

Chapter 1: OPENING THE CONVERSATION - Studying Intercultural Communication

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is true about globalization?

- a. Globalization has hindered interaction and interconnection between people from diverse cultures.
- b. Globalization has created greater equality and access to resources for all.
- c. Globalization has slowed down due to advances in communication and transportation technologies.
- d. Globalization is deeply rooted in European colonization and Western imperialism.

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 1-1: Identify the opportunities and challenges of intercultural communication in the context of globalization

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Opening the Conversation

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Which of the following is true about the field of cultural studies?

- a. It is a multidisciplinary field of study.
- b. It aims to develop objective approaches to the study of culture in everyday life.
- c. It examines the broader historical and political context within which cultural practices are situated.
- d. It does not aim to critique social inequalities, but instead just describes them.

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Cultural Studies Definition: Culture as a Site of Contested Meaning

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. When studying culture using an anthropological definition of culture, you would explore:

- a. how a group of people use symbols to create a shared meaning.
- b. how power is passed down from generation to generation.
- c. how meanings assigned to a symbol are negotiated and contested.
- d. how culture is used as a resource for economic development and social change.

Ans: A

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Anthropologic Definition: Culture as a Site of Shared Meaning

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. The cultural studies definition of culture assumes that
- a. culture is a shared system of meaning.
 - b. culture is shared by everyone.
 - c. culture is an apparatus of power and system of domination.
 - d. culture is a means for achieving social, economic, and cultural goals.

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Cultural Studies Definition: Culture as a Site of Contested Meaning

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Which of the following is true of hegemony?
- a. It is defined as domination through consent by Antonio Gramsci.
 - b. It is dominance with the explicit use of force and forms of coercion.
 - c. It operates when the goals, ideas, and interests of the middle class are normalized and institutionalized.
 - d. It ensures power is shared equally by all members of society.

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Cultural Studies Definition: Culture as a Site of Contested Meaning

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Myra is interested in understanding how people associate various and sometimes opposing meanings to the American flag, from the symbol of patriotism, proud national history, to the critique of U.S. hegemony around the world. Which approach to culture would Myra find most useful?
- a. Anthropologic approach
 - b. Cultural Studies approach
 - c. Globalization approach
 - d. Semiotic approach

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Cultural Studies Definition: Culture as a Site of Contested Meaning

Difficulty Level: Hard

7. Abed is interested in understanding how people who practice Hinduism construct a shared worldview through the use of symbols, images, and scriptures. Which approach to culture would he find most useful?
- a. Anthropologic approach
 - b. Cultural studies approach

- c. Globalization approach
- d. Semiotic approach

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Anthropologic Definition: Culture as a Site of Shared Meaning

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. Which area defines culture as a resource?

- a. cultural studies.
- b. globalization.
- c. anthropological definition of culture.
- d. intercultural definition of culture.

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Globalization Definition: Culture as a Resource

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Despite the fact the United States is described as a “melting pot,” the definition of American culture and who is considered an “American” are constantly disputed and negotiated. This is an example of culture as _____.

- a. a site of shared meaning.
- b. a site of contested meaning.
- c. a resource.
- d. globalization.

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Cultural Studies Definition: Culture as a Site of Contested Meaning

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Which of the following is TRUE about cultural identity?

- a. People from the dominant culture are very clear about their identity.
- b. Our cultural identity is shaped by our cultural experiences and social locations.
- c. People from nondominant groups are typically less aware of their identity.
- d. Cultural identity is always subjective and individual based.

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Studying Intercultural Communication

Difficulty Level: Medium

11. In European societies, literature, opera, and ballet were considered _____ culture.

- a. high
- b. low
- c. real
- d. false

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Definitions of Culture

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. _____ refers to one's social location within an intersecting web of socially constructed hierarchical categories, such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, and physical abilities,

- a. Culture
- b. Stance
- c. Positionality
- d. Rationality

Ans: C

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Positionality

Difficulty Level: Easy

13. When Kim tries to understand her _____, she pays attention to what advantages and disadvantages she has in relation to others as a woman of European descent, who comes from working class background, is educated, and is an American citizen.

- a. individuality
- b. positionality
- c. collectivity
- d. identity

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Positionality

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. Which of the following is true of ethnocentrism?

- a. Ethnocentrism is natural and useful for protection of culture in the global context.
- b. Ethnocentrism is the belief that all groups ways of thinking are equal.

- c. Ethnocentric views held by people/groups in positions of power have combined to justify dehumanizing practices historically.
- d. Ethnocentrism is useful and necessary to create group cohesion and loyalty.

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethnocentrism

Difficulty Level: Medium

15. Positionality refers to:

- a. one's social location within an intersecting web of socially constructed hierarchical categories.
- b. one's specific geographic location in terms of latitude and longitude.
- c. one's sense of belonging and security within a matrix of social groups.
- d. one's orientation to context within socially constructed systems.

Ans: a

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Positionality

Difficulty Level: Easy

16. Which of the following is true of Standpoint Theory?

- a. refers to the gap between female and male culture.
- b. proposes that individuals of different genders, races, ages, ethnic groups, languages, and cultural groups cannot get along.
- c. claims that the social groups to which we belong shape what we know and how we view the world.
- d. demonstrates how ethnocentric view is sometimes useful and necessary.

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Standpoint Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

17. Standpoint theory is beneficial for intercultural communication because it helps us _____.

- a. see that we all, regardless of culture, experience and understand the world similarly.
- b. see that we experience and understand the world quite differently based on our different standpoints and positionalities.
- c. understand that knowledge is universal.
- d. see that knowledge exists independent from issues of power.

Ans: b

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Standpoint Theory

Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Laura is a Black American woman. Because of her experiences of both racism and sexism in the United States, she is likely able to see and understand issues of race and gender from her own perspective and the perspective of those in power. This is an example of _____.

- a. viewpoint theory.
- b. perspective theory.
- c. standpoint theory.
- d. bilocation theory.

Ans: c

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Standpoint Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. Brandon believes that American culture is superior to other cultures. This is a form of _____.

- a. cultural universalism.
- b. sexism.
- c. cultural relativism.
- d. ethnocentrism.

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Ethnocentrism

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. The purpose of engaging in intercultural praxis is _____.

- a. to sustain cultural dominance.
- b. to maintain and protect our existing worldview.
- c. to criticize and evaluate cultures different from our own.
- d. to develop our socially responsible action in regard to our intercultural interactions in the context of globalization.

Ans: d

Learning Objective: 1-4: Describe the goals and six points of entry into intercultural praxis.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Intercultural Praxis in the Context of Globalization

Difficulty Level: Easy

True/False

1. Globalization is characterized by the interconnectedness of people's lives through communication technology, global capitalism, and international political institutions.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-1: Identify the opportunities and challenges of intercultural communication in the context of globalization.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Opening the Conversation

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Culture from an anthropological perspective, is a system of shared meanings that are passed from generation to generation through symbols that direct human beings' approach to life.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Anthropologic Definition: Culture as a Site of Shared Meaning

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Culture in the age of globalization has come to be understood as an experience.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Globalization Definition: Culture as a Resource

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Hegemony can be thought of as domination through consent.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Cultural Studies Definition: Culture as a Site of Contested Meaning

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Inquiry refers to a desire and willingness to know, to ask, to find out, and to learn.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-4: Describe the goals and six points of entry into intercultural praxis.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Inquiry
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Framing, as a point of entry into intercultural praxis invites us to consider how our geographic positioning is related to social and political positions

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-4: Describe the goals and six points of entry into intercultural praxis.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Positioning

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Melissa believes that American culture is superior to other cultures because of the values placed on freedom and individuality. This is a form of ethnocentrism.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Ethnocentrism

Difficulty Level: Hard

8. To engage in “praxis” means that you take action based on your careful reflection, and also you critically reflect after taking action.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-4: Describe the goals and six points of entry into intercultural praxis.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Intercultural Praxis in the Context of Globalization

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Globalization is positive because the gap between the wealthy and the poor is decreasing within countries and around the world.

Ans: F

Learning Objective: 1-1: Identify the opportunities and challenges of intercultural communication in the context of globalization.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Opening the Conversation

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Sia is an Asian American woman. Because of her experience of both racism and sexism in the United States, she is able to see things differently and understand the issues of race and gender more clearly. This is an example of standpoint theory.

Ans: T

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Standpoint Theory
Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. Identify the six points of entry into intercultural praxis and explain how you can use them for more effective intercultural interactions and relationships.

Ans: Answers will vary, but should include a discussion of the six interrelated points of entry into the process: (1) inquiry, (2) framing, (3) positioning, (4) dialogue, (5) reflection, and (6) action.

Learning Objective: 1-4: Describe the goals and six points of entry into intercultural praxis.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Intercultural Praxis in the Context of Globalization

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Briefly explain anthropologic, cultural studies, and globalization definitions of culture. For each definition, provide an example.

Ans: Answers will vary, but needs a definition and example of each. Sample definitions follow. Culture from an anthropological perspective is a system of shared meanings that are passed from generation to generation through symbols that allow human beings to communicate, maintain, and develop an approach and understanding of life. Cultural studies perspectives, informed by Marxist theories of class struggle and exploitation, view culture as a site of contestation where meanings are constantly negotiated. Culture in the age of globalization has come to be understood as a resource.

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Definitions of Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Explain hegemony, discuss how it functions as a form of power, and provide an example.

Ans: Answers will vary, but should include the following ideas: Hegemony is dominance without the need for force or explicit forms of coercion. In other words, hegemony operates when the goals, ideas, and interests of the ruling group or class are so thoroughly normalized, institutionalized, and accepted that people consent to their own domination, subordination, and exploitation.

Learning Objective: 1-2: Describe three definitions of culture that influence intercultural communication in the global context.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Definitions of Culture

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Briefly explain ethnocentrism, and discuss why it is important to consider when studying intercultural communication.

Ans: Answers will vary, but should include the following definition as well as a discussion of why it should be considered. Ethnocentrism is the idea that one's own group's way of thinking, being, and acting in the world is superior to others.

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethnocentrism

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. Briefly define positionality and discuss how your positionality shapes how you communicate in culturally diverse contexts.

Ans: Answer should include how positionality is one's social location or position within an intersecting web of socially constructed hierarchical categories, such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, and physical abilities, among others.

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Positionality

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Briefly explain standpoint theory and discuss why this concept is important for intercultural communication.

Ans: Answers will vary, but may include a discussion of the following: A standpoint is a place from which to view and make sense of the world around us. Our standpoint influences what we see and what we cannot, do not, or choose not to see.

Learning Objective: 1-3: Explain how our social location and standpoint shape how we see, experience, and understand the world differently.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Standpoint Theory

Difficulty Level: Medium