

Chapter 2 Test Bank
How Anthropology Works: Methods of Inquiry

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Science is:

- a. a way of collecting facts
- b. the methodology used in laboratory research
- c. a method of inquiry
- d. only concerned with concrete things like gravity and chemicals

ans: c

2. In science, a proposed explanation for some natural phenomenon is called a(n):

- a. hypothesis
- b. observation
- c. experiment
- d. theory

ans: a

3. The process that generates hypotheses is:

- a. guessing
- b. induction
- c. experimentation
- d. deduction

ans: b

4. The process of testing hypotheses by looking for specific results that should follow if the hypothesis is supported is called:

- a. induction
- b. deduction
- c. theorizing
- d. prediction

ans: b

5. To refer to something as a theory means that it:

- a. is just a guess
- b. has yet to be proved
- c. has been well supported by scientific testing
- d. is probably not scientific

ans: c

6. A belief is an idea that:

- a. is in conflict with scientific ideas
- b. has yet to be proved
- c. has no real social value
- d. cannot be subjected to scientific inquiry

ans: d

7. Which of the following would NOT be considered a scientific idea?

- a. the earth is round
- b. life on earth has undergone evolution
- c. all men are created equal
- d. the nuclei on atoms are made of protons and neutrons

ans: c

8. Science and belief systems:

- a. are always in conflict with one another
- b. ideally, both contribute to any human society
- c. are separate areas of knowledge with no interaction
- d. have been in conflict but now science is winning

ans: b

9. Anthropology is all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. scientific
- b. based on a belief system
- c. humanistic
- d. holistic

ans: b

10. Past events in evolution or history or phenomena that cannot be seen:

- a. are not open to scientific investigation
- b. can be scientifically investigated only to a limited degree
- c. can best be understood through belief systems
- d. can be investigated by science just like visible, current phenomena

ans: d

Short Answer / Essay Questions

11. Describe the basic steps in the scientific method.

12. Explain the difference between induction and deduction and tell what parts each plays in the scientific method.

13. In what ways may a hypothesis be deductively tested?

14. Why do never say in science that something has been "proved?"

15. What is the meaning of "theory" in science?

16. Explain how science may investigate things that can't be seen, like gravity, or things that happened in the past, like evolution.

17. What role do "preconceptions" play in the process of doing science?

18. What roles do belief systems play in culture systems and for individuals?

19. Explain the difference between knowledge gained through science and knowledge gained through belief systems.

20. How are science and belief systems related within a given cultural system?

21. How do archaeologists apply science to the study of events and cultures of the past?

22. How do cultural anthropologists apply science to their study of such abstract things as human culture and cultural systems?

23. What does it mean to say that anthropology is a humanistic endeavor?
24. Evaluate the claim that science has become a threat to society in the modern world.