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Chapter 2 - Culture

1. What do sociologists call the sum of ideas, practices, and material objects that people create in order to adapt to and thrive in their environments?

- a. culture
- b. abstractions
- c. the norm
- d. methods

ANSWER:

a

2. Jolene loves spending hours with her grandma, listening to her talk about her life experiences and family traditions. From a sociological perspective, what is grandma transmitting to Jolene?

- a. symbols
- b. language
- c. folkways
- d. culture

ANSWER:

d

3. The fact that a Canadian-born English speaker can understand this sentence illustrates the power of what?

- a. education
- b. society
- c. culture
- d. family

ANSWER:

c

4. What term do sociologists use to refer to activities like attending the opera or the ballet?

- a. popular culture
- b. high culture
- c. primary culture
- d. articulated culture

ANSWER:

b

5. What is the sociological definition of symbols?

- a. generally accepted ways of doing things
- b. practices that carries a particular meaning, such as language
- c. general ideas or ways of thinking that are not linked to particular situations
- d. the tools and techniques that enable people to accomplish tasks

ANSWER:

b

6. Which of the following *best* illustrates the human capacity for abstraction?

- a. measuring the area of a circle
- b. building a chair
- c. shaking hands with a friend

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- d. having a baby

ANSWER:

a

7. When humans are able to conceptualize the idea of gravity without having an apple fall on their heads, what are they engaging in?

- a. sociology
- b. culture
- c. abstraction
- d. methods

ANSWER:

c

8. What has the use of symbols allowed humans to do?

- a. classify experience and generalize from it
- b. continue efforts despite numerous setbacks
- c. overcome autonomic dysfunction
- d. control our reflexive responses to stimuli

ANSWER:

a

9. According to sociologists, how is culture transmitted?

- a. through academic disciplines concerned with culture
- b. through language and learning
- c. through superstitions
- d. through rites of passage

ANSWER:

b

10. Human survival is based on the capacity to create general ideas or ways of thinking that are not linked to specific or particular instances. What are these ideas called?

- a. norms
- b. methods
- c. abstractions
- d. culture

ANSWER:

c

11. In June of 1752, Benjamin Franklin flew a kite attached to a key in order to see if the lightning would transmit its power through a metal object, a key. If it did so, he reasoned, it would behave as electricity does, demonstrating that lightning is in fact electrical in nature, a fact that was unknown at the time. In which of the following was he engaged?

- a. normative behaviour
- b. abstract reasoning
- c. sociological imagination
- d. cultural construction

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ANSWER:

b

12. According to the text, cooperation is accomplished within cultures by establishing which of the following?

- a. material culture
- b. norms and values
- c. production
- d. ethnocentrism

ANSWER:

b

13. When human beings pool their resources in order to achieve collective and individual goals, which tool in the human cultural survival kit are they using?

- a. norms
- b. abstractions
- c. cooperation
- d. symbols

ANSWER:

c

14. Understanding that *le chien* (French) and *das hund* (German) mean the same thing as *dog* is an example of which human capacity?

- a. abstraction
- b. communication
- c. cooperation
- d. sanction

ANSWER:

a

15. Which of the following is a central reason for the importance of symbols to human culture?

- a. They allow us to classify and generalize from our experiences.
- b. They give linguists their subject material.
- c. They are the only basis for cooperation.
- d. They establish the only unquestioned foundation for reality.

ANSWER:

a

16. Ingrid has just moved to Canada from Germany and is learning to speak English. Once Ingrid has learned her new language, she will see the world in new ways. Which of the following terms best reflects this process?

- a. interpretative flexibility
- b. the Sapir-Whorf thesis
- c. perceptual modification
- d. semantic awareness

ANSWER:

b

17. Imagine a student develops her own “shorthand” for taking lecture notes. Which of the following statements

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correctly identifies a feature of her shorthand?

- a. The shorthand is composed of symbols but is not part of culture.
- b. The shorthand does not qualify as symbols but is part of culture.
- c. The shorthand is composed of symbols and is part of culture.
- d. The shorthand does not qualify as symbols and is not part of culture.

ANSWER:

a

18. According to the text, recent Canadian data on cultural diversification shows which of the following?

- a. There are now more Muslims in Canada than Christians.
- b. About 95 percent of Canadian immigrants are from Europe and the United States.
- c. About 95 percent of Canadian immigrants are from outside Europe and the United States.
- d. More than one-fifth of Canada's population will be nonwhite by 2017.

ANSWER:

d

19. Every culture has a set of shared rules that guide the behaviour of its members by specifying what behaviours are appropriate and inappropriate. What is this set of rules called?

- a. attitudes
- b. beliefs
- c. norms
- d. values

ANSWER:

c

20. As people conform to norms, they usually come to accept common ideas about what is desirable and important; these ideas distinguish one culture from another. What are these common ideas called?

- a. beliefs
- b. folkways
- c. sanctions
- d. values

ANSWER:

d

21. Which aspect of the human cultural survival kit involves making and using tools and techniques that improve our ability to take what we want from nature?

- a. cooperation
- b. abstraction
- c. material culture
- d. production

ANSWER:

d

22. Our houses, the cell phones we use to stay in touch with each other, and the clothes we wear are examples of which form of culture?

- a. material

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- b. formal
- c. manifest
- d. popular

ANSWER: a

23. What do sociologists call the human practice of making and using tools and techniques that improve their ability to get what they want from nature?

- a. cooperation
- b. abstraction
- c. conflict
- d. production

ANSWER: d

24. When human beings obtain lumber from trees to make their homes, which of the following are they engaged in?

- a. production
- b. creative destruction
- c. conflict
- d. cooperation

ANSWER: a

25. When one group of humans trades lumber they took from a forest with another group of humans in exchange for fish they took from the sea, which of the following are they engaged in?

- a. production
- b. creative destruction
- c. conflict
- d. cooperation

ANSWER: d

26. Which of the following do folkways specify?

- a. social inhibitions
- b. social requirements
- c. social preferences
- d. social abstractions

ANSWER: c

27. Physics is to science as taboos are to?

- a. sociology
- b. mores
- c. norms
- d. abstraction

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ANSWER:

c

28. Incest is an example of which of the following?

- a. a taboo
- b. a folkway
- c. a rite of passage
- d. a superstition

ANSWER:

a

29. According to the text, the violation of which type of norm results in the most severe punishment?

- a. sanction
- b. more
- c. taboo
- d. folkway

ANSWER:

c

30. Which of the following is an example of a violation of a folkway?

- a. a person having sexual relations with a sibling
- b. a person shaking their head in disapproval at someone
- c. a man walking topless in public
- d. a police officer issuing a speeding ticket

ANSWER:

c

31. Which of the following is the *best* example of a violation of a more?

- a. a person having sexual relations with a sibling
- b. cheating on a sociology test
- c. returning a book to the library two weeks late
- d. a police officer taking a bribe

ANSWER:

d

32. What do sociologists call the norms that people feel are essential for the survival of their group or society?

- a. mores
- b. foundationals
- c. folkways
- d. laws

ANSWER:

a

33. What is the term for rules of behaviour that people in a culture find relatively unimportant?

- a. taboos
- b. folkways
- c. sanctions

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- d. mores

ANSWER:

b

34. Which of the following describes the generally accepted ways of doing things within a culture?

- a. symbols
- b. norms
- c. methods
- d. social requirements

ANSWER:

b

35. Which of the following is the *best* example of a violation of a folkway?

- a. a person having sexual relations with a sibling
- b. cheating on a sociology test
- c. texting during a sociology class
- d. a police officer taking a bribe

ANSWER:

c

36. Which of the following *best* describes language?

- a. a system of symbols used to communicate thought
- b. a set of universal signs used to transmit ideas
- c. the norms for communication among humans
- d. a system of ideas about what is right and wrong

ANSWER:

a

37. According to the Sapir–Whorf thesis, our concepts about our environment and experiences are expressed in language. Which of the following results from this process?

- a. Language influences how we see the world.
- b. Language affects our emotional connection to the environment.
- c. Our concepts are only valid in our own environments.
- d. Our concepts have little to do with power or equality.

ANSWER:

a

38. What is the term for people's tendency to judge other cultures by the standards of their own culture?

- a. culture lag
- b. ethnocentrism
- c. culture shock
- d. evolutionary psychology

ANSWER:

b

39. When we discard ethnocentrism and look at the functions of cow worship, we can perceive it as which of the following?

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- a. a superstitious practice
- b. a rational economic practice
- c. a non-useful practice
- d. a failure of the caste system

ANSWER:

b

40. Harris's analysis of cow worship in rural India illustrates how functionalist theory can explain otherwise mysterious social patterns, and it teaches a valuable lesson about which of the following?

- a. sociocultural evolution
- b. ethnocentrism
- c. cultural universals
- d. multiculturalism

ANSWER:

b

41. Jennifer tells her friend Libby that she finds it disgusting that in some countries outside of Canada, the inhabitants eat bugs. What concept is reflected in Jennifer's feelings?

- a. cultural diffusion
- b. cultural confrontation
- c. ethnocentrism
- d. myopia

ANSWER:

c

42. Marvin Harris argues that ethnocentrism misleads many Western observers' understanding of cow worship in rural India. When examining cow worship from the point of view of the functions it fulfills in Indian society, how can cow worship be understood?

- a. as a meaningful religious practice
- b. as a rational economic practice
- c. as a practice of social solidarity
- d. as a sentimental and emotional practice

ANSWER:

b

43. According to the text, culture provides people with opportunities to exercise their freedom. Which of the following does culture also do?

- a. It dictates all our actions.
- b. It fascinates us.
- c. It alarms us.
- d. It constrains us.

ANSWER:

d

44. Until the 1960s, many sociologists argued that culture was simply a reflection of society. However, today, under the influence of symbolic interactionist theory, what do many sociologists believe?

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- a. that people do not just accept culture passively
- b. that people accept culture as it is given to them
- c. that people really don't care about culture
- d. that people shape culture only when they care about an issue

ANSWER:

a

45. Which of the following features of culture have symbolic interactionists called to the attention of sociologists?

- a. People shape culture only when they care about an issue.
- b. People accept culture as it is given to them.
- c. People creatively produce and interpret culture.
- d. People focus on all aspects of culture.

ANSWER:

c

46. Which of the following is one reason that Canadians are increasingly able to actively choose, rather than simply accept, cultural influences?

- a. Canadian society has diversified culturally and socially.
- b. Canadian society is becoming increasingly authoritarian.
- c. Canadian society has historically had diverse regional identities.
- d. Canadian society is becoming less globalized.

ANSWER:

a

47. What is evidenced by the growing popularity of Latino music, Asian architectural design, and varied ethnic food?

- a. cultural solidarity
- b. ethnocentrism
- c. cultural production
- d. cultural diversification

ANSWER:

d

48. Some educators have advocated that school and college curricula should present a more balanced picture of our history, cultures, and society. This would more accurately reflect Canada's ethnic and racial diversity. Which of the following is this proposal an example of?

- a. cultural diversification
- b. ethnocentrism
- c. multiculturalism
- d. cultural solidarity

ANSWER:

c

49. Failing to present a more balanced picture of our history, cultures, and society that reflects Canada's ethnic and racial diversity in our school and college curricula is an example of which of the following?

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- a. cultural diversification
- b. ethnocentrism
- c. multiculturalism
- d. cultural solidarity

ANSWER:

b

50. What approach to education gives substantial weight to the achievements of non-whites and non-Europeans in Canadian society?

- a. multiculturalism
- b. reverse ethnocentrism
- c. cultural relativism
- d. cultural diversification

ANSWER:

a

51. What is the opposite of ethnocentrism?

- a. cultural diversification
- b. cultural production
- c. multiculturalism
- d. cultural relativism

ANSWER:

d

52. What is the term for the belief that all cultures and all cultural practices have equal value?

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

ANSWER:

d

53. Which of the following is a criticism of multiculturalism?

- a. It focuses only on the interests of the “charter groups” in Canada.
- b. Its focus on cultural diversification hurts the interests of the poor.
- c. It discourages ethnocentrism.
- d. It leads to cultural relativism.

ANSWER:

d

54. According to conflict theory, cultural diversity and multiculturalism have emerged from the ongoing struggle between a privileged majority and disadvantaged minorities. What is the term for this struggle for equal treatment?

- a. multiculturalism
- b. affirmative action
- c. cultural diversification

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- d. the rights revolution

ANSWER:

d

55. When First Nations groups in Canada began to assert their rights to cultural sovereignty and establish land claims, what process were they engaging in?

- a. cultural solidarity
- b. rights revolution
- c. cultural production
- d. multiculturalism

ANSWER:

b

56. Based on the text, in which of the following ways has the rights revolution influenced democracy?

- a. The rights revolution has tainted democracy with violence.
- b. The rights revolution has strained democracy to the breaking point.
- c. The rights revolution has turned democracy into a meaningless tradition in modern cultures.
- d. The rights revolution has expanded democracy.

ANSWER:

d

57. The rights revolution has profoundly affected culture by legitimizing the grievances of formerly marginalized groups and by renewing pride in subcultural heritages. Which of the following has been a result of the rights revolution?

- a. Subcultures have been integrated into mainstream society.
- b. The unity of Canadian culture has been fragmented.
- c. Canada has abandoned the concept of being a mosaic of cultures.
- d. Canadian culture has been erased.

ANSWER:

b

58. Why were rites of passage important in pre-literate tribal societies?

- a. because they involved only certain members of the community
- b. because they supported cultural homogeneity
- c. because they changed norms and values
- d. because they supported production

ANSWER:

b

59. What are a baptism, a wedding, and a graduation ceremony all examples of?

- a. cultural relativism
- b. cultural reproduction
- c. multiculturalism
- d. rites of passage

ANSWER:

d

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60. One key to the B  ssarib   tribe's sense of identity is ritual scarification. All teenage males have a complex series of lines cut into their abdomen signifying that they have now reached adulthood. What term would be used to describe this practice?

- a. a rite of passage
- b. an institutional practice
- c. a globalizing trend
- d. a postmodern abstraction

ANSWER:

a

61. Some public religious rituals involve elaborate body decoration, carefully orchestrated chants, and precise movements. What are these rituals examples of?

- a. rites of passage
- b. multiculturalism
- c. ethnocentrism
- d. cultural reproduction

ANSWER:

a

62. According to the textbook, cultural fragmentation increased between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries as a result of the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, and the French and American Revolutions. Which of the following is a trend that intensified this cultural fragmentation?

- a. fundamentalism
- b. industrialization
- c. multiculturalism
- d. diversification

ANSWER:

b

63. At Mei Ling's house last weekend, we had souvlaki and tiramisu for dinner. Afterward, we went to meet her friend from England who was waiting for us at the Oktoberfest celebration. The evening was an ideal example of what relatively recent development in our society?

- a. consumerism
- b. rationalization
- c. globalization
- d. immigration

ANSWER:

c

64. What is the term for the process by which formerly separate economies, states, and cultures are becoming increasingly interdependent?

- a. industrialization
- b. diversification
- c. multiculturalism
- d. globalization

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ANSWER: d

65. Relatively inexpensive international travel and communication contributed to which of the following cultural processes in the late twentieth century?

- a. multiculturalism
- b. industrialization
- c. rationalization
- d. globalization

ANSWER: d

66. What is one of the *most* important roots of globalization?

- a. expansion of ethnocentrism
- b. expansion of trade and investment
- c. limitations to rationalization
- d. diversification of rites of passage

ANSWER: b

67. During a school trip to Russia with other British Columbia high school students, Michelle is surprised to hear Justin Bieber's latest song being played at top volume when they enter the McDonald's in St. Petersburg. She is further surprised when a group of local teens in the restaurant begins to sing along to the song. What is Michelle witnessing?

- a. the shrinking of cultural repertoires
- b. the expansion of cultural comfort zones
- c. media convergence
- d. globalization

ANSWER: d

68. According to the text, how has globalization influenced people's relationships with the culture into which they were born?

- a. They feel obliged to defend their culture.
- b. They feel less obliged to accept their culture.
- c. They are less likely to reject their culture.
- d. They are more likely to idealize their culture.

ANSWER: b

69. In what era did the overwhelming majority of the Western culture believe in the inevitability of progress, respect authority, and form a consensus around core values?

- a. classic
- b. premodern
- c. modern
- d. postmodern

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ANSWER: c

70. Which of the following is a defining characteristic of modernity?

- a. a consensus around core values
- b. an eclectic mix of cultural elements
- c. a diversity of religious ideas
- d. a disrespect for authority

ANSWER: a

71. What type of culture involves an eclectic mix of elements from different times and places, an erosion of authority, and a decline of consensus around core values?

- a. classic
- b. postmodern
- c. modern
- d. premodern

ANSWER: b

72. Which of the following types of culture is characterized by the growth of different religious beliefs?

- a. premodern
- b. modernist
- c. classic
- d. postmodern

ANSWER: d

73. Which of the following is NOT characteristic of postmodern culture?

- a. an eclectic mix of cultural elements from different times and places
- b. challenges to authority and core values
- c. the demise of big historical projects
- d. commitment to a monotheism

ANSWER: d

74. In a postmodern society, the social bases of authority and truth have multiplied. Which of the following is a result of this change?

- a. Tradition is rejected less frequently than it used to be.
- b. Challenges to authority are more frequent than they used to be.
- c. Religiosity is increasing.
- d. Norms are disputed less than they used to be.

ANSWER: b

75. Serena states that she believes in a god but has never attended any religious services. Instead, she visits a psychic every week, reads her horoscope daily and also believes in reincarnation. What do her spiritual

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practices and beliefs reflect?

- a. postmodernism
- b. tribalism
- c. institutionalization
- d. premodernism

ANSWER:

a

76. The popular cable TV program *Dexter* is the story of a serial killer named Dexter who works for the Miami police force as a forensic scientist. Dexter is a seemingly mild mannered man who only kills people he has determined are themselves killers. Because he is a police officer and also mild mannered, he has escaped detection and punishment. Which of the following features of the program *best* illustrates its postmodern aspect?

- a. Dexter's seemingly normal personality
- b. Dexter's rejection of the authority of the justice system
- c. Dexter's insistence on strictly following a code in choosing his victims
- d. Dexter's reliance on his scientific knowledge

ANSWER:

b

77. The change in how father figures are depicted on television from the 1950s to today demonstrates which of the following characteristics of postmodernism?

- a. the erosion of authority
- b. an eclectic mixing of elements from different times and places
- c. the growth of religious conservatism
- d. a loss of confidence in political leaders

ANSWER:

a

78. Critics of postmodernism are concerned that the lack of a common culture will create problems in maintaining a stable society. Which of the following has contributed to the breakdown of consensus on many issues today?

- a. influence of mass media
- b. growth of religious extremism
- c. rapid shifts in values and in political loyalty
- d. organized antiglobalization efforts

ANSWER:

c

79. Freja voted for the Green Party in the last election because she favoured the party leader over other leaders. In the most recent election however, she decided to vote for the NDP because she agreed with their platform on education more than the others. What element of postmodernism do her changing political convictions reflect?

- a. an eclectic mixing of elements from different times and places
- b. the erosion of authority
- c. the decline of consensus around core values
- d. the fragmentation of simulated abstractions

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ANSWER:

c

80. What characteristic of postmodernism is manifested in the demise of big historical projects, such as communism?

- a. globalization
- b. the instability of core values
- c. the erosion of authority
- d. an eclectic mix of cultural elements

ANSWER:

b

81. Which of the following was a “big historical project” of the twentieth century?

- a. tribalism
- b. communism
- c. anarchism
- d. familism

ANSWER:

b

82. Since the 1960s, which of the following countries has seen the *greatest* increase in the questioning of authority?

- a. the United Kingdom
- b. Japan
- c. the United States
- d. Canada

ANSWER:

d

83. Phoenix believes women and men should receive equal pay for work of equal value, and that gay and lesbian couples should have all the same rights as heterosexual couples. According to the textbook, which of the following nationalities is Phoenix most likely to be?

- a. British
- b. Canadian
- c. American
- d. Norwegian

ANSWER:

b

84. Rationalization and consumerism are examples of which of the following?

- a. culture as constraint
- b. postmodernism
- c. globalization
- d. culture

ANSWER:

a

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85. People lead busy lives. They often feel rushed trying to accomplish too much during the average workday. Their lives appear to be so highly regimented that every moment is precisely planned. These facts illustrate the growth of which of the following processes?

- a. rationalization
- b. cultural diversification
- c. consumerism
- d. McDonaldization

ANSWER:

a

86. In Max Weber's sense of the term, what is *rationalization*?

- a. a justification for a deviant act
- b. a justification for a perceived act of deviance
- c. use of the most efficient means to achieve given goals
- d. using the least expensive and most effective means to get a job done

ANSWER:

c

87. Which of the following expressions did Weber coin to illustrate the constraining effect that increased rationalization has had on modern society?

- a. iron fist
- b. steel trap
- c. velvet glove
- d. iron cage

ANSWER:

d

88. Holding maximum efficiency as a goal above all others is the central characteristic of which of the following?

- a. consumerism
- b. globalization
- c. rationalization
- d. postmodernism

ANSWER:

c

89. According to Weber, which of the following *best* defines rationalization?

- a. using the least expensive means to get a job done
- b. the application of the most efficient means to achieve given goals
- c. the justification for a perceived act of deviance
- d. the justification for a self-indulgent act

ANSWER:

b

90. In Weber's opinion, the development of rationalization was exemplified by the growth of which of the following institutions?

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- a. modern labour unions
- b. modern corporations
- c. modern armies
- d. modern bureaucracies

ANSWER:

d

91. What is the postmodern tendency to define ourselves in terms of the goods and services we purchase?

- a. consumerism
- b. brand loyalty
- c. rationalization
- d. purchased identity

ANSWER:

a

92. The tendency to define ourselves in terms of the goods we purchase is not just a simple reflection of personal choice. This tendency is also important because it supports the economy in what way?

- a. It ensures excess capacity is utilized.
- b. It reduces the opportunities for Asian nations to practise dumping.
- c. American culture will dominate globally.
- d. The products that we produce will be bought.

ANSWER:

d

93. Which of the following *best* reflects the meaning of the term subculture?

- a. a group defined by practices perceived as inferior by members of the elite in that society
- b. an inferior culture
- c. an emergent culture
- d. a set of distinctive values, norms, and practices within a larger culture

ANSWER:

d

94. What is the term for a set of distinctive values, norms, and practices within a larger culture?

- a. postmodern culture
- b. rationalized culture
- c. consumer culture
- d. subculture

ANSWER:

d

95. If a group of teenagers has distinctive clothing, beliefs, ideas, and language that separate them from others in a society, they can be said to belong to which of the following?

- a. a rationalization group
- b. a consumerist collective
- c. a subculture
- d. a postmodern culture

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ANSWER:

c

96. When people are feeling depressed they sometimes go to the mall to buy things. If their purchases make them feel good about themselves or their situation, what is this an example of?

- a. rationalization
- b. postmodernism
- c. consumerism
- d. purchased identity

ANSWER:

c

97. Marketers have discovered that they can stimulate demand for a product by doing which of the following?

- a. encouraging the use of personal video recorders (or PVR machines)
- b. using product placement strategies in television shows and movies
- c. orchestrating an expensive and long-running television ad campaign
- d. taking advantage of consumers' tendency to channel surf

ANSWER:

b

98. Cultural freedom has its limits. Which of the following twin forces govern or define these limits in our society?

- a. consumerism and technology
- b. technology and rationalization
- c. rationalization and consumerism
- d. commodification and rationalization

ANSWER:

c

99. According to the text, which of the following is a potentially negative consequence of NOT participating in the consumerist culture?

- a. You might not have the full range of options for expressing your identity.
- b. You might be considered a cultural outcast by those who are participating in that culture.
- c. The other members of your culture might perceive you as thinking yourself better than they are.
- d. The other members of your culture might perceive you as not as good as they are.

ANSWER:

b

100. Which of the following is an unintended negative consequence of consumerism?

- a. lack of choice in the marketplace
- b. economic stagnation
- c. the "taming" of countercultures
- d. cultural instability

ANSWER:

c

101. Daryl was a charismatic leader of a local anti-consumerist movement. His highly vocal, tattooed, and

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pierced presence was a constant nuisance to police and local politicians. He would regularly post clips he called “Speak Out, Don’t Buy In” on YouTube. The clips soon received several million hits and brought Daryl to the attention of the marketing division of a large multinational clothing company that targeted youth. A representative of the company contacted Daryl and they worked out a deal to use some of his better-known slogans on a new line of t-shirts the company was producing in exchange for a large amount of cash. What process occurred in bringing Daryl from public nuisance to countercultural icon?

- a. consumerism as social control
- b. culture becoming counterculture
- c. social control as an element of culture
- d. subculture and counterculture merging

ANSWER:

a

102. In its early days, hip-hop became an expression of the alienation, disenchantment, and political rage of the African American community. Over time however, it came to be more and more oriented to lifestyle and signs of material wealth. What does this transformation exemplify?

- a. the increasing freedoms granted by music lovers to musicians
- b. consumerism’s taming of countercultural movements
- c. a deviant subculture that was reformed
- d. a challenge to the ethos of consumerism

ANSWER:

b

103. Early hip-hop music expressed contempt for white society. According to the text, what did the attraction of white middle-class youth to the music style reduce hip-hop to?

- a. a mixing of race and class symbolism
- b. pop culture for exclusively for teens
- c. music aimed only at countercultural audiences
- d. a commercial money-maker absent of political content

ANSWER:

d

104. According to the text, many hip-hop music artists began their careers as politically rebellious musicians, but many of them were more than eager to do which of the following?

- a. embrace new messages as the structure of society became transformed through their music
- b. forgo politics for commerce
- c. stop recording when their messages were accepted by the wider culture
- d. keep producing music with a social conscience

ANSWER:

b

105. Consumerism is remarkably effective in taming expressions of freedom and individualism, including acts of dissent and rebellion. Which of the following situations does this create?

- a. Deviations from mainstream culture become more influential among younger North Americans than older North Americans.
- b. Deviations shape mainstream culture more than the natural progression of North American culture.

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- c. Deviations from mainstream culture often lose their power to drive change because they get turned into means of making money.
- d. Commercial success puts pressure on the rebellious artists to push their rebellion into more and more politically radical positions.

ANSWER:

c

106. Which of the following statements best reflects moderate cultural relativism?

- a. It is the idea that not all cultures are equal.
- b. It suggests that we should respect all cultural practices, even if they are harmful.
- c. It is the idea that cultural differences should be tolerated within reason.
- d. It is the idea that all cultures and cultural practices have equal value.

ANSWER:

c

107. In 2005, Canada became the first country outside Europe to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide. This was due in large part as a result of pressure and lobbying by members of Canada's gay community and is only one of the latest in several advancements for minorities. What term has been applied to Canada's increasing acceptance of diversity?

- a. minority radicalism
- b. the rights revolution
- c. postmodern inclusion
- d. minority group pressure

ANSWER:

b

108. Which of the following is one conclusion of Reginald Bibby's survey research on religious beliefs of Canadians?

- a. People are increasingly engaging in religious rites of passage.
- b. Religious beliefs have remained relatively stable for decades.
- c. Very few Canadians profess a belief in God.
- d. People mix unconventional beliefs with traditional religion.

ANSWER:

d

109. New age spiritualist Eckhart Tolle says in his book *A New Earth* that a person is more than what she or he possesses—yet, regrettably, that is how many people define themselves. What lifestyle label best depicts a person's definition of self in terms of possessions?

- a. conspicuous consumption
- b. overconsumption
- c. consumerism
- d. individualism

ANSWER:

c

110. Which theorist proposed that because of rationalization, life in the modern world is akin to living in an "iron cage"?

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- a. George Ritzer
- b. Max Weber
- c. Marshall McLuhan
- d. Sigmund Freud

ANSWER:

b

111. According to the text, which of the following best defines rationalization?

- a. the logical attempt to understand the viewpoints of others in the context of multiculturalism and plurality
- b. a justification offered in response to an individual's actions and behaviours
- c. the effort to explain the rationale underlying cultural diversity
- d. the calculation of the most efficient means to an end despite potential negative consequences

ANSWER:

d

112. Marc used to vote in every federal election, but no longer does so. He believes that his vote will not matter because whichever party gets voted in will do whatever they want anyway. Marc's attitude is a reflection of which postmodernism feature?

- a. the decline of consensus around core values
- b. the mixing of diverse elements from different times and places
- c. the erosion of authority
- d. the disillusionment with big historical projects

ANSWER:

c

113. According to the text, which of the following would be considered a big historical project?

- a. communism
- b. consumerism
- c. the TransCanada Highway
- d. the North American Free Trade Agreement

ANSWER:

a

114. When the first mechanical clocks ("work clocks") were introduced in Germany's public squares 700 years ago, workers protested in the streets. Now we regard the regulation of our activities by clocks to be the most natural way of organizing our lives. What does our acceptance and internalization of the work clock indicate?

- a. A precise regulation of time is necessary in a capitalist society.
- b. Time regulation is a universal norm.
- c. The regulation of time is a product of culture.
- d. Everyone benefits from the regulation time.

ANSWER:

c

115. Who consumes mass culture?

- a. all social classes

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- b. just the working class
- c. primarily the lower class
- d. mainly the upper class

ANSWER: a

116. In sociology, “culture” means popular culture—rock music, folk art, sports, etc.—consumed across all social classes and groups in a society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

117. When sociologists refer to “high culture” they mean cultural activities that are most likely to be pursued and enjoyed by the wealthiest in society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

118. Production is the tool in the human survival kit that is based on the sharing of resources.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

119. Cooperation is the tool in the human survival kit that is based on the sharing of resources.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

120. Punishment is minor for the violation of a folkway.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

121. The use of a flag to represent the common belonging of many people to one nation is an example of a symbol.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

122. The Sapir–Whorf thesis claims that environment and experience affect language, but that language is

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neutral in its influence on social experience and perception.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

123. Cultural relativism involves judging another culture by the standards of one's own culture.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

124. Sociologists from all perspectives discussed in this chapter agree that we can best understand culture as a dependent variable; in other words, that culture is solely the effect of underlying social factors.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

125. Harris's analysis of cow worship in India illustrated the benefits of functionalist theory in explaining apparently mysterious social practices, and revealed lessons about ethnocentrism.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

126. Conflict theorists were particularly important in explaining that people actively produce and interpret culture.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

127. According to symbolic interactionism (in contrast to other sociological perspectives), culture is accepted passively by each generation of society.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

128. Cultural diversity in Canada is evident in all aspects of life, from music and food to clothing and architecture.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

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129. Throughout Canadian history, Canada's culture has become increasingly more heterogeneous.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

130. Advocates of multiculturalism have argued that schools at all levels need to present a more balanced picture of Canadian history, culture, and society—one that shows Canada's ethnic and racial uniformity.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

131. Critics of multiculturalism claim that multicultural education hurts minority students by diverting them from the study of core subjects in order to study their cultural heritage.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

132. According to Émile Durkheim, deviation from prescribed practices is encouraged during primitive religious rituals.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

133. The rights revolution affected Canada's acceptance of minorities only during the 1960s and 1970s, after which the revolution was quelled.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

134. One of the most important causes of globalization has been the expansion of international trade and investment.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

135. Postmodernism's central influence is the dominating belief in the inevitability of progress, especially evolutionary trends prompted by scientific innovation.

- a. True

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- b. False

ANSWER: False

136. The policy of multiculturalism was adopted by the Canadian government in the late 1950s.

- a. True
b. False

ANSWER: False

137. The postmodern condition makes consensus building in the democratic process increasingly difficult.

- a. True
b. False

ANSWER: True

138. The big historical projects referred to in the textbook include such cultural feats as the construction of the Great Wall of China, the construction of the pyramids in Egypt, and the Manhattan Project to build the atom bomb in World War II.

- a. True
b. False

ANSWER: False

139. Most believe that Canada's continuing belief in maintaining deference to authority places Canada far behind other countries with respect to moving into postmodernism.

- a. True
b. False

ANSWER: False

140. Due to recent changes in Canadian culture, such as a significant decrease in the percentage of Canadians who claim to believe in God, who have confidence in government, and who express a high degree of deference to authority, many sociologists believe that Canada can be called the first postmodern nation.

- a. True
b. False

ANSWER: True

141. The first efforts to improve productivity through rationalization occurred with the installation of public clocks in town squares.

- a. True
b. False

ANSWER: True

142. Rationalization—that is, using time to maximize productivity and efficiency—can result in irrational

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consequences, like having a life that's too hectic.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

143. Max Weber claimed that rationality has crept into all spheres of social life except for religious beliefs.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

144. Consumerism is the term that identifies the process of buying items to define our membership in a certain subculture.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

145. Today, people refuse to allow themselves to associate their status and identity with commercial products.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

146. One of the more significant results of consumerism is that it leads us to define ourselves in terms of the goods and services we purchase.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

147. Countercultures do not fundamentally oppose dominant values.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

148. Define culture. Distinguish culture, high culture, and popular culture from each other.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should demonstrate an understanding that culture is the *sum* of socially transmitted practices, languages, symbols, beliefs, values, ideologies, and material objects; high culture is the culture that is consumed mainly by the upper class; popular (mass) culture is culture consumed by all classes.

149. List and discuss the building blocks of culture.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should focus on addressing the human capacity for abstraction, cooperation,

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and production which gives rise to ideas, norms and values, and material culture.

150. There are generational differences in how certain behaviours are experienced. Identify a folkway that is acceptable to your peers but that is frowned upon by older generations, and describe the difference in attitude.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should clearly demonstrate an understanding that a folkway is a norm (generally accepted way of doing things) that specify social *preferences*.

151. Identify and describe a counterculture that has had an impact on society in your lifetime.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should illustrate their comprehension that a counterculture is a subversive subculture that opposes the dominant values and seeks to replace them (e.g. today's environmentalists).

152. The textbook cites the French sociologist Baudrillard as claiming that “even what is best in America is compulsory” as illustrative of the claim that consumerism acts as a constraint on our lives. In your opinion, what did Baudrillard mean?

ANSWER: Answers will vary and may include a discussion of our “shop till we drop” lifestyle, which then leads to persons who suffer due to hoarding or the high debt loads that many people struggle with.

153. Choose a consumer item that plays a big role in your life, and describe how it acts as both a constraint on you and yet expands your freedom.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should demonstrate an awareness that there are positives and negatives to all material objects—e.g., a car allows you the freedom and independence to enjoy your life, but how many hours of your life must you labour to make the payments on the car, the cost of insurance, and the repairs.

154. List and discuss the three characteristics of postmodern culture that were presented in the text.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should be a clear presentation of the following: a mixing of elements from different times and places; an erosion of authority; and a decline of consensus around core values.

155. Explain ethnocentrism with reference to the invisibility of culture.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should demonstrate an understanding that people tend to take their own culture for granted, which may lead to the viewing of other cultures and their practices as being odd, irrational, and/or inferior.

156. Relate the meaning of ethnocentrism to functionalist theory.

ANSWER: Answers will vary and may include reference to Marvin Harris's functionalist analysis of cow worship among Hindu peasants in India.

157. Compare and contrast folkways, mores, and taboos.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should include reference that they are three types of norms (generally accepted ways of doing things). Folkways are norms that specify social preferences, mores are norms that specify social requirements, and taboos are the strongest and most central norm.

158. Outline the key points of the Sapir–Whorf thesis.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should centre around the connection between experience, thought, and

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language

159. Describe the main tools in the human cultural survival kit. Explain how culture, rather than biological programming, has enabled human survival and possibly a mastery of nature.

ANSWER: Answers will vary and should address the tools of abstraction, cooperation, and production and how each uniquely human talent gave rise to a different element of culture.

160. Explain what is meant by culture as freedom and culture as constraint.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. Elements of our culture are utilized to solve practical problems and express who we are, but our existing culture puts limits on what we can think and do.

161. Use a symbolic interactionist perspective to explain how culture is created.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. Symbolic interactionists see culture as being an independent variable inasmuch as we are not passively accepting the beliefs, symbols, and values of society. Rather, we are producers and interpreters that fashion culture to suit our diverse and changing needs.

162. Outline the three concerns attributed in the text to those who critique multicultural education.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but the major concerns are the weakening of Canada's social fabric, it encourages cultural relativism (some cultures oppose deeply held Canadian values), and some cultures have practices that are abhorrent to most Canadians.

163. Explain what is meant by the rights revolution. Identify how it has impacted Canadian culture.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should include reference that the rights revolution is the process by which socially excluded groups have struggled to win equal rights under the law and in practice. As a result, democracy has widened and deepened—and women's rights, minority rights, gay and lesbian rights, the rights of people with special needs, constitutional rights, and language rights are all part of our political discourse.

164. Describe the characteristics of postmodernism. What concerns have been expressed about postmodernism?

ANSWER: Answers will vary and may include a discussion of the eclectic mix of elements from different times and places (the blending of cultures); the erosion of authority in the realms of family, schools, politics, and medicine; and the decline of consensus around what were once held to be core societal values.

165. Define rationalization.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. The textbook definition is "the application of the most efficient means to achieve given goals and the unintended, negative consequences of doing so."

166. How does the rights revolution fragment Canadian culture?

ANSWER: Answers will vary but according to the text, Canadian culture is fragmented due to the legitimization of grievances of groups that were formerly excluded from full social participation and the renewal of their pride in their identity and heritage. This means that our history books, literature, music, use of languages, and our very sense of what it means to be Canadian have diversified culturally.

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167. Define and provide an example of a rite of passage.

ANSWER: Answers will vary but should assert that rites of passage are cultural ceremonies that mark the transition from one stage of life to another (e.g., baptisms, confirmations, weddings) or from life to death (e.g., funerals, memorial services).

168. Explain how consumerism shapes our lives.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. Consumerism is the tendency to define ourselves in terms of the goods and services we buy. Increasing our consumption of goods may have negative consequences such as increasing debt, impact on the environment, and so on.

169. Define subculture. Explain its relationship to cultural diversity and to consumerism.

ANSWER: Answers will vary. A subculture is a set of distinctive values, norms, and practices within a larger culture. As a result of living in a diverse culture, there are a number of subcultures that we can pick from to identify with and we can buy items that help define us as members of a subculture of our choosing.

170. Explain how globalization has affected social life in Canada. Use the concepts of culture, culture diversification, and globalization in your answer.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

171. Identify and describe a counterculture that has had an impact on society in your lifetime. Focus on the dominant values that they oppose, and the values that they want to replace them with.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

172. Research the impact that multiculturalism has had on the curriculum in Canadian schools. Identify the strengths and weaknesses that its advocates and critics have put forward, and evaluate its contribution to Canadian society.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

173. Cultural relativism, defined in the textbook as the idea that all cultures and cultural practices have equal value, is held by critics of multiculturalism as one of its drawbacks. Advocates of multiculturalism respond by advocating a moderate version. How would this work? Using one or two controversial values, describe how the balance between tolerance of differences and the lawlessness of “anything goes” can be maintained.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

174. Compare and contrast the main tools in the human cultural survival kit. Comment on their importance versus their importance during either pre-industrial or industrial times.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

175. What accounts for the significance of culture among humans compared to other animals? Make reference to the human capacity to adapt to change.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

176. Defend or reject the authors’ conclusion that Canada may be the first postmodern nation.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

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177. Provide evidence of the irrationality of rationalization. Explain the threat of irrationality to society and predict where these trends in rationalization could lead.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

178. Compare and contrast Max Weber's and George Ritzer's interpretations of the concept of rationalization.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

179. Explain the characteristics of subcultures by describing a well-known subculture and its relationship to mainstream Canada.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

180. Research anti-consumerism organizations. Describe their objectives and estimate the likely success that anti-consumerist groups will have in driving social change.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

181. Select a movie and use it to explain a sociological concept such as culture, the rights revolution, consumerism, or another concept from Chapter 2.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

182. If you were going to oppose consumerism in your personal life, what would you do? How would you explain your position to others? How successful do you believe you would be?

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

183. Explain why consumerism is unsustainable.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

184. Research an element of the environmentalist movement in Canada. Explain why it is (or isn't) an example of a current counterculture.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.

185. Research a current event in the news. Adopt a sociological orientation to interpret this event and explain the sociological elements of the news item.

ANSWER: Answers will vary.