Chapter 4: The Social and Cultural Construction of Reality

Multiple Choice Questions  Leave short answer and essay questions blank on your scantron

1. A totem is
   a) usually an element in nature.
   b) a symbol of group identity.
   c) worshipped by a group.
   d) All of the above

2. What do metaphors do?
   a) Provide a way to accurately describe reality
   b) Illustrate the inherent limits of language
   c) Use language from one domain of experience to describe another domain
   d) Provide similes to better describe human experience

3. Symbolic actions of rituals, myths, arts, literature, and music
   a) express the grammatical structure of a culture's language.
   b) shape the social and physical environment of a people.
   c) reveal unspoken truths about a culture.
   d) all play a role in organizing and making concrete a particular world view.

4. The idea that language and culture influence each other describes
   a) Sigmund Freud's theory.
   b) the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis.
   c) Branislaw Malinowski’s theory.
   d) Emile Durkheim's theory.

5. "Key scenarios" are
   a) acts that are carried out during a ritual.
   b) ideal situations that individuals in a culture strive for.
   c) stories or myths that portray cultural values and beliefs.
   d) acts that are carried out only at specific times.

6. What tragedy followed the adoption of the ghost dance by the Lakota (Sioux)?
   a) The massacre at Wounded Knee
   b) A peace treaty that was later broken
   c) Little Big Horn incident
   d) The Wovoka incident

7. One of the most important Kwakwaka’wakw rituals is the
   a) Communion of the Holy Ghost.
   b) Salmon Feast.
   c) Cannibal Dance.
d) Hamasta Sacrifice.

8. The Shaking Quakers embraced which of the following?
   a) Celibacy
   b) Calm and tranquil worship
   c) Sexuality as an expressive form of worship
   d) Traditional Christian values

9. Mary Douglas’s idea of group refers to
   a) a socially sanctioned body controlling members of a society.
   b) males and females sharing equal authority.
   c) the extent to which an individual is incorporated into bounded limits.
   d) hierarchical relationships among individuals within subsets of society.

10. Native peoples who adopted the ghost dance sought
    a) a treaty that would offer them more land.
    b) the adoption of a modern way of life.
    c) a revival of a traditional way of life.
    d) an independent country.

11. Americans borrow heavily from the metaphoric domains of
    a) war, sports, and economics.
    b) family, the home, and food.
    c) education, religion, and medicine.
    d) egalitarianism, peaceful protest, and literature.

12. In societies with a low grid
    a) struggles ensue between members holding different ranks and statuses, threatening the status quo.
    b) people are able to transact their statuses with others more freely and more often.
    c) social mobility is impossible.
    d) people are restricted in their statuses with others and there is little interaction.

13. The Kwakwaka’wakw believe they need to control hunger in their society in order to
    a) ensure a good hunting season.
    b) keep evil spirits away from children.
    c) solve the problems of greed, conflict, and child rearing.
    d) ensure a plentiful supply of food for the group.

14. Members of Holiness Churches in the U.S.
    a) speak in tongues.
    b) handle poisonous snakes.
    c) drink poison.
    d) All of the above
15. Revitalization movements occur  
   a) in periods of social upheaval.  
   b) in periods of economic upheaval.  
   c) in times of oppression.  
   d) All of the above

16. The Shakers developed in response to social changes—a transition from  
   a) an urban-industrial to a rural-agricultural society.  
   b) a nomadic-lifestyle to a sedentary-lifestyle.  
   c) rural-agricultural society to urban-industrial society.  
   d) an urban-society to a rural-society.

17. A general explanation why humans have such different ways of interpreting experience is  
   a) there must be a fit between what people believe about the world and the type of society that they live in.  
   b) there is only coincidence as an explanatory model.  
   c) linguistic assignments of the world are the sole contributors to peoples meanings and understanding of the world.  
   d) the suppression of evidence that would contradict existing meaning.

18. The concept of selective perception can be defined as seeing  
   a) only what we are told to see.  
   b) only what we want to see.  
   c) into the exterior forces of a belief system.  
   d) None of the above

**True/False Questions**

19. Language serves to order the experiences of the language speaker.

20. The structure of English grammar reveals that English speakers tend to view the world as being made up of objects.

21. Metaphors transfer language from one domain to another but the meaning remains the same.

22. The act of sharing and reciprocity is a key metaphor for the Kwakwaka’wakw.

23. Ann Lee, the founder of the Shakers, believed the root of all evil was alcohol and laziness.

24. The movies "Star Wars" and "The Wizard of Oz" are examples of hero myths.
25. Beliefs cannot be sustained by an appeal to faith or mystery; only by empirical accounts.

26. In group/grid analysis the hermit feels neither the power of grid nor the constraints of group.

27. Lakoff believes Americans should view taxes as an investment—a down payment on our children’s future.

28. **Short Answer Questions (options)**

   a. What metaphoric domains aside from war do Americans draw on to assign meaning? Give some examples used from these domains and transferred to other domains. 136-138

   b. What is meant by the term "domain of experience?" 136

   c. Why is our knowledge of the world not gained solely through observation by the senses? 135

   d. What is meant by “key scenarios”? Give examples. 147

   e. What are the five types of social environments in group/grid? 157

   f. What does anthropologist George Lakoff mean by “frames”? 169

   g. What is meant by secondary elaboration and how was it applied by Evans-Pritchard? 153

29. **Essay Questions (options)**

   a. Explain how the language of war is used as metaphors in different domains. 136-137

   b. What are revitalization movements and under what conditions do they occur? Give examples. 164-169

   c. How does the group/grid theory attempt to explain why we choose certain metaphors over others? 156-153

   d. What is interpretive drift, and why are anthropologists vulnerable to it? 150-151

   e. What, according to Joseph Campbell, is the hero’s journey, a myth he argued is shared around the world? Provide two examples of this plot line not found in this chapter. 147

   f. How are frames (metaphors) used to describe our nation as a family? 170-173
#11. THE INUIT PARADOX, PATRICIA GADSBY

The traditional diet of the Far North, with its high-protein, high-fat content, shows that there are no essential foods—only essential nutrients.

KEY TERMS AND TOPICS

*Alaska Native Science Commission* -- group established to promote research on native cultures and the health and environmental issues that affect them.

*Macronutrient Content* -- protein, carbohydrates, and fat in the diets of hunter-gatherer groups.

*Scurvy* -- a connective tissue disease caused primarily by lack of vitamin C.

30. As indicated in "The Inuit Paradox," no one, not even residents of the northernmost villages on Earth
   a. eats an entirely traditional northern diet anymore.
   b. cares about proper nutrition.
   c. listens to their cardiologists about nutrition.
   d. emphasizes diet in his or her life plans.

31. As shown in "The Inuit Paradox," the Eskimo did well on
   a. low protein and low fat diets.
   b. high protein and high fat diets.
   c. minimal carbohydrates.
   d. excessive carbohydrates.

32. The traditional diet of the Far North, along with exercise, provided a hedge against
   a. obesity.
   b. type 2 diabetes.
   c. heart disease.
   d. all of the above.

33. As Gadsby (“The Inuit Paradox”) points out, anyone eating a meat diet that is low in carbohydrates must have fat as well. (T/F)

34. As related in "The Inuit Paradox," the closer people live to towns and the more access they have to stores and cash-paying jobs, the more likely they are to have Westernized their eating. (T/F)

35. Which of the following is true of the traditional diet of the Far North?
a. It was lacking in such essential vitamins as A and C.
b. It consisted of the essential nutrients, but not what we usually think of as the essential foods.
c. Although it was high in protein, it was very low in fat.
d. All of the above.

36. According to Patricia Gadsby (“The Inuit Paradox”), the northern food chain is threatened by
   a. global warming.
   b. land development.
   c. industrial pollutants.
   d. all of the above.

37. According to “The Inuit Paradox,” wild animals that range freely have fat that is more healthful than that of domesticated animals.  (T/F)

38. According to Patricia Gadsby (“The Inuit Paradox”), the Atkins diet, high in protein and low in carbohydrates, is exactly like the traditional Inuit diet.  (T/F)

#15. DEATH WITHOUT WEEPING,
    NANCY SCHEPER-HUGHES

39. As noted in "Death Without Weeping," the high infant-mortality rate in Brazil
   a. is due to abusive fathers
   b. leads to changing patterns of maternal nurturing.
   c. is related to climate conditions.
   d. is consistent throughout the country.

40. Nancy Scheper-Hughes in “Death Without Weeping” found institutionalized indifference to the death of infants on the part of
   a. office clerks regarding the registration of such deaths.
   b. city-employed doctors treating malnourished babies.
   c. the local catholic church in explaining why a child would die.
   d. all of the above.

41. In which of the following circumstances do women in the Brazilian Northeast usually leave the small children at home alone with the door securely fastened?  While they
   a. work on the sugar plantations.
   b. work in the homes of the rich.
   c. wash their clothes in the river.
   d. all of the above.

42. To Catholic women of Brazil's Northeast, "letting nature take its course" regarding infant mortality is a sin.  (T/F)
43. Most infant victims in Brazil, as revealed in "Death Without Weeping," are buried with a minimum of ceremony. (T/F)

44. The average woman of the Alto shantytown in Brazil, as noted in "Death Without Weeping," experiences 9.5 pregnancies; the average number of these pregnancies typically ending in child death is
   a. 1.5.
   b. 3.5.
   c. 6.5.
   d. 7.5.

45. The primary cause of the recent decline in infant mortality on the Alto do Cruzeiro has been
   a. women’s literacy.
   b. the new teachings of liberation theology.
   c. the installation of water pipes that reach almost all of the homes in the shantytown with sufficient and clean water.
   d. the introduction of the “morning after” pill which provides an easy means of birth spacing.

46. Nancy Scheper-Hughes in "Death Without Weeping" found mother love in Northeast Brazil
   a. provided unconditionally to all children.
   b. selectively provided to those children that showed a will to live.
   c. provided primarily to the children who were the weakest and most likely to die.
   d. to be non-existent.

47. "Liberation theology" in Northeast Brazil has resulted in
   a. infant funerals now being celebrated with joy.
   b. more frequent baptizing of dying babies.
   c. family planning services being provided by the Catholic Church.
   d. no real changes since the Catholic Church has not changed its position on sexuality and reproduction.

48. The Catholic Church, as claimed in "Death Without Weeping," contributes to the routinization of, and indifference toward, child death in Brazil. (T/F)

#34. THE ARROW OF DISEASE,
JARED DIAMOND

The most deadly weapon colonial Europeans carried to other continents was their germs. An intriguing question to be answered here is, why did the flow of disease not move in the opposite direction?

KEY TERMS AND TOPICS
Antigens -- molecular pieces of the microbe that our antibodies recognize.

Acute Illness -- an illness that, within a relatively short period of time, either causes death or results in complete recovery.

49. According to "The Arrow of Disease," after the arrival of Europeans in the New World, the Indian population was reduced by 95 percent by
   a. diseases contracted from animals.
   b. intertribal warfare.
   c. diseases brought by Europeans.
   d. conflicts with the Europeans over Indian land.

50. As explained in "The Arrow of Disease," the Spanish victories over the native American peoples was due to
   a. superior military tactics.
   b. the effect of smallpox on the pre-Columbian populations.
   c. numerical advantage being held by the Spanish army in several decisive battles.
   d. the spread of syphilis among the Native Americans.

51. According to Jared Diamond, crowd diseases are the oldest diseases to humanity. (T/F)

52. When Columbus arrived in the New World, North America was a largely empty continent with less than one million Indians. (T/F)

53. Jared Diamond notes in his article "The Arrow of Disease" that the greatest single epidemic in human history was the
   a. influenza epidemic at the end of World War I.
   b. Black Death of the Middle Ages.
   c. AIDS epidemic of the past decade.
   d. polio epidemic of the 1940s and 1950s.

54. As described in "The Arrow of Disease," from the point of view of the microbe causing a human illness, such symptoms as sneezing, coughing, and diarrhea are
   a. irrelevant.
   b. symptoms of the fight being waged by the body against the intruding microbe.
   c. allies in the microbe's attack on the immune system.
   d. clever evolutionary strategies to make sure that the microbe is passed on.

55. The cut-off point below which an epidemic disease such as measles is likely to die out is a population of
   a. 500.
   b. 5,000.
   c. one half million.
   d. 100 million.
56. The only disease that might have traveled to Europe from the Americas, according to the author of "The Arrow of Disease," is syphilis, whose origin is still a mystery. (T/F)

57. According to "The Arrow of Disease," what factors contributed to the fact that the native American populations had no serious diseases to pass to the Europeans?
   a. the Americans developed cities later than did the Europeans so microbes hadn’t had as long a time to evolve
   b. American cities were not connected by regular trade routes so diseases did not pass among them as readily
   c. most of these crowd diseases seem to have developed from animals and native Americans had no domestic animals
   d. all of the above

#36. THE PRICE OF PROGRESS,
   JOHN BODLEY

58. Conclusions about economic progress and its effect on tribal peoples reported in "The Price of Progress" include that:
   a. modern medicine has ameliorated health problems caused by dietary changes.
   b. increases in tribal warfare are caused by economic competition.
   c. environmental deterioration tends to accompany progress.
   d. improved standards of living result from progress.

59. As reported in "The Price of Progress," the correlation between dental health and economic progress seems to be that:
   a. undisturbed tribal populations tend to lose their teeth while young.
   b. dental caries are especially prominent among Eskimos eating traditional foods.
   c. modernization is accompanied by declines in dental health.
   d. introduction of new foods strengthens teeth.

60. As stated in "The Price of Progress," malnutrition has been linked clinically with mental retardation in both Africa and Latin America. (T/F)

61. As noted in "The Price of Progress," anthropological research of culture change and modernization has yielded the fact that economic progress:
   a. lowers population.
   b. often results in poverty.
   c. inevitably raises standards of living.
   d. has little real effect on the way people live.

62. As discussed in "The Price of Progress," development in Micronesia was accompanied by increased mental illness. (T/F)

63. As suggested in "The Price of Progress," one result of changes in agricultural policies has been increased protein intake. (T/F)
64. As explained in "The Price of Progress," why is “standard of living” an inadequate measure of progress in quality of life?
   a. it is inadequate because it is an intrinsically ethnocentric concept
   b. it relies heavily on indicators that lack universal cultural relevance
   c. it is applied inaccurately by biased observers
   d. both a and b.

65. As related in "The Price of Progress," upon what does the entire "victims of progress" issue hinge, ie. Why are tribal peoples victimized?
   a. the issue is declining natural resources
   b. tribal peoples are victimized because they control resources that outsiders demand
   c. tribal peoples have resources that they don’t choose to develop
   d. tribal peoples don’t realize what they are sitting on is valuable
   e. tribal peoples don’t organize to protect themselves from exploitation