

Chapter 02 Culture

1. Which of the following statements about culture is true?
- A. It developed among nonhuman primates around 10,000 years ago.
 - B. It is being destroyed by electronic media.
 - C. It is more developed in industrial nations than among hunters and gatherers.
 - D.** It is acquired by humans as members of society through the process of enculturation.
 - E. It is the exclusive domain of the elite.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

2. Which of the following statements about enculturation is FALSE?
- A. It is the process by which culture is learned and transmitted across generations.
 - B. It results in internalization of a cultural tradition.
 - C. It occurs through a process of conscious and unconscious learning.
 - D.** It is the exchange of cultural features that results when two or more groups come into consistent firsthand contact.
 - E. It may involve direct teaching.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

3. Regarding human capacity for culture, anthropologists agree that
- A. although an individual's genetic endowment does not affect that person's ability to learn cultural traditions, it does affect his or her capacity to change culture creatively.
 - B. both mental abilities and mental disabilities are evenly distributed among individuals of all cultures.
 - C. because human populations differ in their emotional and intellectual capacities, the ability to learn culture differs among societies.
 - D.** although individuals differ in their emotional and intellectual capacities, all human populations have equivalent capacities for culture.
 - E. although women and men both share the emotional and intellectual capacities for culture, at the population level there is less variability in these capacities among men than among women.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

4. Anthropologist Clifford Geertz defined culture as ideas based on cultural learning and symbols. What is a symbol?
- A.** something verbal or nonverbal within a particular language or culture that comes to stand for something else, with no necessary or natural connection to the thing for which it stands
 - B. something verbal or nonverbal with a nonarbitrary association with what it symbolizes
 - C. a linguistic sign within a particular language that comes to stand for something else in another language
 - D. a distinctive or unique cultural trait, pattern, or integration that can be translated into other cultures
 - E. any element within a culture that distinguishes it from other cultures, precisely because it is difficult to translate

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

5. What does it mean to say that humans use culture instrumentally?
- A. Culture is instrumental in the creation of societies.
 - B. People use culture to advance civilization.
 - C.** People use culture to fulfill their basic biological needs for food, drink, shelter, comfort, and reproduction.
 - D. Culture is a human construct.
 - E. People use culture to develop artistic endeavors, including musical instruments and visual arts.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

6. What do anthropologists mean when they say culture is shared?
- A. Passive enculturation is accomplished by more than one person.
 - B. Culture is universally regarded as more important than the concept of the individual.
 - C. Culture is what ensures that all people raised in the same society have the same opinions.
 - D.** Culture is an attribute of individuals as members of groups.
 - E. Culture is an attribute of particular individuals.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
Topic: What Is Culture?

7. People in the United States sometimes have trouble understanding the power of culture because of the value that American culture places on the idea of the individual. Yet in American culture,
- A. individualism is something people talk about but don't practice, because it is not really part of their culture.
 - B. individualism is a distinctive shared value, a result of genetic enculturation.
 - C. individualism is a distinctive shared value, a feature of culture.**
 - D. individualism is a distinctive commercial value, a feature of capitalist culture shared only by the business elite.
 - E. the cult of individualism is truly shared only by the country's atheist minority.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
Topic: What Is Culture?

8. People must eat, but culture teaches us what, when, and how to do so. This is an example of how
- A. biology dominates culture.
 - B. individuals are powerless to alter the strong relationship between nature and culture.
 - C. "human nature" is a cultural construction, an idea we have in our minds that has nothing to do with true nature.
 - D. we are all just uncultured animals.
 - E. culture takes the natural biological urges we share with other animals and teaches us how to express them in particular ways.**

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
Topic: What Is Culture?

9. Something verbal or nonverbal that stands for something else is known as a
- A. transmitter.
 - B. symbol.**
 - C. substitute.
 - D. talisman.
 - E. taboo.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
Topic: What Is Culture?

10. Which of the following statements about culture is FALSE?
- A. It has an evolutionary basis.
 - B. It is acquired by all humans, as members of society, through enculturation.
 - C. It encompasses rule-governed, shared, symbol-based, learned behavior, as well as beliefs transmitted across the generations.
 - D. It is transmitted genetically.**
 - E. Everyone is cultured.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
Topic: What Is Culture?

11. Culture can be adaptive or maladaptive. It is maladaptive when
- A. it threatens the core values of a culture that guarantee its integration.
 - B. it exhibits cultural traits that are not shared with the majority of the group.
 - C. cultural traits, patterns, and inventions disrupt the world economy, causing international discontent.
 - D. cultural traits, patterns, and inventions threaten the group's continued survival and reproduction and thus its very existence.**
 - E. cultural traits diminish the survival of particular individuals but not others.

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
Topic: What Is Culture?

12. The human capacity for culture has an evolutionary basis that extends back perhaps 3 million years. This date corresponds to
- A. early toolmakers, whose products survive in the archaeological record.**
 - B. a genetic mutation that caused an increase in brain size and complexity.
 - C. the earliest production of cave art found in South Africa.
 - D. the advent of anatomically modern primates.
 - E. evidence of hunting and the use of fire to cook tough meats.

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Learning Objective: Discuss the evolutionary basis of culture and the similarities and differences between humans and primates.
Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis

13. Why does this chapter on culture include a section that describes similarities and differences between humans and apes, our closest relatives?
- A. to illustrate how evolution is just a theory

- B. to better define culture as a capacity that distinguishes members of the zoological family *Hominidae* from anatomically modern humans
C. to emphasize culture's evolutionary basis
D. to stress that there is no such thing as human nature
E. to promote the study of primatology, which has nothing to do with human culture

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Learning Objective: Discuss the evolutionary basis of culture and the similarities and differences between humans and primates.

Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis

14. Many human traits reflect the fact that our primate ancestors lived in trees. These traits include all of the following EXCEPT
A. grasping ability.
B. depth and color vision.
C. echolocation, made possible by overlapping visual fields.
D. learning ability based on a large brain.
E. substantial parental investment in a limited number of offspring.

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Learning Objective: Discuss the evolutionary basis of culture and the similarities and differences between humans and primates.

Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis

15. Which of the following is a mechanism of cultural change?
A. diffusion
B. generational enculturation
C. particularity
D. cultural relativism
E. ethnocentrism

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Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Universality, Generality, and Particularity

16. Which of the following is a cultural generality?
A. exogamy
B. the use of fire
C. the nuclear family
D. the incest taboo
E. the use of symbols

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Learning Objective: Define and identify examples of cultural universalities, generalities, and particularities.

Topic: Universality, Generality, and Particularity

17. Which of the following LEAST explains the existence of cultural generalities?
A. trade
B. cultural borrowing
C. colonialism
D. globalization
E. isolationism

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Learning Objective: Define and identify examples of cultural universalities, generalities, and particularities.

Topic: Universality, Generality, and Particularity

18. What are cultural particularities?
A. traits isolated from other traits in the same culture
B. cultural traits of individuals rather than of groups
C. different levels of culture
D. the most general aspect of culture patterns
E. traits unique to a given culture, not shared with others

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Learning Objective: Define and identify examples of cultural universalities, generalities, and particularities.

Topic: Universality, Generality, and Particularity

19. All of the following are evidence of the tendency to view culture as a process EXCEPT
A. interest in how acts of resistance can make and remake culture.
B. practice theory.
C. attention to agency in anthropological analysis.
D. analyses that attempt to establish boundaries between cultures.
E. interest in public, collective, and individual dimensions of day-to-day life.

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Learning Objective: Explain how people may avoid, subvert, and manipulate cultural "rules" and expectations, and how today's anthropologists view and analyze those practices.

Topic: Culture and the Individual

20. What process is most responsible for the existence of international culture?
- A. cultural relativism
 - B. ethnocentrism
 - C. dendritic acculturation
 - D. gene flow
 - E. cultural diffusion**

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Learning Objective: Recall the three levels of culture and why it is important to differentiate among them.

Topic: Levels of Culture

21. Which of the following statements about subcultures is FALSE?
- A. They may originate in ethnicity, class, region, or religion.
 - B. They are mutually exclusive; individuals may not participate in more than one subculture.**
 - C. They exemplify "levels of culture."
 - D. They have different learning experiences.
 - E. They have shared learning experiences.

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Learning Objective: Recall the three levels of culture and why it is important to differentiate among them.

Topic: Levels of Culture

22. The tendency to view one's own culture as superior and to use one's own standards and values in judging others is called
- A. moral relativism.
 - B. patriotism.
 - C. ethnocentrism.**
 - D. cultural relativism.
 - E. illiteracy.

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Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

23. In anthropology, cultural relativism is not a moral position but a methodological one. It states that
- A. to understand another culture fully, we must try to understand how the people in that culture see things.**
 - B. because cultural values vary between cultures, they cannot be analyzed and compared.
 - C. to bring about desired cultural change, anthropologists should act as emissaries of the most evolved cultural values.
 - D. to understand another culture, we must use tactics to try to jar people so that their true views are revealed.
 - E. some cultures are relatively better than others.

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Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

24. How are cultural rights different from human rights?
- A. The United Nations protects human rights but not cultural rights.
 - B. The term *cultural rights* is a politically correct synonym for human rights.
 - C. Cultural rights are more clear-cut than human rights.
 - D. Human rights are real, whereas cultural rights are just perceived.
 - E. Cultural rights are vested in groups, not in individuals.**

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Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

25. Human rights are seen as inalienable. This means that
- A. no one can abuse them.
 - B. they are universally accepted by all individuals.
 - C. anthropologists have no moral grounds to question them.
 - D. nations cannot abridge or terminate them.**
 - E. they are vested in groups and not individuals.

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Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

26. Although rap music originated in the United States, it is now popular all over the world. Which of the following mechanisms of cultural change is responsible for this?

- A. enculturation
- B. acculturation
- C. diffusion**
- D. colonization
- E. independent invention

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Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

27. What is the term for the kind of cultural change that results when two or more cultures have consistent firsthand contact?

- A. colonization
- B. imperialism
- C. enculturation
- D. independent invention
- E. acculturation**

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Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

28. There are two meanings of globalization: globalization as fact and process, and globalization as ideology and contested policy. What is the primary and neutral meaning of globalization as it is applicable to anthropology?

- A. the efforts by international financial powers to create a global free market for goods and services
- B. opposition to global free trade
- C. promotion of the interests of multinational corporations at the expense of farmers and workers
- D. the impact of the world on the rest of the universe
- E. the spread and connectedness of production, communication, and technologies across the world**

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Learning Objective: Summarize how globalization affects culture, including how people may affect and be affected by the interrelated forces of globalization.

Topic: Globalization

29. Which of the following is an example of independent invention, the process by which people in different societies have innovated and changed in similar but independent ways?

- A. language
- B. culture
- C. agriculture**
- D. globalization
- E. acculturation

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Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

30. Culture helps us define the world in which we live, to express feelings and ideas, and to guide our behavior and perceptions.

TRUE

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

31. Culture is transmitted by both formal and informal instruction, but not by observation.

FALSE

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

32. Culture is transmitted in society.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

33. Language is one of the distinctive possessions of *Homo sapiens*.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

34. Cultures are integrated, patterned systems in which, if one part of the system is changed, other parts may also change.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

35. Although culture is one of the principal means humans use to adapt to their environment, some cultural traits can be harmful to a group's survival.

TRUE

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Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.

Topic: What Is Culture?

36. While cultural abilities have a biological basis, they do not have an evolutionary basis.

FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Discuss the evolutionary basis of culture and the similarities and differences between humans and primates.

Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis

37. Although humans do employ tools much more than any other animal does, tool use also turns up among several nonhuman species, including birds, beavers, sea otters, and apes.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Discuss the evolutionary basis of culture and the similarities and differences between humans and primates.

Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis

38. Hunting is a distinctive human activity not shared with the apes.

FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Discuss the evolutionary basis of culture and the similarities and differences between humans and primates.

Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis

39. Once an individual has been enculturated, that person must adhere to the cultural rules that govern that culture.

FALSE

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Learning Objective: Explain how people may avoid, subvert, and manipulate cultural "rules" and expectations, and how today's anthropologists view and analyze those practices.

Topic: Culture and the Individual

40. Cultural particularities are unique to certain cultures, while cultural generalities are common to several (but not all) cultures.

TRUE

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Learning Objective: Define and identify examples of cultural universalities, generalities, and particularities.

Topic: Universality, Generality, and Particularity

41. Practice theory recognizes that the study of anthropology takes a lot of practice before resulting in accurate descriptions of a culture.

FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Recall the three levels of culture and why it is important to differentiate among them.

Topic: Culture and the Individual

42. Although there are many different levels of culture, an individual can participate in only one level at a time.

FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Recall the three levels of culture and why it is important to differentiate among them.

Topic: Levels of Culture

43. Only people living in the industrialized, capitalist countries of Europe and the United States are ethnocentric.

FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

44. Cultural relativists believe that a culture should be judged only according to the standards and traditions of that culture and not according to the standards of other cultural traditions.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

45. Anthropology is characterized by a methodological rather than moral relativism; in order to understand another culture fully, anthropologists try to understand its members' beliefs and motivations.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

46. Methodological relativism does not preclude making moral judgments or taking action.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

47. The idea of universal and inalienable human rights that are superior to the laws and ethics of any one culture can conflict with some of the ideas central to cultural relativism.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.

Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

48. Diffusion plays an important role in spreading cultural traits around the world.

TRUE

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Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

49. In many countries, use of the English language reflects a colonial history and is thus a consequence of forced diffusion.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

50. Independent invention occurs when two or more cultures independently come up with similar solutions to a common problem.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

51. Acculturation is the process by which people lose the culture they learned as children.

FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.

Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

52. Indigenous cultures are at the mercy of the forces of globalization, as they can do nothing to stop threats to their cultural identity, autonomy, and livelihood.

FALSE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Summarize how globalization affects culture, including how people may affect and be affected by the interrelated forces of globalization.

Topic: Globalization

53. Globalization has led to new forms of cultural expression.

TRUE

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation

Learning Objective: Summarize how globalization affects culture, including how people may affect and be affected by the interrelated forces of globalization.

Topic: Globalization

54. What does it mean to say that culture is all-encompassing?

Answers will vary.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
 Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
 Topic: What Is Culture?

55. How has this chapter challenged your understanding of the concept of human nature?

Answers will vary.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
 Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
 Topic: What Is Culture?

56. What are the different kinds of learning? On which kind (or kinds) of learning is culture based? How is culture transmitted across generations?

Answers will vary.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
 Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.
 Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis

57. Explain the distinctions among cultural universals, generalities, and particularities, and give examples of each.

Answers will vary.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
 Learning Objective: Define and identify examples of cultural universalities, generalities, and particularities.
 Topic: Universality, Generality, and Particularity

58. Agency refers to the actions that individuals take, both alone and in groups, in forming and transforming culture. Describe examples in your own life that illustrate the relationship between agency and culture.

Answers will vary.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
 Learning Objective: Recall the three levels of culture and why it is important to differentiate among them.
 Topic: Levels of Culture

59. What does it mean to say that there are levels of culture? What are they? How do cultural traits extend to a broader geographic area?

Answers will vary.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
 Learning Objective: Recall the three levels of culture and why it is important to differentiate among them.
 Topic: Levels of Culture

60. What are ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, and how do they affect the work of anthropologists? How do they influence your own life in an increasingly diverse society?

Answers will vary.

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 Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.
 Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights

61. Compare and contrast the various mechanisms of cultural change discussed in this chapter. In particular, to what extent does each model for change suggest that culture shapes human behavior or is shaped by human behavior?

Answers will vary.

Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation
 Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.
 Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change

<u>Category</u>	<u># of Questions</u>
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation	61
Learning Objective: Define and identify examples of cultural universalities, generalities, and particularities.	5
Learning Objective: Describe the defining dimensions of culture.	20
Learning Objective: Describe the mechanisms of cultural change.	9
Learning Objective: Discuss the evolutionary basis of culture and the similarities and differences between humans and primates.	6
Learning Objective: Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, including how both relate to human rights.	10
Learning Objective: Explain how people may avoid, subvert, and manipulate cultural "rules" and expectations, and how today's anthropologists view and analyze those practices.	2

Learning Objective: Recall the three levels of culture and why it is important to differentiate among them.	6
Learning Objective: Summarize how globalization affects culture, including how people may affect and be affected by the interrelated forces of globalization.	3
Topic: Culture and the Individual	3
Topic: Culture's Evolutionary Basis	7
Topic: Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, and Human Rights	10
Topic: Globalization	3
Topic: Levels of Culture	5
Topic: Mechanisms of Cultural Change	8
Topic: Universality, Generality, and Particularity	6
Topic: What Is Culture?	19