domestic migration
  - d. increasing migration

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Applying

41. The dramatic impact of globalization in the past, and even more so today, is driven by what kind of changes?
- a. internal and external migration patterns
  - b. perceptions of time and space
  - c. greenhouse gasses and weather patterns
  - d. transportation and communication technologies

ANS: D                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Understanding

42. What key dynamic of globalization is characterized by the movement of people, not only between countries but also within the individual countries themselves?



- a. ease of transportation
- b. increasing nationalism
- c. increasing migration
- d. increased access to the Internet

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Remembering

43. The Chinese government counts nearly 250 million internal migrants floating in China's cities. What draws these internal migrants?
- a. work opportunities
  - b. more affordable housing
  - c. higher education
  - d. social movements

ANS: A                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Understanding



44. The distinct era in which human activity is reshaping the planet in permanent ways is referred to as what?
- a. Homocene
  - b. Anthropocene
  - c. Paleocene
  - d. Humanism

ANS: B                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Remembering

45. Policy makers and environmental experts struggle to agree on what should be done with nuclear waste, the life span of which will extend beyond human existence itself. What concept is best used to explain this phenomenon?
- a. ethnocentrism
  - b. cultural anthropology
  - c. time-space compression
  - d. Anthropocene

ANS: D                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Applying

46. What is one possible consequence of oil spills and other forms of mass water pollution?
- a. It will kill off edible sea life completely by 2048.
  - b. New mutant varieties of sea life will evolve.
  - c. Killer whales will alter their migration routes to avoid garbage.
  - d. It will kill off all fish in the Gulf of Mexico by 2030.

ANS: A                      DIF: Moderate

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Remembering

47. The British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010 poured 210 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico over the course of two months. What is the British Petroleum oil spill characteristic of?
- a. ethnocentrism
  - b. time-space compression
  - c. today's global age and the impacts of increasing globalization
  - d. the changing meaning of natural resources

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Understanding

48. Climate change, including global warming, is primarily produced by what?
- a. pro-market policies that allow emissions to go unchecked
  - b. overpopulation, which leads to increased consumption
  - c. increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases created by the burning of fossil fuels
  - d. natural changes in the earth's atmosphere

ANS: C                      DIF: Easy

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Understanding

49. The author states that pollution, population growth, climate change, and overfishing are serious issues, and nature may not be able to adapt to:
- a. human activity.
  - b. glacial activity.
  - c. global warming.
  - d. intensification.

ANS: A                    DIF: Moderate  
OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?  
MSC: Remembering

50. Anthropology developed during an intense period of globalization in the nineteenth century. What was one of the major characteristics of that period of globalization that drove this development?
- slave economies
  - the willingness of anthropologists to travel great distances to study remote peoples
  - transportation
  - decline of European monarchies

ANS: C                    DIF: Moderate  
OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?  
MSC: Remembering

51. In order to understand how any group of people lives in our global world today, what would we need to consider in addition to the customs, beliefs, and other aspects of their local culture?
- political systems
  - global influences
  - production and exchange systems
  - religion and belief systems

ANS: B                    DIF: Moderate  
OBJ: 1.4 How is globalization transforming anthropology?                    MSC: Understanding

52. What does an anthropologist call the type of research that compares multiple communities in order to examine links between them?
- cross-linked ethnology
  - multisited ethnography
  - globalized anthropology
  - bilocal fieldwork

ANS: B                    DIF: Moderate  
OBJ: 1.4 How is globalization transforming anthropology?                    MSC: Remembering

53. Global forces are expanding rapidly and moving into local communities everywhere. According to the author, people in local communities respond to these global forces by:
- actively working to reshape encounters with global forces.
  - strengthening and renewing religious practices.
  - overturning immigration restrictions.
  - acting with violence and rebellion.

ANS: A                    DIF: Moderate  
OBJ: 1.4 How is globalization transforming anthropology?                    MSC: Understanding

## ESSAY

1. Describe how changes in transportation technology in the nineteenth century led to the development of anthropology.

ANS:  
Advances in transportation technology rapidly transformed long-distance movement of people and goods. This allowed regular travel, trade, and colonization in new and varied places. Merchants, missionaries, and government officials came back with tales and artifacts of the incredible diversity of human cultures and “exotic” appearances they had encountered. Anthropology developed as people began to try to understand this diversity.

DIF: Difficult                    OBJ: 1.1 What is anthropology?                    MSC: Analyzing

2. Explain why anthropologists study nonhuman primates like apes and monkeys.

ANS:

In order to understand which aspects of human physiology and behavior are uniquely human and which attributes are legacies of our primate heritage, it is necessary to study our closest living relatives. The study of nonhuman primates gives us clues about our human behavior and the shared behavior of all primates. Careful observation of primates in their natural habitats and captivity has offered significant insights into sexuality, parenting, male and female differences, cooperation, intergroup conflict, and aggression. These insights can also help us understand what the behavior of human ancestors may have been like.

DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Analyzing

3. Compare and contrast how historic and prehistoric archaeologists investigate past human life and explain what insights can be gained.

ANS:

Both prehistoric and historic archaeologists locate, excavate, and analyze material remains or artifacts of past human activity. Prehistoric archaeologists use the remains of everyday activities to reconstruct family life and work life, such as what kinds of foods they ate and what types of tools they used. Burial sites provide information on how they treated their elders and the dead. Evidence can also suggest trade patterns, consumption habits, gender roles, and power stratification. Historic archaeology adds written or oral records to the interpretation of artifacts and physical remains. These allow a much wider array of investigations and much deeper analysis because they have records such as deeds, census forms, personal letters, diaries, and other accounts to add insight into topics such as the lives of African slaves in the American South and global warming and climate change.

DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Analyzing

4. Explain the difference between a descriptive linguist and a sociolinguist. If you knew the last living speaker of a language and wanted to preserve that language, who would you call and why?

ANS:

Descriptive linguists describe and record spoken languages and save them as written languages, while sociolinguists study language in its social and cultural context. Trying to save the language would be the domain of the descriptive linguist, who records and describes languages in order to construct a written language. Once you have a written language, you can preserve dictionaries, poetry, and stories of all sorts by simply writing them down. This makes it possible to save them for posterity. Languages have been brought back from the dead to millions of speakers. An example would be the Hebrew language of Israel.

DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Analyzing

5. Bronislaw Malinowski spent two years doing participant observation among the people of the Trobriand Islands in the early 1900s, and there he learned about the islanders' beliefs and customs regarding trade, warfare, marriage, sex, and death. What kind of anthropologist was Malinowski? Explain how participant observation works and what kind of information it provides. Name another topic you could study this way and how you would do it.

ANS:

Malinowski was a cultural anthropologist. Participant observation works by living and working with a group of people for an extended period of time and asking lots of questions. It gives you information about the complex systems of power and meaning that all people construct. You can study almost any topic using this approach, so any reasonable example of a topic and strategy that involves working closely with people would be good.

DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.2 Through what lenses do anthropologists gain a comprehensive view of human cultures?

MSC: Analyzing

6. Time-space compression is one of the key dynamics of globalization. Explain just exactly what time-space compression is and how it works, and give an example.

ANS:

Time-space compression is the result of rapid innovation in transportation and communication technology, and it has transformed how we think about space and time. Jet travel, superhighways, telephones, fax machines, computers, and the Internet have changed our sense of how long things take and how far away things are. For example, at the turn of the twentieth century, it took weeks to get from San Francisco to Paris, but today it takes less than a day. Where once a letter sent from the United States might take ten days or longer to reach its addressee overseas in Europe or Africa, we can now send a text message, including photographs, to that same individual in under 30 seconds. With cell phones and satellites, it is possible to talk to a person in any part of the world at any time, even if they are on the opposite side of the planet.

DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Analyzing

7. The text notes that increasing migration is one of the key dynamics of globalization. Explain where people are moving and why. What effect is this having on people around the world?

ANS:

People are moving in vast numbers within and between countries, and they are usually moving from rural to urban areas in search of work. In general, they are looking for jobs to improve their lives and the lives of people back home. In China, 250 million people—internal migrants—are moving to cities, looking for work on construction projects, in service jobs, and in export-oriented factories. This stretches human relationships across time and space. Migration is building connections between different parts of the world, replacing face-to-face interactions with more remote encounters, and potentially reducing the hold of the local environment over people's lives and imaginations.

DIF: Difficult

OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?

MSC: Analyzing

8. Explain how globalization has enabled flexible accumulation, and how it works. Provide an example from the class.

ANS:

Flexible accumulation reflects the fact that advances in transportation and communication have enabled companies to move their production facilities around the world in search of cheaper labor, lower taxes, and fewer environmental regulations—in other words, to be completely flexible in how they accumulate profits. Companies in developed countries move factories to other countries in the developing world. Lower labor and transportation costs along with fewer regulations mean they can then export their goods back to the United States at a much greater profit than if they produced them locally. One good example is Walmart, which went from advertising “Made in America” to having seven thousand factories in China, and the members of the Walton family are billionaires because of it.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?  
MSC: Analyzing

9. One aspect of globalization is uneven development. Explain what this means and how it affects the world. Provide an example.

ANS:

Many people associate globalization with rapid economic development and progress, but globalization has not brought equal development to the world’s people. There are 3.2 billion people who now have Internet access, but the distribution is very uneven. Europe, North America, and Asia account for the vast majority of high-tech consumption, while whole areas of Africa are completely marginalized and excluded from the globalization process. Globalization is creating extreme wealth for some people, but it is also creating extreme poverty for others. Even in the United States, the wealthiest country in the world, some full-time workers who earn the minimum wage make so little money that they must rely on state welfare programs for food stamps and medical care for themselves and their children.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?  
MSC: Analyzing

10. Anthropologists have increasingly used the concept of the Anthropocene to explain the relationship between human activity and changes in the environment. Define the term Anthropocene and use it to explain one phenomenon mentioned in the text.

ANS:

The Anthropocene is a distinct era in which human behavior is shaping the earth in permanent ways. The text focuses on negative effects of human behavior on the planet, including climate change, water scarcity, overpopulation, extreme poverty, biological weapons, and nuclear missiles. All of these phenomena threaten human survival.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?  
MSC: Analyzing

11. Globalization is also affecting the world’s environment. Identify three effects of human activity on the environment, and then choose one and discuss its consequences.

ANS:

Possible effects include overfishing, population growth, limited access to water, pollution, and global warming. The consequences are frequently very bad and threaten the world’s ecological balance.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 1.3 What is globalization, and why is it important for anthropology?  
MSC: Analyzing

12. Discuss the ways in which local communities react to global forces influencing and mingling with local cultures. Support your description with an example from the class.

ANS:

In part because of the forces of globalization, people in local communities may be driven to redefine many aspects of their personal lives. Sometimes they embrace new opportunities, and they frequently and actively resist changes they see as having a negative effect on their lives. In the example discussed at the beginning of the chapter about the Coca Cola plant in India, the company drained and contaminated the primary water aquifer, so local people began to protest and the local village council withdrew the plant's license. When the company got support from local government, the local people gained international support and eventually took the case to the highest state court, which ruled that the factory had to cease illegal extraction of groundwater.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 1.4 How is globalization transforming anthropology?

MSC: Analyzing

13. Explain how anthropologists have had to adapt to the impact of global forces on the communities they study.

ANS:

The author states that it is no longer possible to study any community without studying the global forces that affect it. Anthropologists have adapted by studying local communities and following the effects of global forces through multisited ethnographies. This allows anthropologists to get a comprehensive view of the community and its unique situation. The author found that in order to study the Chinese community in New York, it was necessary to go to China to get a complete understanding of Chinese communities and population movement.

DIF: Difficult      OBJ: 1.4 How is globalization transforming anthropology?

MSC: Analyzing