

CHAPTER 2: Culture and Society

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. According to your textbook, the sociological study of culture began with which theorist?
- a. Margaret Mead
 - b. Karl Marx
 - c. Émile Durkheim
 - d. Max Weber

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

2. Johann is from the United Kingdom. In his cross-cultural studies, he sees that women in Afghanistan are often forced to wear head scarves, but women in the United Kingdom are not. He concludes, then, that women in Afghanistan would be freer if their culture were more like that of the United Kingdom. How might sociologists likely critique Johann's position?
- a. Johann has not yet made an argument for how the United Kingdom might free the women of Afghanistan.
 - b. Johann first needs to look at class relations in the two countries, because gender is always an effect of class.
 - c. Johann cannot make meaningful comparisons without at least four more sample countries.
 - d. Johann would be better served as a social scientist if he avoided those kinds of value judgments.

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Understanding

3. Bella will be moving to the United States to study characteristics of contemporary white American culture. Why might sociologists say Bella must be careful in her study?
- a. Culture is a fuzzy concept and, thus, unworthy of study.
 - b. Only Americans should study American culture.
 - c. There is no single monolithic white American culture.
 - d. Anthropologists are typically the ones who study culture.

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Understanding

4. _____ refer(s) to abstract ideals in a given society.
- a. Norms
 - b. Material goods
 - c. Values
 - d. Folkways

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

5. James wants to investigate why many modern societies tend to strongly encourage monogamous relationships among their members. James will be studying:
- a. values
 - b. norms
 - c. material goods
 - d. mores

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Applying

6. _____ are widely agreed-upon principles or rules people are expected to observe; they represent the dos and don'ts of social life.
- a. Norms
 - b. Material goods
 - c. Values
 - d. Sanctions

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

7. Candace is doing a comparative study in her thesis work to compare different societies' expectations of how husbands should treat their in-laws. Candace will be analyzing:
- a. values
 - b. norms
 - c. material goods
 - d. instinct

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Applying

8. Pablo studies clothing choices in subcultural groups. He is investigating:
- a. values
 - b. norms
 - c. material culture
 - d. instinct

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Applying

9. _____ refer(s) to the physical objects that individuals in society create. These objects, in turn, influence how we live.
- a. Norms
 - b. Material goods
 - c. Values
 - d. Sociobiology

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Remembering

10. Carolina studies mainstream American culture. One of her colleagues notices that she consistently ignores material objects, such as food, clothing, and art. Why might her studies be criticized?
- a. These objects are a crucial part of culture that influences how we live our lives.

- b. Studying American culture is useless because it has spread all over the globe.
- c. Culture is a secondary effect of social structures, so Carolina would do better to begin her studies with capitalism and the state.
- d. Of the three things Carolina ignores, only art matters in the context of studying culture.

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Difficult REF: What Is Culture?
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Understanding

11. Mihir notes in his work on altruism that some behaviors seem innate to humans rather than learned and uses that to criticize the idea that humans are naturally selfish. Mihir is taking note of:
- a. values
 - b. norms
 - c. material goods
 - d. instinct

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy REF: What Is Culture?
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Applying

12. Why might sociologists criticize a study of American culture?
- a. Americans do not produce their own culture; they only copy others.
 - b. Culture originated with the high art associated with western Europe, not the United States.
 - c. There is no single American culture but rather a contested terrain of mainstream culture and hundreds, if not thousands, of subcultures.
 - d. Americans are notoriously uncultured people.

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Understanding

13. The textbook defines a(n) _____ as a system of interrelationships that connects individuals together.
- a. commodity
 - b. workplace
 - c. ecosystem
 - d. society

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Remembering

14. Alice stole a bit of money from her friend Rosa to buy groceries. Rosa finds out and angrily chastises Alice for her behavior. What does this exchange demonstrate?
- a. labeling theory
 - b. socialism
 - c. reinforcement of norms
 - d. a deviant career

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
 OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
 MSC: Understanding

15. Kendrick studies which human behaviors might be innate and which might be learned through social processes. His studies contribute most to which sociological debate?
- a. macro vs. micro
 - b. economics vs. culture
 - c. structures of accumulation vs. institutional roles
 - d. nature vs. nurture

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Begin to understand how both biological and cultural factors influence our behavior.

MSC: Applying

16. _____ refers to the application of biological principles to explain the social activities of animals, including human beings.
- a. Biological determinism
 - b. Sociobiology
 - c. Social constructionism
 - d. Social Darwinism

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

17. Mario is researching how genetic factors influence human behaviors. His research would best be described as:
- a. social constructionism
 - b. sociobiology
 - c. conflict theory
 - d. structural functionalism

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

18. Simone de Beauvoir once famously asserted that “one is not born a woman, but becomes one” to suggest that women are created by cultural forces. How might sociobiologists respond to this?
- a. De Beauvoir does not account for the role of industrialization in creating the category of woman.
 - b. De Beauvoir misses that what constitutes a woman is biological as well as cultural.
 - c. De Beauvoir fails to show how the category of woman is purely an effect of economics.
 - d. De Beauvoir is correct because our biology determines our culture.

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Difficult

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

19. Mandy is studying differences in promiscuity between men and women. She is critiquing the notion that men are genetically wired to want more sexual partners than women, based on anthropological research that shows a wide variety of sexual practices in different human societies, both contemporarily and historically. Mandy is studying what sociobiologists have called:
- a. reproductive strategies
 - b. human nature
 - c. human antinomies
 - d. social contract theory

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

20. The term _____ does not refer only to people from different cultural backgrounds or to those who speak different languages within a larger society. It can also refer to any segment of the population that is distinguishable from the rest of society by its cultural patterns.
- a. subculture
 - b. race
 - c. ethnicity
 - d. polity

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

21. Yang is researching how many groups that live in Spain seem to have their own sets of norms and values that are at times different from mainstream Spanish norms and values. Which sociological concept best describes what he is studying?
- a. subcultures
 - b. ritual ascendance
 - c. postmodernism
 - d. essentialism

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

22. _____ is the process by which different cultures are absorbed into a single mainstream culture.
- a. Multiculturalism
 - b. Ethnocentrism
 - c. Apoliticism
 - d. Assimilation

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

23. Maria wants to look at how immigrant communities in the United States come to acquire the dominant culture into which they have moved. She is studying the process of:
- a. multiculturalism
 - b. assimilation
 - c. cultural resistance
 - d. nationalism

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

24. Danny looks at U.S. culture differently than Maria does. In turn, he studies how different immigrant communities in the United States maintain more or less separate cultures but might still manage to participate equally in economic and political life. He is studying:
- a. multiculturalism
 - b. assimilation
 - c. cultural resistance
 - d. nationalism

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

25. Adherents to _____ acknowledge not only that most people in a society share certain central cultural values but also that certain important differences deserve to be preserved.
- a. multiculturalism
 - b. ethnocentrism
 - c. apoliticism
 - d. assimilation

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

26. _____ might be defined as judging other cultures in terms of the standards of one's own.
- a. Multiculturalism
 - b. Ethnocentrism
 - c. Cultural relativism
 - d. Assimilation

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

27. Shannon notes that women in some cultures voluntarily alter their bodies with sometimes painful piercings that look weird from the point of view of her culture. She takes from this that women in those cultures must be horribly oppressed compared with women in her own culture. Shannon's position might be best interpreted as:
- a. social psychological
 - b. ethnocentrism
 - c. cultural relativism
 - d. historical materialism

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

28. Why do sociologists try to avoid judging other cultures based on their own cultural values?

- a. Human cultures cannot be reasonably compared, because each of them springs from the natural human condition.
- b. Sociologists do not make value judgments.
- c. First we must examine the institutions that give rise to these cultures.
- d. Human cultures vary so widely that people belonging to one culture frequently find it difficult to understand the ideas or behavior of those from a different culture.

ANS: D

PTS: 1

DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

29. According to the text, the practice of judging a society by its own standards is called:

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

ANS: C

PTS: 1

DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

30. Sapphire studies differences between nations that are largely Islamic and those that are largely Christian. She takes great care in her research to examine the differences she finds neutrally and without value judgments. Sapphire's position might be called:

- a. social psychological
- b. ethnocentrism
- c. cultural relativism
- d. historical materialism

ANS: C

PTS: 1

DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

31. According to the textbook, two cultural universals particularly stand out in human societies. They are _____ and _____.

- a. ways of expressing meaning; material goods
- b. material goods; money
- c. market relations; ways of expressing meaning
- d. market relations; money

ANS: A

PTS: 1

DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

32. Juanita is studying why some behaviors and social relations seem to be a part of every human society. She is researching:

- a. cultural universals
- c. marriage

- b. morality d. material culture

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

33. Michelle claims that all human cultures are different and cannot be compared. How might sociologists critique her claim?
- a. They would not. All cultures are different and cannot be meaningfully compared.
 - b. Sociologists would respond that we cannot talk about human culture because it is not separate from our natural environment.
 - c. They would criticize it because it focuses on something as nebulous as human culture instead of our institutions.
 - d. Sociologists would point out that there are cultural universals that all human cultures seem to share.

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

34. _____ is one of the best examples for demonstrating both the unity and the diversity of human culture, because there are no cultures without it.
- a. Language
 - b. Medicalization
 - c. Psychiatry
 - d. Monogamy

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

35. The textbook asserts that each of the following is a function of language EXCEPT:
- a. Language gives permanence to a culture.
 - b. Language gives identity to a people.
 - c. Language is never used by some groups to dominate others in a collective.
 - d. Language is a representation of reality.

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

36. Karl notes that in all human societies, people use symbols to communicate ideas to one another. Karl is taking note of:
- a. language
 - b. morality
 - c. marriage
 - d. political economy

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

37. The _____ argues that the language we use influences our perceptions of the world.
- a. theorem of symbolic order
 - b. hypothesis of communication
 - c. linguistic relativity hypothesis
 - d. structuration theory

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

38. Alan notes that some groups who have many different words for *snow* tend to perceive snow differently than groups who use English. Alan is noting _____ at work.
- a. the linguistic relativity hypothesis
 - b. the material representation of culture
 - c. structural determination
 - d. resource mobilization

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

39. Ana is studying the ways different societies socially sanction and formally approve of certain sexual relationships. She is researching:
- a. language
 - b. morality
 - c. marriage
 - d. material culture

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

40. According to the textbook, what percentage of human societies uses speech?
- a. 100 percent
 - b. 75 percent
 - c. 50 percent
 - d. 25 percent

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

41. According to the textbook, writing serves all of the following functions EXCEPT:
- a. It can be a means of storing information.
 - b. It can serve the administrative needs of society.
 - c. It can be used to pass information on to other species.
 - d. It can allow societies to locate themselves in a particular time and space.

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Understanding

42. A _____ is used to describe any vehicle of meaning—any set of elements used to communicate, including all types of communication.

a. language c. gesture
b. signifier d. word

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Remembering

43. Danny studies winks, waves, language, smiles, frowns, laughs, and any other kind of symbolic communication. What is he is researching?

a. material culture c. tools
b. signifiers d. cultural relativism

ANS: B PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?

OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Applying

44. Hector is doing research on a tribe called the Malagasians. This group organizes itself in highly participatory ways, moves around frequently, and affords older people respect within the group. This group could be described as:

a. pastoral c. industrial
b. agrarian d. hunter–gatherer

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: What Happened to Premodern Societies?

OBJ: Learn how societies have changed over time. MSC: Applying

45. According to the text, compared with larger societies—particularly modern societies, such as the United States—most hunting and gathering groups were:

a. egalitarian c. nasty
b. brutish d. authoritarian

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate

REF: What Happened to Premodern Societies?

OBJ: Learn how societies have changed over time. MSC: Remembering

46. Societies whose subsistence derives from the rearing of domesticated animals are called _____ societies.

a. agrarian c. postmodern

- b. civilization d. industrialization

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Recognize the factors that transformed premodern societies, particularly how industrialization and colonialism influenced global development. MSC: Remembering

52. Frank notices that at some point in relatively recent times, humans in some places began using machines powered by non-human means, such as steam and coal. Frank is noting what process?
- democratization
 - civilization
 - industrialization
 - state formation

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Recognize the factors that transformed premodern societies, particularly how industrialization and colonialism influenced global development. **MSC:** Applying

53. Chen studies the process through which Brazil is shifting from workers mostly working in fields and living in rural villages to people living in cities and working in factories, offices, and the like. He is noting how Brazil is becoming a(n) _____ society.
- a. pastoral c. industrial
b. agrarian d. postmodern

ANS: C PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Recognize the factors that transformed premodern societies, particularly how industrialization and colonialism influenced global development. **MSC:** Applying

54. The process whereby Western nations established their rule in parts of the world away from their home territories is called:
- a. assimilation
 - b. cultural appropriation
 - c. Manifest Destiny
 - d. colonialism

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Recognize the factors that transformed premodern societies, particularly how industrialization and colonialism influenced global development. Know the differences among industrialized societies, newly industrializing economies, and developing societies, and how these differences developed.

MSC: Remembering

55. Sweta studies how Britain came to control large parts of India before the Indian independence movement. It could be said that she is studying:
- a. liberation theology
 - b. nationalization
 - c. primitivism
 - d. colonialism

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Recognize the factors that transformed premodern societies, particularly how industrialization and colonialism influenced global development. **MSC:** Applying

56. Sociologists often refer to less developed societies, in which industrial production is either virtually nonexistent or developed only to a limited degree, as:
- a. the developing world
 - b. core nations
 - c. emerging societies
 - d. nontraditionalist societies

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Know the differences among industrialized societies, newly industrializing economies, and developing societies, and how these differences developed. MSC: Remembering

57. Jia Yin notes that in many countries, industrial development is, more or less, nonexistent. She is taking note of the:
- a. urban core
 - b. emerging of society
 - c. industrializing of countries
 - d. developing world

ANS: D PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Know the differences among industrialized societies, newly industrializing economies, and developing societies, and how these differences developed. MSC: Applying

58. Although the majority of developing countries lag well behind societies of the West, some have now successfully embarked on a process of industrialization. These are sometimes referred to as:
- a. emerging economies
 - b. McDonaldizing societies
 - c. emergent cities
 - d. sustainable developments

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Know the differences among industrialized societies, newly industrializing economies, and developing societies, and how these differences developed. MSC: Remembering

59. Deric studies Singapore and the process through which it has begun developing a strong industrial base. It might be said that he is studying:
- a. emerging economies
 - b. the sequestration of human experience
 - c. micro-finance
 - d. core countries

ANS: A PTS: 1 DIF: Easy

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Know the differences among industrialized societies, newly industrializing economies, and developing societies, and how these differences developed. MSC: Applying

60. Why might sociologists criticize the idea that the world is contemporarily made up of many isolated cultures?
- a. The idea assumes that we can provide a reasonably coherent definition of *culture*.
 - b. Sociologists might note the rise of the Internet and globalization as features of different cultures being connected.
 - c. Sociologists would likely criticize the idea because of its underlying multiculturalism.

- d. The idea suggests that human communities actually have different cultures, when we have empirically shown that culture is the same everywhere.

ANS: B

PTS: 1

DIF: Moderate

REF: How Does Globalization Affect Contemporary Culture?

OBJ: Recognize the effect of globalization on your life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Understanding

61. Juliana notes in her research that new means of communicating seem to be creating the possibilities for a new global culture and have even been helpful in organizing protests and social movement actions in places such as Tunisia, Egypt, and Kuwait. It is likely that Juliana will be studying _____ as part of this research project.

a. regular mail

c. the Internet

b. the telephone

d. sit-ins

ANS: C

PTS: 1

DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Globalization Affect Contemporary Culture?

OBJ: Recognize the effect of globalization on your life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Applying

62. _____ is a sense of identification with one's people that is expressed through a common set of strongly held beliefs. Sometimes these include the belief that the people of a particular nation have historical or God-given rights that supersede those of other people.

a. Neoliberalism

c. Ethnic enclaving

b. Nationalism

d. Disidentification

ANS: B

PTS: 1

DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Globalization Affect Contemporary Culture?

OBJ: Recognize the effect of globalization on your life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Remembering

63. Shannon studies the fact that globalization seems to spread largely Western values, but some communities stress belonging to a given national community even more—at times, seemingly, as a response to the rise of globalizing processes. Shannon is studying:

a. nationalism

c. anti-globalization

b. the balance of class forces

d. state globalization projects

ANS: A

PTS: 1

DIF: Easy

REF: How Does Globalization Affect Contemporary Culture?

OBJ: Recognize the effect of globalization on your life and the lives of people around the world.

MSC: Applying

ESSAY

1. What is culture?

ANS:

The textbook gives a few tools for dealing with this question. Students might write about the guiding norms and values of a given society. They might write about material culture in the form of art, clothing, food, and the like. They might refer to culture as a sort of tool kit or design for living that can be juxtaposed to instinct. The best responses will combine all these functions and highlight that culture gives us symbolic representations to communicate, to guide us in our lives, and to express both similarities (with other people and groups) and differences in terms of *how* we live our lives and how we think about ourselves and our relationships with each other and the world around us.

PTS: 1 DIF: Difficult REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Creating

2. Describe the difference between values and norms. What are some examples of each?

ANS:

The textbook answers this directly. Students should highlight that values are abstract ideals that are widely held by people in a given social grouping. Norms, on the other hand, are the agreed-upon dos and don'ts in such groupings. Examples of values, then, might include such abstract principles as monogamy, industriousness, a strong work ethic, an aversion to violence, and so on. Norms would focus on specific behaviors. For example, people should not cheat on their spouses, lie on their tax returns, punch someone for no reason, and so on. It should be noted that, depending on the cultural context, these values and norms might be reversed.

PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Creating

3. The book asserts that material goods can carry with them powerful cultural and social meanings. What are some ways that clothing expresses social values and culture?

ANS:

Students could go in many directions with this question. Students might write about the social significance of the *niqab* (the veil worn by many Muslim women that covers face and hair, leaving only the eyes showing) in various contexts, as the book does. Some might consider the *niqab* a sign of women's position in certain social groups. Others might view it as a sign of nationalism or anti-imperialism, particularly in the French context where it has been outlawed. But clothes communicate a wide swath of values. We perform our gender through our clothing. Subcultural identity can be communicated with clothes. Some clothes carry with them explicit political messages (shirts with the American flag, for example, or with slogans) whereas others might show loyalty to various brands—both in terms of companies and in terms of ideology and belief. The best responses will be creative and likely combine any number of these things.

PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?
OBJ: Know what culture consists of, and recognize how it differs from society.
MSC: Creating

4. How does instinct differ from culture, and why is the distinction important to sociologists?

ANS:

Instinct is genetic and is a fixed pattern that all normal members of a given species exhibit. Culture, however, is learned and typically differs widely between human communities. The distinction is important to sociologists for two main reasons: (1) Studying what might be instinct gives sociologists—particularly those interested in sociobiology—an idea of what might be human nature. (2) The distinction is important because sociologists use it to construct debates referred to as nature vs. nurture in attempts at mapping the social from the biological.

PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Is Culture?

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

MSC: Evaluating

5. What are societies, and what role does culture play within them?

ANS:

The text defines a *society* as a group of people who live in a particular territory, are subject to a common system of political authority, and are aware of having a distinct identity from other groups. Students might note a few functions that culture serves in societies. Culture gives us the building blocks to create group identities that bind societies together and to set the parameters of who belongs and who does not. Culture also gives people within societies ways to differentiate themselves from each other, often through subcultures. Culture guides the process of norm creation and enforcement and gives members a tool kit for understanding themselves, their place in the world, and their relationships with others. The best of essays will note all of these functions.

PTS: 1 DIF: Difficult REF: What Is Culture?

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

MSC: Analyzing

6. What is the nature vs. nurture debate, and why are sociologists concerned with it?

ANS:

Students should point out that this debate is centered on which characteristics of humans are biological and which are social. Students might also point out that there are large areas of study within sociology, such as sociobiology, that look at the ways nature and nurture—the biological and the social—interact to affect human characteristics. Students might suggest that sociologists are concerned with this because it is part of what *defines* the province of sociology against biology and genetics. Similarly, an innate human nature might limit the kinds of social organization that humans are capable of and the kinds of worlds that we can construct. Finally, students might point out that sociologists are concerned with it because, as sociologists, we are concerned with the drivers behind human behaviors and parsing the differences between instinct and culture gives us a better idea about what those drivers are and in what contexts they matter.

PTS: 1 DIF: Difficult REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?
OBJ: Begin to understand how both biological and cultural factors influence our behavior.
MSC: Evaluating

7. What are subcultures, and why are they important for sociological studies?

ANS:

Students might mention that smaller societies tend to be culturally uniform whereas larger societies, particularly industrial societies, are composites of many cultures. Subcultures, then, are those composites that are different from what a given society's mainstream culture is. Sociologists believe that subcultures are important for study because they are a constituent part of our larger societies. Further, studies of subcultures can show us where social antagonisms might arise (the textbook mentions, for example, colonization and immigration). Similarly, studies of subcultures allow us to investigate processes such as assimilation or resistance strategies that some subcultures might deploy.

PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?
OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Evaluating

8. What is multiculturalism, and why does it matter?

ANS:

The text defines *multiculturalism* as the viewpoint according to which ethnic groups can exist separately and share equally in economic and political life. The textbook does not offer a lot on why it is important, but students might go in either sociological or ethical directions with their responses. Sociologically, multiculturalism is often used as a way of intervening in research that is ethnocentric or as a tool for self-reflection to make sure one does not allow ethnocentric views to cloud one's analysis. Ethically, students might focus on how multiculturalism is necessary in a globalized world, with many different cultures living side by side, to honor differences and create a just social order.

PTS: 1 DIF: Difficult REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?
OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Evaluating

9. What is cultural relativism, and what are some possible benefits and pitfalls of it?

ANS:

The book defines *cultural relativism* as judging a culture's practices by its own standards. Student responses to benefits and pitfalls will likely center on two main themes. First, the main benefit of cultural relativism is the ability to avoid bias in analysis—particularly bias that comes from a person in a position of privilege. The book uses the example of clitoridectomies to show how cultural frames of genital mutilation are used to analyze and talk about the practice and often refer to it as barbaric, backward, and the like. This example also shows a possible pitfall to cultural relativism—that is, critics of cultural relativism often argue that it can hide practices that are harmful and are, perhaps, better made visible by outsiders. Students may use similar examples, but the larger frame stands as a tension between avoiding bias and having clear standards for human behavior.

PTS: 1 DIF: Difficult REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?
OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Creating

10. What are some cultural universals, and what can they tell us about human societies?

ANS:

Student responses should highlight cultural features of all human societies. The book lists many of them, including language, marriage, religious rituals, and property rights. Responses about what they tell us about human societies will likely differ depending on the answers given, but students should note that because these are *cultural universals*, they show some of the things that define us as human beings.

PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: How Does Human Culture Develop?
OBJ: Learn the ideas of sociobiology and how others have tried to refute these ideas by emphasizing cultural differences. MSC: Creating

11. Compare hunting and gathering societies to civilizations. In your answer, discuss power and wealth differences.

ANS:

Students should note that there was little difference in power and wealth in hunting and gathering societies compared with civilizations. Hunting and gathering societies were usually participatory rather than competitive. Also, there was little difference among members of the society in the number or kinds of material possessions; there were no divisions of rich and poor. Furthermore, hunters and gatherers had little interest in developing material wealth beyond what was necessary for their basic needs. In civilizations, there were pronounced inequalities of wealth and power, and kings or emperors ruled.

PTS: 1 DIF: Moderate REF: What Happened to Premodern Societies?
OBJ: Learn how societies have changed over time. MSC: Analyzing

12. Are developing countries merely societies that have lagged behind the more industrialized areas? In your answer, talk about colonialism and the impact of the globalized economy on developing nations.

ANS:

Students should mention the role of colonialism in shaping the relationship between the former colonial powers and the colonized. Developing countries are not merely societies that have lagged behind the more industrialized areas. They have been created largely by contact with Western industrialism, which has undermined the earlier, more traditional systems that were in place.

PTS: 1

DIF: Difficult

REF: How Has Industrialization Shaped Modern Society?

OBJ: Recognize the factors that transformed premodern societies, particularly how industrialization and colonialism influenced global development.

MSC: Analyzing

13. How has globalization transformed our world? Has it resulted in the homogenization of the world's diverse cultures, the flourishing of many individual cultures, or both? Give examples, making sure to cite examples from the textbook and our discussions in class.

ANS:

Students should mention the role of technology in both homogenizing the world and supporting individual cultures. With respect to supporting local cultures, the Internet enables them to communicate with others who share their cultural identity, even when they are dispersed around the world. For example, those who share a passion for a particular type of music might spend hours playing *SongPop* on their smartphone with competitors (whom they've never met in person) from around the globe. With respect to supporting homogenization, students might mention the dominance of the English language and Western values on the Internet. Any well-reasoned argument for either position is acceptable.

PTS: 1

DIF: Difficult

REF: How Does Globalization Affect Contemporary Culture?

OBJ: Think about the effect of a growing global culture.

MSC: Analyzing