**CHAPTER 1**

**WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. In the textbook, "anthropology" is defined as the study of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) human nature, human society, human language, and the human past

b) the remains of earlier societies and peoples

c) the ways of life of contemporary peoples

d) the physical and mental capacities of human beings

2. The authors define "holism" as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) trying to study everything possible about a group of people

b) integrating what is known about human beings and their activities

c) studying human biology and culture at the same time

d) fitting together economics, political science, religious studies, and biology

3. To say that anthropology is comparative means that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) each anthropologist studies many different societies during his or her career

b) anthropological generalizations draw on evidence from the widest possible range of societies

c) anthropologists use data from many different academic disciplines

d) there is no one way for the anthropologist to do research

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is NOT listed in the text as an element of the anthropological perspective.

a) Holism

b) Comparison

c) Evolution

d) Culturalism

5. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ study examines how economics, politics, religion, and kinship shape one another in a specific society.

a) detailed

b) cultural

c) holistic

d) comparative

6. An anthropologist studying a social group observes that people shake hands when greeting one another and concludes that handshaking is universal among humans. This study is faulty because it was not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) holistic

b) evolutionary

c) ethnocentric

d) comparative

7. When we say that anthropology is a field-based discipline, we mean that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) information about particular social groups comes through direct contact with them

b) anthropologists working in universities intersperse teaching and other tasks with field research

c) research connects anthropologists directly with the lived experiences of other people and to the material evidence that people have left

d) All of the above

8. According to the text, culture consists of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) sets of learned behaviours and ideas that humans acquire as members of society

b) elements of human experience that require education and good taste, such as fine art, classical music, and literature

c) sets of innate behaviours that enable humans to function in a complex world

d) those practices that distinguish one group of humans from another

9. North Americans typically do not eat insects because they have learned to label insects as inedible. This explanation is based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) culture

b) biology

c) ethnocentrism

d) genetic programming

10. When we state that humans are biocultural organisms, we mean that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) human biology makes culture possible, and human culture makes human biological survival possible

b) biology is more important than culture for humans

c) human culture predates our biological organism

d) humans evolved independently of our ability to create culture

11. Traditionally, North American anthropology has been divided into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subfields.

a) two

b) three

c) four

d) five

12. According to the text, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is NOT a major subfield of North American anthropology.

a) Archaeology

b) Cultural anthropology

c) Biological anthropology

d) Physiological anthropology

13. The following statement is NOT associated with the traditional North American model of anthropology: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) This configuration reflects anthropology's commitment to holism.

b) This configuration is associated with anthropology's successful fight against 19th century scientific racism.

c) This configuration constitutes a protected "trading zone" within which fresh concepts and knowledge from a variety of research traditions are brought together.

d) This model is widespread in Europe and other parts of the world.

14. Social groupings that allegedly reflect biological differences are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) populations

b) cultures

c) races

d) ethnicities

15. Nineteenth-century attempts to group all humans into unambiguous categories called "races" were based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) observable physical features, such as skin color, hair type, and skull shape

b) supposed mental and moral attributes

c) existing beliefs about the inherent biological superiority of some races and the inferiority of others

d) All of the above

16. Michel Bouchard's research on status and stigma among French-speakers in Alberta shows that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) young children know which language is dominant

b) French is spoken only by people who have recently arrived in Alberta from Quebec

c) French-speaking children in Alberta believe that they belong to a high-status-group

d) media campaigns can reduce the stigma felt by linguistic minorities

17. By the early twentieth century, some anthropologists and biologists concluded that the concept of "race" was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) justified by the increasingly scientific biological research on humans

b) a cultural label invented by humans to sort people into groups

c) a political liability, although the evidence was increasingly strong in its favor

d) a label that recognized important cultural and biological differences between groups

18. After discrediting scientific racism and moving away from the classification of humans into distinct races, biological anthropologists shifted their attention to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) patterns of variation and adaptation within the human species as a whole

b) the material remains of the human past

c) present-day social arrangements in human groups

d) human symbolic communication

19. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to the systematic oppression of members of one or more socially defined "races" by members of another socially defined "race" that is justified in terms of the supposed inherent biological superiority of the rulers and the supposed inherent biological inferiority of those they rule.

a) Ethnocentrism

b) Hierarchy

c) Racism

d) Hegemony

20. Primatologists are biological anthropologists who study \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) the closest living relatives of humans

b) the bones and teeth of early humans

c) material remnants of early human society

d) the reconstruction of human evolution through DNA

21. Paleoanthropologists study \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) modern apes

b) biological variation in living human populations

c) fossilized bones and teeth

d) nutrition and physical development

22. Biological anthropologists do not investigate the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) connection between disease patterns in contemporary Quebec and historical disease patterns among settlers in New France

b) identification of human remains to assist in law enforcement

c) identification of human remains to assist in human rights cases

d) differences in culturally-assigned gender roles

23. All of the following terms, EXCEPT for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, refer to cultural anthropology.

a) sociocultural anthropology

b) social anthropology

c) ethnology

d) ethology

24. The anthropological subfield typically associated with Canadian Anthropologist Marie-France Labrecque is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) cultural anthropology

b) physical anthropology

c) archaeology

d) linguistic anthropology

25. Gender, kinship, religion, sexuality, migration, political or economic systems of contemporary human society are scopes of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) cultural anthropological studies

b) biological anthropological studies

c) archaeological studies

d) ethnological studies

26. Sociology and anthropology developed during the same period and share a common interest in social organization. However, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) while anthropologists did qualitative research, sociologists did quantitative research

b) anthropologists typically did research outside industrial societies, while sociologists did research within these societies

c) anthropologists typically did research in Europe and North America, while sociologists did research outside these societies

d) anthropologists focused on rural communities, while sociologists focused on urban communities

27. Today, anthropologists study \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) all human societies, including their own

b) only societies where they are considered outsiders

c) rural communities, while sociologists focus on urban communities

d) rural and urban communities in non-industrialized societies

28. Kinship is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) a form of social groups, such as secret societies and political organizations

b) a form of relatedness that links people to one another on the basis of birth, marriage, and nurturance

c) the study of gender and sexuality

d) a form of human population movement, including labour migration, refugee movement, and forced migration

29. Cultural anthropology is NOT likely to study \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) the use of cyber technology in Yemen

b) how Yemeni people have responded to capitalism and colonialism

c) the study of ritual in Yemen, including its historical context

d) the reconstruction of Yemeni dwellings

30. Fieldwork is the period of research during which cultural anthropologists \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) take part in the everyday routine of the people whose way of life they are interested in

b) carry out a preliminary study to see if a methodology is feasible

c) determine which areas are most likely to yield evidence of early human occupation

d) spend most of their time making preparations for travel to the field

31. People who share information about their culture with anthropologists are sometimes called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by contemporary anthropologists.

a) informants

b) collaborators

c) respondents

d) All of the above

32. Some anthropologists dislike the term "informants" because it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) suggests that the role is limited to supplying information for the benefit of the researcher

b) implies that the anthropologist is involved in covert activity

c) distinguishes between people who provide information and those who don't

d) identifies people to whom the anthropologist has promised anonymity

33. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ involves participating in activities with members of a group while observing at the same time.

a) Mutual participation

b) Observation participation

c) Active observation

d) Participant observation

34. The textbook authors consider \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a central research method to cultural anthropology.

a) participant observation

b) observation participation

c) fieldwork

d) semi-structured interviews

35. Ethnography refers to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) history of anthropology as a discipline

b) comparison of the customary social practices of two or more identifiable groups of people

c) description of the customary social behaviours of an identifiable group of people

d) detailed discussion of the methodology used in field research

36. Ethnology is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) comparison of the customary social behaviours of two or more identifiable groups of people

b) description of the customary social behaviours of an identifiable group of people

c) history of anthropology as a discipline

d) detailed discussion of the methodology used in field research

37. "Language" is defined as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) a fixed, rule-based system of words

b) a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used to encode experience

c) the correct, spoken form of grammar

d) a neutral system in which letters correspond to sounds

38. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are languages that are produced when speakers of unrelated languages are forced to communicate with one another.

a) Niche constructions

b) Conlangs

c) Pidgins

d) Norms of reaction

39. Christine Schreyer, who studied communities built around fictional languages like those depicted in The Lord of the Rings and Avatar, found that the popularity of these languages was driven by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) tangible economic benefits associated with speaking these languages

b) revitalization of endangered minority languages

c) fan conferences called conlangs

d) the prestige associated with the fictional characters who use them and people's attachment to the fantasy world they are used in

40. According to your textbook, linguistic anthropology is considered a separate subfield of anthropology because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) linguistic anthropologists do not use translators in their research

b) cultural anthropologists do not receive training in languages or linguistics

c) linguistic anthropology is relatively disconnected from the other subfields

d) highly specialized training in both linguistics and anthropology is required

41. The following phrase does NOT accurately describe archaeology: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) Archaeology is the cultural anthropology of the past

b) Archaeology is the discovery and systematic study of the remnants of the human past

c) Archaeology uses anthropological knowledge to solve practical cross-cultural problems

d) Archaeology studies the reconstruction of human prehistory and history through the analysis of material culture

42. Archaeologists perform all of the following tasks, EXCEPT for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) conducting surveys of areas that may have been inhabited by humans

b) reconstructing the types of houses that were used in a particular site

c) recreating tools that were used in a particular site

d) identifying which hominin species occupied a particular site

43. Archaeologists usually work in teams or crews \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) that include specialists such as geologists, botanists, metallurgists, and others

b) so that work can continue around the clock, in order to do as much as possible within a limited time frame

c) of two or three people who share tasks such as excavation and documentation

d) that are composed primarily of labourers and other support staff

44. All of the following, EXCEPT for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, are examples of material culture.

a) remnants of an ancient campfire

b) fossilized human bones

c) a pile of stone flakes left over from toolmaking

d) garbage deposited by humans over the last two or three decades

45. Professional ethics and historic preservation laws throughout the world require archaeologists to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) seek government permission to excavate sites

b) be accountable to the public for the conservation of human prehistory

c) follow standard protocols for preserving artifacts

d) All of the above

46. Cultural resource management is also known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) salvage archaeology

b) applied archaeology

c) archaeology in the public interest

d) ethical archaeology

47. Archaeologists working in cultural resource management \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) plan and design temporary and permanent museum exhibits

b) make recommendations on where and how artifacts should be exhibited and stored

c) assess locations that are slated for industrial development and infrastructure projects

d) work with museum staff to determine how cultural resources should be managed

48. The subfield in which anthropologists use material gathered from the other anthropological specialties to propose solutions to practical cross-cultural problems is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) practical anthropology

b) applied anthropology

c) cultural resource management

d) environmental anthropology

49. In Canada, applied anthropologists have worked with First Nations bands to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) assist with government negotiations regarding land use and resource development

b) trace chemical similarities and differences in the immune system

c) better understand how humans lived in the past

d) study prehistoric garbage to understand what people ate

50. According to your textbook, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is what makes Canadian anthropology unique in North America.

a) the focus on collaborating with Indigenous communities

b) the four-field orientation in training and research

c) the expertise in specialized areas such as molecular anthropology

d) important contributions in medical anthropology

51. According to your textbook, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is one of the most rapidly growing specialties in anthropology.

a) archaeology

b) medical anthropology

c) linguistic anthropology

d) cultural anthropology

52. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the specialty in anthropology that is concerned with human health—the factors that contribute to disease or illness and the ways that human populations deal with disease or illness.

a) Physical anthropology

b) Health anthropology

c) Biological anthropology

d) Medical anthropology

53. Emőke Szathmáry's research on diabetes among the Dene found that there was a connection between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) diabetes and introduction of processed, westernized foods

b) diabetes and traditional spiritual practices

c) diabetes, low birth weight, and high cortisol

d) diabetes and genetic risk

**TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS**

1. Anthropology can be defined as the study of the human past.

2. Anthropologists are not alone focusing their attention on human beings and their creations.

3. Comparison is a characteristic of the anthropological perspective that requires anthropologists to study similarities and differences across as many societies as possible before generalizing about humans and their activities.

4. Culture is the set of instinctive behaviours and ideas that humans have acquired through evolution.

5. Biocultural organisms are organisms, such as human beings, whose defining features are codetermined by biological and cultural factors.

6. Races are social groupings that allegedly reflect biological differences.

7. Franz Boas was the father of the British Social Anthropology.

8. According to Linnaeus, Europeans were "fickle, sanguine, blue-eyed, gentle, and governed by laws."

9. Primatology is the study of humans and other primates.

10. Ethnology is sometimes used interchangeably with cultural anthropology.

11. Sex refers to the observable physical characteristics that distinguish two kinds of humans, females and males, needed for biological reproduction.

12. The people who work with anthropologists and provide them with insights and information about their way of life are usually called referrers.

13. Gender roles and identites are identical across human societies and cultures.

14. The system of arbitrary vocal symbols used to encode one's experience of the world and of others is known as a society's primary myth.

15. The preservation of endangered languages is no longer significant today, as globalization encourages the simultaneous use of different languages.

16. Archaeology is the specialty of anthropology that studies the human past by analyzing material remains left behind by earlier societies.

17. Applied anthropologists use information gathered from humanities, sciences, and social sciences to propose solutions to practical problems.

18. Critical medical anthropology is committed to the "making social" and "making political" of health and medicine.

19. "Adaptations of resistance" refers to peoples' attempts to change or escape social relations that compromise their well-being.

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What is anthropology?

2. What is culture?

3. What do anthropologists mean when they claim their discipline is holistic?

4. What does it mean to say that anthropologists study humanity from a biocultural perspective?

5. How is biological anthropology different from biology as a discipline?

6. What forms of social organization are found in societies that do not have centralized governments?

7. Explain how Christine Schreyer's research about conlangs can help community leaders deal with decreasing interest in maintaining a minority language.

8. What is applied anthropology?

9. According to critical medical anthropologists, what social and cultural factors make people more vulnerable to disease and suffering?

10. How might a university undergraduate benefit from studying anthropology?

**ANSWER KEY**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. a

2. b

3. b

4. d

5. c

6. d

7. d

8. a

9. a

10. a

11. c

12. d

13. d

14. c

15. d

16. a

17. b

18. a

19. c

20. a

21. c

22. d

23. d

24. a

25. a

26. b

27. a

28. b

29. d

30. a

31. d

32. a

33. d

34. a

35. c

36. a

37. b

38. c

39. d

40. d

41. c

42. d

43. a

44. b

45. d

46. a

47. c

48. b

49. a

50. a

51. b

52. d

53. a

**TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS**

1. FALSE

2. TRUE

3. TRUE

4. FALSE

5. TRUE

6. TRUE

7. FALSE

8. TRUE

9. FALSE

10. TRUE

11. TRUE

12. FALSE

13. FALSE

14. FALSE

15. FALSE

16. TRUE

17. FALSE

18. TRUE

19. TRUE

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Anthropology is the study of human nature, human society, human language and the human past.

2. Culture is the sets of learned behaviour and ideas that human beings acquire as members of society.

3. This refers to the discipline's perspective, which draws together the study of human nature, human society, human language, and the human past. Anthropology emphasizes that all aspects of human life intersect with each other in complex ways and become integrated with each other over time.

4. Anthropologists examine both biological and cultural evolution of the human species, including both how the physical features and life processes of humans have changed over time as well as how beliefs, behaviours, and material objects have changed. Humans' biological makeup makes us organisms that are capable of creating and using culture, and at the same time, our physical survival depends on learned ways of thinking and acting that help us to meet our biological needs.

5. While biological anthropologists use many methods and theories shared by the natural sciences, they employ a perspective that is holistic, comparative, and evolutionary. This perspective reminds them always to consider that their work as only part of the overall study of human nature, human society, and the human past.

6. Societies that do not have centralized governments have other forms of social organization including kinship, secret societies, and age sets.

7. Schreyer found that conlangs draw their prestige from the lore surrounding the characters who use them in fictional realities. People generally wish to learn conlangs because of their attachment to a larger universe of wonder and fantasy. Finding a way to increase the level of prestige attached to an endangered language, to increase its appeal to potential users, is vital to revitalization.

8. Applied anthropology is the subfield of anthropology in which anthropologists use information gathered from the other anthropological specialties to propose solutions to practical cross-cultural problems.

9. Disease and suffering are caused not only by the presence of microbes, but also by social inequality (based on gender, class, perceived race, and ethnicity) and lack of access to health care.

10. Anthropology shows us that, in addition to the lives we are living, there are many options for living a satisfying human life. In becoming familiar with other cultural traditions, we can shed harmful stereotypes and gain skills and perspective that are useful when dealing with people who speak a different language, have a different appearance, and see the world differently from us.