



Chapter 3 Exercises

Multiple Choice

1. Which group defines themselves through a rejection of the mainstream?
 - a. Beatniks
 - b. Hepcats
 - c. Hipsters
 - d. Hippies
2. Society and culture _____.
 - a. could not exist without each other
 - b. are unrelated
 - c. are the same thing
 - d. could not exist together
3. Elise travels across Thailand with her friends and, to her surprise, finds the country quite unlike the United States. "I hate the food," she tells her family at home. "I hate the language, I hate the weird customs and awful music. America is clearly the best place to be." This is an example of _____.
 - a. paradigms
 - b. xenocentrism
 - c. moral relativism
 - d. ethnocentrism
4. Xenocentrism is:
 - a. The opposite of cultural relativism
 - b. The opposite of cultural universalism
 - c. The same as cultural imperitivism
 - d. The opposite of ethnocentrism
5. A cultural universal is:
 - a. An object or a belonging of a group
 - b. A pattern or trait common to all societies
 - c. The ideas, attitudes and beliefs of a particular society
 - d. A written document outlining appropriate behavior
6. Many Americans pay for haircuts, trips to the dentist, or transportation. These actions support the concept of capitalism, an example of _____.
 - a. nonmaterial culture
 - b. material culture
 - c. a cultural universal
 - d. the counterculture
7. Which of the following is an example of a cultural universal?
 - a. Putting your phone on silent during a movie
 - b. Holding hands with your best friend
 - c. Incest taboos
 - d. Marrying the partner whom your parents have chosen for you
8. Kurt and Mitch visit an Amish village on a class trip. Kurt says, "Let's see if we can find some old radios and appliances and drop them off for the Amish later this week. I think they'll appreciate it. They just don't understand what they're missing." Mitch rolls his eyes. Kurt's perspective is an example of _____.
 - a. behavioral normativity
 - b. cultural imperialism
 - c. material culture
 - d. ideal culture
9. Which of the following is an example of cultural relativism?
 - a. Ingrid becoming upset over the language used in the Australian Outback
 - b. Andy marrying a woman who does not practice his religion, though his parents disprove
 - c. Helena putting aside her vegetarianism to eat meals with the local tribe she is studying
 - d. Joseph protesting the Running of the Bulls while visiting Pamplona

10. Angelica visits Thailand with her family. When she wears shorts and tank tops while visiting temples during her first week, she is met with hostility from the locals. She feels she no longer knows how to behave or interact with those outside her family. Angelica is experiencing ____.
- cultural imperialism
 - culture shock
 - material culture
 - xenocentrism
11. The term *values* can be defined as:
- The tenets or convictions that people hold to be true
 - A culture's standard for discerning what's good and just in society
 - Scripture found within the Bible
 - Federal laws and regulations
12. Janet is visiting her childhood friend in the Hamptons and wears ripped jeans and Chuck Taylors to a formal-dress party. The majority of partygoers refuse to socialize with her. Janet is experiencing a form of ____.
- formal sanction
 - xenocentrism
 - social control
 - ethnocentricity
13. Which of the following is *not* an example of a formal norm within the United States?
- Driving on the right-hand side of the road
 - Crossing streets on crosswalks
 - Paying taxes
 - Making eye contact while speaking
14. What is one difference between a more and a folkway?
- Mores encourage social rebellion; folkways do not.
 - Mores are legally acceptable to violate; folkways are not.
 - Mores are constructed based on norms; folkways are not.
 - Mores may carry serious consequences if violated; folkways do not.
15. The term *language* can be defined as:
- Gestures, signs, objects, signals, and words that help people understand the world
 - A symbolic system through which people communicate and culture is transmitted
 - The exchange of gestures and signals for the purpose of reaching a consensus
 - Communication grounded in ideals, norms, and values
16. MTV's widely watched TV series *The Jersey Shore* is an example of ____, while the obscure works of playwright Sam Shepard are an example of ____.
- high culture; popular culture
 - popular culture; high culture
 - high culture; low culture
 - Jersey culture; low culture
17. Which of the following is an example of a counterculture?
- The yuppie craze of the 1980s
 - The Kardashian obsession of the 2010s
 - The hippie movement of the 1960s
 - The disco invasion of the 1970s
18. In 1999, Sean Fanning, John Fanning, and Sean Parker invented Napster, a global, free-of-charge, peer-to-peer music-sharing program. Prior to Napster, no such program existed. The three men created a(n) ____.
- innovation
 - discovery
 - culture lag
 - cultural universal

19. In the early 2000s, *The L Word* and *Queer as Folk* debuted on Showtime. Both shows depicted the lives of members of the LGBTQ+ community, giving viewers a glimpse into a _____.
- more
 - formal sanction
 - subculture
 - social relativism
20. Which of the following is an example of an informal sanction?
- The football team throwing a slushy in Finn's face because he tried to join the glee club
 - Lilly being sent to prison because she failed to pay her taxes
 - Brett illegally downloading the new Black Keys album because he couldn't afford to buy it
 - Sarah buying Lady Gaga tickets from a scalper because the show sold out

Free Response

- Examine the difference between material and nonmaterial culture in your society. Identify ten objects that are part of your regular cultural experience. Then, identify which aspects of nonmaterial culture (values and beliefs) each object represents. What has this exercise revealed to you about your culture?
- Do you think feelings of ethnocentricity or xenocentricity are more prevalent in U.S. culture? Why? What issues or events inform your opinion?
- What do you think of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis? Do you agree with it? Cite examples or research to support your point of view.
- How do you think your culture would exist if there were no such thing as a social norm? Do you think chaos would ensue or relative peace could be kept? Explain.
- Identify several examples of popular culture and describe how they inform larger culture. How prevalent is the effect of these examples in your everyday life?
- Consider some of the specific issues or concerns of your generation. Are any ideas countercultural? What subcultures have emerged from your generation? How have the issues of your generation expressed themselves culturally? How has your generation made its mark on society's collective culture?
- What are some examples of cultural lag in your life? Do you think technology affects culture positively or negatively? Explain.
- Consider a current social trend that you have witnessed, perhaps situated around family, education, transportation, or finances. For example, many veterans of the Armed Forces, after completing tours of duty, are returning to college rather than entering jobs as veterans, as previous generations did. Choose a sociological approach—functionalism, conflict theory, or symbolic interactionism—to describe, explain, and analyze the social issue you choose. Afterward, determine why you chose the approach you did. Does it suit your own way of thinking? Did it offer the best method to illuminate the social issue?