

Chapter 2: Doing Cultural Anthropology

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. In place of the artificially controlled laboratory, anthropologists rely primarily on _____.

- a. ethnography and collaborative research
- b. cross-cultural comparison and life histories
- c. ethnology and mapping
- d. ethnography and cross-cultural comparison

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and appraise its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Doing Cultural Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Easy

Chapter 2: Doing Cultural Anthropology

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

2. Early anthropologists who relied on travelers and missionaries for their fieldwork data were called _____.

- a. armchair anthropologists
- b. novices
- c. native anthropologists
- d. secondhand anthropologists

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.1: Describe the 19th-century origins of anthropology and the research style of anthropologists of that era.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Anthropology in Historical Perspective

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. Lewis Henry Morgan and Edward Tylor were influenced deeply by the evolutionary theories of _____.

- a. Franz Boas
- b. Charles Darwin
- c. Bronislaw Malinowski
- d. Margaret Mead

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.1: Describe the 19th-century origins of anthropology and the research style of anthropologists of that era.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropology in Historical Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

4. Which of the following statements best describes Lewis Henry Morgan's and Edward Tylor's evolutionary theory?
- a. It is the study of how humans have changed from simple to complex communication and transportation systems.
 - b. It is the study of how societies have harnessed more energy for production over time.
 - c. It is the study of how the human body has changed physically from earlier to later forms, sometimes even changing species.
 - d. It is the study of the history of human society from simple technology and social institutions to complex ones.
 - e. It is the study of how native people classify their natural world.

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.1: Describe the 19th-century origins of anthropology and the research style of anthropologists of that era.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Anthropology in Historical Perspective
Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Lewis Henry Morgan and Edward Tylor classified small-scale societies as _____.
a. savage
b. barbarian
c. primitive
d. childlike

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.1: Describe the 19th-century origins of anthropology and the research style of anthropologists of that era.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropology in Historical Perspective
Difficulty Level: Medium

6. Which statement is true about Franz Boas?
- a. His theories were influenced by Darwin's concept of evolution.
 - b. He was the first professor of anthropology at Harvard University.
 - c. He was a champion of human rights.
 - d. He did his fieldwork in the Trobriand Islands.

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.2: Tell who Franz Boas and Bronislaw Malinowski were and their importance to the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Franz Boas and American Anthropology
Difficulty Level: Medium

7. Applying one's own cultural standards of value, worth, and morality to another culture is called _____.

- a. ethnocentrism
- b. participant observation
- c. cultural relativism
- d. ethnography

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Franz Boas and American Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Boas insisted that anthropologists must value a culture on its own terms. This idea is called _____.

- a. logical positivism
- b. postmodernism
- c. phenomenology
- d. cultural relativism

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.2: Tell who Franz Boas and Bronislaw Malinowski were and their importance to the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Franz Boas and American Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Which of the following has been a hallmark of American anthropology?

- a. ethnocentrism
- b. ethnology
- c. participant observation
- d. multiculturalism

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. How is Malinowski's approach to the study of cultures different from Boas's?

- a. Malinowski was an evolutionist and Boas was a critic of evolutionism.
- b. Their approaches are similar, except that Franz Boas did not actually carry out fieldwork.
- c. Boas focused on the study of child-rearing, while Malinowski focused on the study of history and body measurements.
- d. Malinowski emphasized the notion of function in society, while Boas focused on the study of history and adaptation of culture.

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.2: Tell who Franz Boas and Bronislaw Malinowski were and their importance to the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: From Haddon to Malinowski in England and the Commonwealth

Difficulty Level: Hard

11. Malinowski's and Boas's practices of anthropology were alike in many ways. Which of the following statement best expresses their similarity?

- a. Both were committed to research performed in laboratory settings.
- b. Both saw other cultures/societies as fully rational.
- c. Both valued the study of biology as essential to a deeper understand of societies.
- d. Both were scholars who valued ethnocentric research.

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.2: Tell who Franz Boas and Bronislaw Malinowski were and their importance to the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Anthropology in Historical Perspective

Difficulty Level: Hard

12. The function of an Institutional Review Board (IRB) is to _____.

- a. certify and approve departments of anthropology
- b. suggest disciplinary actions against researchers who violate ethical standards
- c. approve, monitor, and review all university research involving human subjects
- d. review articles submitted to academic journals prior to publication

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. _____ is a fieldwork technique that involves gathering cultural data by observing people's behavior and participating in their lives.

- a. Cross-cultural survey
- b. Participant observation
- c. Laboratory experimentation
- d. Structured interview

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: From Haddon to Malinowski in England and the Commonwealth

Difficulty Level: Easy

14. Dr. Bauer is at a new research site. While she read as much as she could about the population she came to study, she has been unable to competently put on local clothing because it requires unusual knots. She has also struggled with locals' utensils, because it requires a special grip. Despite her best efforts to prepare for immersion in a new culture, Dr. Bauer is most likely experiencing _____.

- a. engagement shock
- b. culture shock
- c. cultural entropy
- d. alienation orientation

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Hard

15. Dr. Kalz has a friend who has granted her special permission and access to do research on her friend's population group. What role does this friend play in anthropological research?

- a. ethnographer
- b. managers
- c. interlocutor
- d. consentist

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.5: Analyze the role of cross-cultural research in anthropology and describe some of the tools used to conduct it.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Hard

16. Which of the following is an example of an etic perspective in research?

- a. studying agricultural techniques by measuring the fertility of the soil in laboratory samples
- b. following herders and writing down their life histories
- c. collecting recipes from informants in order to track culinary traditions
- d. interviewing respondents about their thoughts on the political organization of their community

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.4: Give examples of research conducted from emic and etic perspectives.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Hard

17. What is the primary goal of emic research?

- a. help insiders make more effective changes to their culture over time

- b. help governments better manage minority populations
- c. help outsiders determine which cultures are more effective in particular environments
- d. help outsiders understand what it means to be a member of another culture

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.4: Give examples of research conducted from emic and etic perspectives.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. Anthropological interview techniques are _____.

- a. consistent from field project to field project
- b. not regulated by the IRB
- c. no longer used in contemporary fieldwork
- d. highly varied and are situation specific

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.5: Analyze the role of cross-cultural research in anthropology and describe some of the tools used to conduct it.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. The Human Relations Area Files (HRAF) is _____.

- a. a database that provides cross-cultural data on a limited number of societies
- b. a database on all cultures involved in global warfare
- c. an institution that specializes in anthropological fieldwork
- d. a group of anthropologists that works in more than a single culture

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.5: Analyze the role of cross-cultural research in anthropology and describe some of the tools used to conduct it.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethnographic Data and Cross-Cultural Comparisons

Difficulty Level: Easy

20. The Human Relations Area Files _____.

- a. do not allow for cross-cultural comparison
- b. represent multiple researchers using a single perspective
- c. involve multiple perspectives and indexed data
- d. is no longer active today

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.5: Analyze the role of cross-cultural research in anthropology and describe some of the tools used to conduct it.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethnographic Data and Cross-Cultural Comparisons

Difficulty Level: Medium

21. Why did anthropology pay little attention to women prior to the 1970s?
- a. Anthropologists assumed that women didn't care to be studied.
 - b. Many cultures kept their women away from researchers due to fears of unethical researcher behavior.
 - c. The majority of practicing anthropologists were male and had little access to working with women in other societies.
 - d. Until the 1970s, certain norms in Western countries meant that it was indecent to interview women.

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.6: Summarize the importance of feminism and postmodernism in the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Feminist Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Medium

22. What is the difference between an informal and an unstructured interview?
- a. Informal interviews are performed with as many subjects as possible, while unstructured interviews are performed with a predetermined group of subjects.
 - b. Informal interviews follow a plan, while unstructured interviews are impromptu conversations.
 - c. Unstructured interviews are scheduled, while informal interviews are not.
 - d. Unstructured interviews are often used less than informal interviews.

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Medium

23. _____ urged anthropologists to become more sensitive to issues of power in both society and research.
- a. Collaborative anthropology
 - b. Feminist anthropology
 - c. Postmodernism
 - d. Fundamentalists

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.6: Summarize the importance of feminism and postmodernism in the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Postmodernism

Difficulty Level: Medium

24. Which theoretical approach argues that no knowledge is objective and all knowledge is influenced by the observer's own culture, social position, and gender?
- a. native anthropology
 - b. feminist anthropology

- c. postmodernism
- d. collaborative ethnography

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Postmodernism

Difficulty Level: Easy

25. Anthropologists have become more sensitive to issues of voice and of power and have begun to reflect more critically on their role as observer in another culture primarily as a result of _____.

- a. reflectionist ethnology
- b. postmodernism
- c. feminist anthropology
- d. collaborative ethnography

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.6: Summarize the importance of feminism and postmodernism in the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Postmodernism

Difficulty Level: Medium

26. An anthropologist wants to study the lifestyles of oil rig workers in the Gulf of Mexico, including their lifestyles and problems. With this work, she aims to include the stories of subjects in her final report with the hope that when others read about oil rig workers, they will be empowered to ask for better working conditions. This type of anthropological work is an example of a(n) _____ ethnography.

- a. critical
- b. postmodernist
- c. collaborative and engaged
- d. ethnological

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Hard

27. Vincent Lyon-Callo works with homeless people with the hope that his research will move attention on its causes. His style of anthropology is best described as _____.

- a. symbolic and interpretive
- b. functionalism
- c. psychological
- d. engaged

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Medium

28. Vincent Lyon-Callo's work with homeless people stresses _____.

- a. the structural causes of homelessness
- b. incorrect beliefs about the homeless among members of the middle class
- c. the stories and life histories of homeless people
- d. the techniques the homeless use to survive in urban areas

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Easy

29. Which of the following was primarily known as a native anthropologist?

- a. Zora Neale Hurston
- b. Franz Boas
- c. Bronislaw Malinowski
- d. Vincent Lyon-Callo

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Studying One's Own Society

Difficulty Level: Easy

30. Delmos Jones' study of voluntary organizations among an African American community in the United States showed him that _____.

- a. no one worked consistently for the organizations unless they were paid for their work
- b. voluntary organizations are highly successful when founded by minority leaders
- c. his work as a native anthropologist was at the center of the success the African American community experienced in cultural identity
- d. there was considerable dissent between leadership of the organizations and the members

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.4: Give examples of research conducted from emic and etic perspectives.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Studying One's Own Society

Difficulty Level: Medium

31. _____ seek to better the human condition, by using the knowledge they've gained in studying people.

- a. Feminist anthropologists
- b. Postmodernism
- c. Engaged anthropologists
- d. Collaborative anthropology

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Engaged and Collaborative Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Easy

32. According to the text, the heart of anthropological fieldwork is _____.

- a. armchair anthropology
- b. firsthand accounts
- c. participant observation
- d. research

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Easy

33. What is the name of the organization that maintains a statement of ethical guidelines for anthropologists?

- a. Association for American Anthropologists
- b. American Anthropological Institute
- c. American Anthropological Association
- d. Anthropological Ethics Institute

Ans: C

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethical Considerations in Fieldwork

Difficulty Level: Easy

34. Informed consent involves which of the following?

- a. Anthropologists explain their research to participants but not take feedback from them.
- b. Individuals are left ignorant of the risks and benefits inherent in the research.
- c. Participants sign a witnessed contract with the anthropologist indicating that they approve of the research study.
- d. Researchers explain to participants how the research data is likely to affect them.

Ans: D

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Considerations in Fieldwork

Difficulty Level: Medium

35. For the academic community, a critical problem with secret research is _____.

- a. it may endanger the lives of the anthropologists who pursue it
- b. the scientific community has no way to assess its validity
- c. it is almost always used for illegal or immoral purposes
- d. it is unlikely to provide benefits to either anthropologists or the people they study

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Ethical Considerations in Fieldwork

Difficulty Level: Medium

36. Which of the following is an ethical concern raised by anthropologists who work in military projects such as Human Terrain Systems (HTS)?

- a. inability to obtain informed consent
- b. inability to collect data needed for a conclusion
- c. difficulty of traversing the geography to the research site
- d. inability to pay the informants adequately

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropology and the Military

Difficulty Level: Medium

37. Native anthropology is the study of _____.

- a. indigenous people
- b. one's own society
- c. the intersection between colonialism and native peoples
- d. early anthropological techniques

Ans: B

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Studying One's Own Society

Difficulty Level: Easy

38. Motivated by _____, anthropologists started paying greater attention to women's lives in the societies they studied.

- a. feminist anthropology

- b. postmodernism
- c. collaborative anthropology
- e. engaged anthropology

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.6: Summarize the importance of feminism and postmodernism in the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Feminist Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Easy

39. Despite ethical concerns, ethnographic data can be useful because _____.
- a. it can serve as a reservoir of knowledge for the study population itself
 - b. it can be analyzed with statistical software
 - c. it provides us with quick, superficial information about a group
 - d. it is the most reliable form of research

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: New Roles for the Ethnographer

Difficulty Level: Hard

40. What sort of research do anthropologists conduct on “uncontacted” groups of people today?
- a. None because there are few to no such groups remaining.
 - b. They use satellite observation rather than direct contact as it is less intrusive.
 - c. Uncontacted groups are studied with ethnography.
 - d. They are providing remaining uncontacted groups access to modern technology.

Ans: A

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: New Roles for the Ethnographer

Difficulty Level: Hard

True/False

1. The gathering and interpretation of information based on intensive, firsthand study is called ethnography.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Doing Cultural Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Franz Boas advocated for anthropologists to study cultures and collect data objectively, rather than as storytellers.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.2: Tell who Franz Boas and Bronislaw Malinowski were and their importance to the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Franz Boas and American Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Bronislaw Malinowski spent only a few months on the Trobriand Islands gathering the information he needed to develop his perspective on participant observation.

Ans: F

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.2: Tell who Franz Boas and Bronislaw Malinowski were and their importance to the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: From Haddon to Malinowski in England and the Commonwealth

Difficulty Level: Medium

44. Anthropologists rarely work with groups of more than 50 individuals.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Easy

45. Most anthropological data comes in the form of extensive field notes, audio recordings, and photographs.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.5: Analyze the role of cross-cultural research in anthropology and describe some of the tools used to conduct it.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Easy

46. Cross-cultural comparisons began formally in social science with the publication of Herbert Spencer's *Descriptive Sociology*.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.5: Analyze the role of cross-cultural research in anthropology and describe some of the tools used to conduct it.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethnographic Data and Cross-Cultural Comparisons

Difficulty Level: Easy

47. The HRAF is an attempt to facilitate cross cultural analysis.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.7: Describe collaborative and engaged anthropology and comment on the advantages and problems associated with them.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Ethnographic Data and Cross-Cultural Comparisons

Difficulty Level: Easy

48. Once Franz Boas began teaching women and producing female PhDs, the bias against women in anthropology began to diminish rapidly.

Ans: F

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.6: Summarize the importance of feminism and postmodernism in the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Feminist Anthropology

Difficulty Level: Medium

49. It's not always possible for anthropologists to get informed consent.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Anthropology and the Military

Difficulty Level: Medium

50. Postmodernism has influenced anthropologists today to engage in self-reflection over how their own experiences may influence the way they understand other cultures.

Ans: T

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.6: Summarize the importance of feminism and postmodernism in the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Postmodernism

Difficulty Level: Medium

Essay

1. Culture shock is a phenomenon that can occur to anyone who faces a new environment where the rules and behaviors are different from what they know. What is the role of culture shock in anthropological fieldwork? When does it occur, and why does it happen? Give an example in your own life when you have faced culture shock.

Ans: Culture shock is a feeling of alienation, loneliness, or alienation that comes from being placed in a new culture one is researching. Almost all anthropologists will experience culture shock, and getting past it is a matter of learning the local language, customs, and social organization. Some anthropologists may never feel fully at home in the cultures they are studying, yet it is important that they work to overcome any culture shock they feel in order to gather accurate data about their research subjects.

Students should give at least one example of a time they experienced culture shock in their own lives and explain the sense of alienation they felt at the time. A common answer is entering college, where the norms are very different from high school and many students find themselves unaware of the social organization for a time.

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Anthropological Techniques

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. What is cross-cultural research, and why is this important in our study of humans and culture? What can we learn through cross-cultural comparisons?

Ans: Cross-cultural research is the anthropologist's replacement for a laboratory setting and allows anthropologists to gain insight in to one culture (especially their own) through the lessons of another. Cross-cultural research also drives a search for general laws of human behavior that may then be applied widely across cultures.

Students may give an example to clarify the points above, such as the use of the HRAF (Human Relations Area File) because it is an index of similar cultural categories that may lead researchers to make comparisons between cultures. The example should at least make reference to a cultural practice found in two different cultures.

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.5: Analyze the role of cross-cultural research in anthropology and describe some of the tools used to conduct it.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Ethnographic Data and Cross-Cultural Comparisons

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Anthropology has faced various ethical challenges in its history. Choose one of these challenges and discuss it in detail, noting what the challenges have been, why the challenges occurred, and how they have been handled differently in anthropological research today.

Ans: Generally, anthropologists should respect the rights of the people they are studying. This includes avoiding research that harms their subjects' dignity or bodily and material well-being, practicing informed consent with their subjects (subjects know what the study is about and know they are free to withdraw at any time), and maintain secrecy in certain details of their research when revealing them would harm the subjects. There are a couple of examples students may draw from the text to answer the example part of the question. Anthropologists working with the military, who may misuse indigenous knowledge anthropologists share with them. Applying ethnocentric standards to their subjects. For many years, the prevailing importance of men in the discipline meant that women's experiences were not properly or accurately documented. The answer should also include a response to how the student would address the issue.

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.8: List examples of the ethical dilemmas facing anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Ethical Considerations in Fieldwork

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Define participant observation and discuss why it is important in the anthropological mission.

Ans: Participant observation is the technique of gathering data on human cultures by living among the people, observing their social interaction on an ongoing daily basis, and participating as much as possible in their lives. It is an important research tool for anthropologists because it helps create a deeper understanding of the cultures they are studying, beyond just documenting behaviors and customs. The development of participant observation was historically important in anthropologists coming to see other cultures as rational and logical once their social order could be more deeply understood.

Student may also note that participant observation is limited in that it generally only works with small groups, rather than whole cultures or societies.

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.3: Discuss participant observation and explain its importance in anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: From Haddon to Malinowski in England and the Commonwealth

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. What did the development of a postmodern perspective add to the field of anthropology? Describe postmodernists' critique of the field, and what they think should be done to improve it.

Ans: Postmodernists note that all knowledge is influenced by the observer's culture and social position, which influence how a person will observe and report on a population. Often, anthropologists have not considered the role of history or power in their studies, and that there are many possible, valid representations of a given culture depending on who is studying them. Anthropologists using a postmodern perspective urge others to consider their positioning when observing and reporting, because their background, understandings, and goals, particularly relative to the people they study will affect both their methods and results.

KEY: Learning Objective: 2.6: Summarize the importance of feminism and postmodernism in the development of anthropology.

REF: Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Postmodernism

Difficulty Level: Hard