

Sociology Multiple Choice practice Questions for UGC NET

1. What is the primary difference between culture and biology as discussed in the text?

- A) Culture is learned and transmitted socially, while biology is hereditary.
- B) Biology is a system of beliefs, culture is not.
- C) Culture is natural, while biology is artificial.
- D) Biology changes frequently, culture remains static.

Answer: A) Culture is learned and transmitted socially, while biology is hereditary.

2. Who gave the first definition of culture as "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities acquired by man as a member of society"?

- A) Alfred Kroeber
- B) E.B. Tylor
- C) Ralph Linton
- D) Clyde Kluckhohn

Answer: B) E.B. Tylor

3. Which of the following best describes 'cultural diffusion'?

- A) The creation of new cultural traits
- B) The process by which the elements of culture spread from one society to another
- C) A culture within a larger dominant culture
- D) Feeling that one's culture is superior to others

Answer: B) The process by which the elements of culture spread from one society to another

4. What does the term 'ethnocentrism' mean?

- A) Belief that other cultures are superior to one's own
- B) Evaluation of a culture by its own standards
- C) Feeling that one's own culture is superior to others

D) A process of cultural assimilation

Answer: C) Feeling that one's own culture is superior to others

5. According to William F. Ogburn, what are the two main types of culture?

A) Material and non-material culture

B) Tradition and innovation

C) Civilization and society

D) Folkways and mores

Answer: A) Material and non-material culture

6. What element of culture is described as the most important and facilitates day-to-day interaction?

A) Norms

B) Language

C) Belief

D) Values

Answer: B) Language

7. What term refers to the process in which a minority group is absorbed into the dominant culture?

A) Cultural diffusion

B) Acculturation

C) Assimilation

D) Cultural innovation

Answer: C) Assimilation

8. The concept of 'culture shock' refers to which of the following?

A) Excitement about learning a new culture

B) Difficulty in coping when encountering an unfamiliar culture

C) Adoption of cultural traits from another society

D) Feeling that one's culture is the best

Answer: B) Difficulty in coping when encountering an unfamiliar culture

9. What is 'multiculturalism' as defined in the context of sociology?

A) The dominance of one culture over others

B) The principle of coexistence and appreciation of different cultures

C) The process of assimilating minority cultures

D) The rejection of all cultural differences

Answer: B) The principle of coexistence and appreciation of different cultures

10. What is the relationship between culture and civilization according to the text?

A) Culture is external and civilization is internal.

B) Culture is the moral, spiritual attainments; civilization is the material aspect.

C) They are the same concepts used interchangeably.

D) Civilization precedes culture always.

Answer: B) Culture is the moral, spiritual attainments; civilization is the material aspect.

11. According to Ralph Linton, society is:

A) A collection of symbols

B) An organized group of individuals

C) The sum of cultural traits

D) The product of biological instincts

Answer: B) An organized group of individuals

12. What distinguishes human culture from animal behavior?

A) Animals have language but humans do not

B) Humans rely on instinct, animals rely on learning

C) Culture is learned and transmitted socially, animals depend on instinct

D) Animals create culture like humans

Answer: C) Culture is learned and transmitted socially, animals depend on instinct

13. What is a 'culture complex'?

- A) The smallest element of culture
- B) A combination of various cultural traits interconnected together
- C) A dominant culture in a society
- D) A group of cultural symbols

Answer: B) A combination of various cultural traits interconnected together

14. Which type of norms are informal rules that are generally accepted but not written down?

- A) Laws
- B) Mores
- C) Folkways
- D) Regulations

Answer: C) Folkways

15. What does 'cultural lag' refer to?

- A) Rapid change in material culture only
- B) The delay in non-material culture adapting to changes in material culture
- C) The rejection of foreign culture
- D) The dominance of one culture over another

Answer: B) The delay in non-material culture adapting to changes in material culture

16. Which of the following is **not** an element of culture?

- A) Beliefs
- B) Language
- C) Climate
- D) Norms

Answer: C) Climate

17. What happens during 'acculturation'?

- A) Two cultures merge to form a completely new culture
- B) Minority culture retains some elements while adopting some of the dominant culture
- C) Complete absorption of one culture by another
- D) Cultural traits become extinct

Answer: B) Minority culture retains some elements while adopting some of the dominant culture

18. What term describes a smaller culture group within a larger, dominant culture?

- A) Counterculture
- B) Subculture
- C) Assimilation
- D) Ethnocentrism

Answer: B) Subculture

19. The belief that one's own culture is superior to others is called:

- A) Cultural relativism
- B) Ethnocentrism
- C) Xenocentrism
- D) Cultural universality

Answer: B) Ethnocentrism

20. What is the term for a cultural group that strongly opposes or rejects the dominant culture?

- A) Multiculturalism
- B) Subculture
- C) Counterculture
- D) Assimilation

Answer: C) Counterculture

21. The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis relates to:

- A) The effects of technology on culture
- B) The relationship between language and cultural perception
- C) The diffusion of culture across societies
- D) The role of norms in social life

Answer: B) The relationship between language and cultural perception

22. Which sociologist distinguished between material and non-material culture?

- A) Ralph Linton
- B) William F. Ogburn
- C) E.B. Tylor
- D) Alfred Kroeber

Answer: B) William F. Ogburn

23. In the context of multiculturalism, the 'salad bowl' metaphor means:

- A) Different cultures merge completely without distinction
- B) Different cultures coexist while maintaining their unique identities
- C) Minority cultures are swallowed by the majority
- D) Cultures compete to dominate

Answer: B) Different cultures coexist while maintaining their unique identities

24. What does 'culture shock' refer to?

- A) Joyful experience of new culture
- B) Difficulty adjusting to an unfamiliar culture
- C) Loss of one's own culture
- D) Complete acceptance of a new culture

Answer: B) Difficulty adjusting to an unfamiliar culture

25. According to the unit, what is a 'symbol' in cultural terms?

- A) Any random object with no meaning
- B) A biological instinct
- C) An object or sign that carries a particular cultural meaning

D) A cultural lag

Answer: C) An object or sign that carries a particular cultural meaning

26. Which of the following best describes 'cultural universals'?

A) Cultural traits found only in one society

B) Traits, patterns, or institutions found in all societies

C) The dominant culture in multicultural societies

D) Customs that are strictly enforced by laws

Answer: B) Traits, patterns, or institutions found in all societies

27. According to the unit, which one of these is NOT a function of culture?

A) Culture provides solutions to basic human needs

B) Culture promotes social integration

C) Culture guarantees biological evolution

D) Culture transmits learned behavior

Answer: C) Culture guarantees biological evolution

28. What does the term 'cultural shock' specifically refer to?

A) Extreme excitement from visiting new places

B) Feeling of disorientation when encountering an unfamiliar culture

C) Complete assimilation into a different culture

D) Rejection of all cultural elements

Answer: B) Feeling of disorientation when encountering an unfamiliar culture

29. Which of the following types of norms are formally written and enforced by official institutions?

A) Folkways

B) Mores

C) Laws

D) Customs

Answer: C) Laws

30. What does 'ethnocentrism' potentially lead to according to Sumner?

- A) Xenophobia
- B) Cultural relativism
- C) Multiculturalism
- D) Assimilation

Answer: A) Xenophobia

31. 'Cultural lag' is a concept developed by:

- A) Emile Durkheim
- B) William F. Ogburn
- C) Ralph Linton
- D) E.B. Tylor

Answer: B) William F. Ogburn

32. What are 'folkways'?

- A) Laws that everybody must follow
- B) Informal everyday norms or customs
- C) Formal codes of conduct
- D) Religious rituals

Answer: B) Informal everyday norms or customs

33. Which of the following terms best describes the symbolic object that distinguishes one culture from another?

- A) Innovation
- B) Ritual
- C) Symbol
- D) Subculture

Answer: C) Symbol

34. What is 'acculturation'?

- A) The outright dominance of one culture over another
- B) A two-way exchange where minority group retains some culture while adopting the dominant culture
- C) Complete rejection of one culture
- D) Total fusion of two cultures into a new one

Answer: B) A two-way exchange where minority group retains some culture while adopting the dominant culture

35. Which of the following best exemplifies 'material culture'?

- A) Beliefs and values
- B) Customs and traditions
- C) Tools, buildings, and technology
- D) Norms and laws

Answer: C) Tools, buildings, and technology

36. What are 'countercultures'?

- A) Cultures that adapt to the dominant culture
- B) Subcultures that resist or oppose the dominant culture
- C) The universally accepted cultures across societies
- D) Cultures merged through globalization

Answer: B) Subcultures that resist or oppose the dominant culture

37. Which element of culture forms the basis of many social institutions like marriage and religion?

- A) Norms
- B) Values
- C) Religion
- D) Beliefs

Answer: D) Beliefs

38. Pierre Bourdieu's concept of 'cultural capital' refers to:

- A) Money invested in cultural institutions
- B) The non-financial social assets (like education) that promote social mobility
- C) Legal control of cultural properties
- D) Physical cultural artifacts

Answer: B) The non-financial social assets (like education) that promote social mobility

39. Which of the following is an example of 'non-material culture'?

- A) Cars
- B) Customs
- C) Houses
- D) Computers

Answer: B) Customs

40. Which of the following best explains 'globalisation' in relation to culture?

- A) Isolation of cultural groups
- B) Spread and integration of cultures worldwide through trade, migration, and communication
- C) Erasure of all cultural differences
- D) Complete resistance to cultural change

Answer: B) Spread and integration of cultures worldwide through trade, migration, and communication

41. The 'salad bowl' metaphor of multiculturalism emphasizes:

- A) Homogenization of cultures
- B) Coexistence of distinct cultures
- C) The melting away of cultural differences
- D) Domination of dominant culture

Answer: B) Coexistence of distinct cultures

42. Which of the following is NOT a dimension of global cultural flow as per Appadurai?

- A) Ethnoscapes
- B) Technoscapes
- C) Financscapes
- D) Bioscapes

Answer: D) Bioscapes

43. According to the text, which Indian state has been cited as linguistically diverse with nineteen languages?

- A) Kerala
- B) Nagaland
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Rajasthan

Answer: B) Nagaland

44. Who coined the concepts of 'little tradition' and 'great tradition' in Indian culture?

- A) Ralph Linton
- B) Pierre Bourdieu
- C) Robert Redfield
- D) Alfred Kroeber

Answer: C) Robert Redfield

45. What major challenge to Indian society is mentioned related to cultural diversity?

- A) Complete cultural integration without conflict
- B) Ethnic movements, religious fundamentalism, and linguistic conflicts
- C) Absence of religious diversity
- D) Lack of cultural heritage

Answer: B) Ethnic movements, religious fundamentalism, and linguistic conflicts

46. Culture is described as a 'design for living' by:

- A) Clyde Kluckhohn
- B) William F. Ogburn

C) Ralph Linton

D) E.B. Tylor

Answer: A) Clyde Kluckhohn

47. What role does language play in culture?

A) It is a minor part and unnecessary for transmission of culture

B) It is the most important element facilitating communication and transmission of culture

C) It only reflects biological traits

D) It restricts cultural growth

Answer: B) It is the most important element facilitating communication and transmission of culture

48. Cultural change due to new inventions and ideas is called:

A) Diffusion

B) Innovation

C) Assimilation

D) Acculturation

Answer: B) Innovation

49. The study of culture and society often uses the concept of 'anomie', which means:

A) Integration of subcultures

B) Breakdown of social norms leading to confusion and instability

C) The process of multiculturalism

D) Adoption of new cultural traits

Answer: B) Breakdown of social norms leading to confusion and instability

50. Which of the following best describes 'symbolic culture'?

A) Tangible artifacts like buildings

B) The intangible aspects like language, beliefs, norms, and values

C) Physical body traits inherited biologically

D) Material culture only

Answer: B) The intangible aspects like language, beliefs, norms, and values

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