

# University of Central Florida (UCF) ANT2410 Cultural Anthropology: Global Perspectives, Local Contexts Final Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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## Questions

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1. Which factor has contributed to the increase in Earth's surface temperature since the 20th century?
  - A. Solar activity
  - B. Natural geological processes
  - C. Climate change
  - D. Ocean currents
2. What is a common outcome of development projects aimed at changing indigenous institutions?
  - A. They tend to succeed in preserving indigenous culture
  - B. They often fail to meet community needs
  - C. They usually gain local support
  - D. They promote technological advancement
3. What is the term for the initial contact period when outside forces may harm or exploit native populations?
  - A. Shock Phase
  - B. Colonization Phase
  - C. Transition Phase
  - D. Integration Phase
4. Colonialism is defined as possession and control of a territory for what purpose?
  - A. Short-term trade relations
  - B. Political, cultural, social and economic control
  - C. Tourism and exploration
  - D. Establishing friendship treaties
5. Which type of melanin is responsible for producing red skin tones?
  - A. Carotene
  - B. Eumelanin
  - C. Pheomelanin
  - D. Phacomelanin

6. What is the primary focus of messianic movements?
- A. The belief in achieving a utopian society
  - B. The arrival of a messiah
  - C. The combination of different religious beliefs
  - D. The revival of traditional practices
7. Religious symbols are best described as which of the following?
- A. Multivalent
  - B. Anthropomorphic
  - C. Zoomorphic
  - D. Naturalistic
8. In Hallstatt, Austria, what happens to the body after 12 years in the cemetery?
- A. It is cremated
  - B. It is buried again
  - C. It is dug up and disposed of
  - D. It is moved to another graveyard
9. During Famadihana, how frequently do families typically dig up and celebrate the bodies of their deceased loved ones?
- A. Every year
  - B. Every 2-7 years
  - C. Every decade
  - D. Every 5 years
10. Which of the following functions of religion helps to maintain societal conformity?
- A. Provides a common identity among believers
  - B. Maintains the social order
  - C. Outlet for frustrations
  - D. Strong vehicle for social change

## Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. B

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## Explanations

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1. Which factor has contributed to the increase in Earth's surface temperature since the 20th century?

- A. Solar activity
- B. Natural geological processes
- C. Climate change
- D. Ocean currents

The increase in Earth's surface temperature since the 20th century can be primarily attributed to climate change, particularly the anthropogenic (human-induced) climate change resulting from the significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions. This process involves the accumulation of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere, which trap heat and lead to a rise in global temperatures. The overall understanding of climate change encompasses various factors, including industrialization, deforestation, and the burning of fossil fuels, all of which have accelerated the greenhouse effect and contributed to global warming. This is evident in scientific studies that demonstrate a clear correlation between human activities and the rising levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, as well as the observable impacts on weather patterns, polar ice melt, and sea level rise. Other choices like solar activity, natural geological processes, and ocean currents, while they play roles in Earth's climate systems, do not account for the pronounced and accelerated warming noticed since the 20th century, which has largely been driven by human-induced changes rather than natural factors alone. Understanding these distinctions is critical for grasping the broader implications and urgency of addressing climate change.

2. What is a common outcome of development projects aimed at changing indigenous institutions?

- A. They tend to succeed in preserving indigenous culture
- B. They often fail to meet community needs
- C. They usually gain local support
- D. They promote technological advancement

Development projects aimed at changing indigenous institutions frequently fail to meet community needs because they often do not account for the unique cultural, social, and economic contexts of the indigenous populations involved. These projects may be based on external perceptions of what is necessary or valuable, leading to implementations that overlook the priorities and voices of the local community. Consequently, this disconnect can result in projects being perceived as imposed rather than collaborative, causing resentment or disengagement among the community members. This highlights the importance of holistic engagement and understanding before implementing development initiatives, as well as the need to ensure that such projects are tailored to authentically reflect the aspirations and needs of the indigenous groups they aim to assist.

3. What is the term for the initial contact period when outside forces may harm or exploit native populations?

- A. Shock Phase
- B. Colonization Phase
- C. Transition Phase
- D. Integration Phase

The term that describes the initial contact period when outside forces may harm or exploit native populations is referred to as the "Shock Phase." This phase highlights the immediate and often violent disruptions that occur when indigenous communities encounter external forces, such as colonial powers or exploitative entities. During this phase, native populations experience profound disorientation and trauma due to the sudden changes brought about by external influences, including disease, violence, displacement, and a breakdown of social structures. In this context, understanding the implications of the Shock Phase is crucial for recognizing the long-term consequences of colonization and intercultural contact on native populations. The experiences during this phase can set the stage for ongoing struggles, cultural loss, and resistance movements that follow as communities navigate their changed circumstances. This term captures the urgency and intensity of the initial encounters that shape the trajectories of indigenous groups in the wake of external contact.

4. Colonialism is defined as possession and control of a territory for what purpose?

- A. Short-term trade relations
- B. Political, cultural, social and economic control
- C. Tourism and exploration
- D. Establishing friendship treaties

Colonialism is best defined as the political, cultural, social, and economic control of a territory, as this encompasses the comprehensive nature of colonial endeavors. Colonizers typically aimed to exert dominance not just materially but also to reshape the cultural and social landscapes of the areas they occupied. This often included the imposition of their own governance structures, economic systems, cultural practices, and social hierarchies, effectively restructuring the lives of the indigenous populations. By focusing on political control, colonizers established their own authority over local governance; through cultural control, they often attempted to replace or suppress indigenous beliefs and practices with their own; and economically, they utilized local resources and labor to enrich the colonizing nation. This definition captures the multi-faceted impact of colonialism, making it clear that the intent was not merely to exploit for short-term benefits or tourism, but to thoroughly integrate the colonized territory into a broader empire, often with lasting consequences that can still be observed today.

5. Which type of melanin is responsible for producing red skin tones?

- A. Carotene
- B. Eumelanin
- C. Pheomelanin
- D. Phacomelanin

Pheomelanin is the type of melanin responsible for producing red skin tones. This pigment is found in various concentrations in individuals with lighter skin tones and gives a reddish hue to the skin and hair. It is especially prominent in conditions where red or blonde shades are visible, contrasting with eumelanin, which provides darker tones such as brown and black. Pheomelanin's role in skin pigmentation corresponds with its chemical structure and the way it interacts with light. As a result, it contributes to the appearance of certain skin tones among people with specific genetic backgrounds, particularly those of Northern European descent. Understanding the function of pheomelanin highlights the complexity of human pigmentation and how it is influenced by genetics, environmental factors, and the evolutionary adaptations of various populations.

6. What is the primary focus of messianic movements?

- A. The belief in achieving a utopian society
- B. The arrival of a messiah
- C. The combination of different religious beliefs
- D. The revival of traditional practices

The primary focus of messianic movements is the belief in the arrival of a messiah, a figure often seen as a savior or deliverer who will bring about significant change or transformation, particularly in a spiritual or social sense. These movements are typically characterized by the anticipation of this messiah's coming, which is viewed as a pivotal moment for the community involved. This belief can inspire hope and mobilize followers toward achieving a collective goal or responding to perceived crises. While other aspects, such as achieving a utopian society or combining different religious beliefs, may be present in some movements, they are secondary to the core belief in the messiah's imminent arrival. Similarly, the revival of traditional practices may occur in conjunction with messianic expectations, but it does not encapsulate the primary focus of such movements. Thus, the emphasis on the expectation of a messiah is fundamental to understanding the nature and purpose of messianic movements.

7. Religious symbols are best described as which of the following?

- A. Multivalent
- B. Anthropomorphic
- C. Zoomorphic
- D. Naturalistic

Religious symbols are best described as multivalent because they often carry multiple meanings and interpretations that can vary significantly across different cultural contexts and among individuals within the same culture. This multiplicity allows the symbols to resonate with diverse experiences, beliefs, and practices, making them rich in significance. For example, a cross can symbolize redemption for Christians, while it may represent suffering or oppression in different historical contexts. The other terms, while applicable in specific instances, do not capture the broader complexity of religious symbols. Anthropomorphic refers specifically to attributing human characteristics to non-human entities, which may apply to certain religious symbols but does not encompass the full spectrum of meanings. Zoomorphic involves ascribing animal forms or characteristics to deities or symbols, which again is a narrower aspect of the overall significance of religious symbols. Naturalistic could describe representations in art that mirror the natural world, but religious symbols often transcend this limitation by incorporating abstract, spiritual, or philosophical ideas that cannot be easily categorized as simply naturalistic. Thus, multivalence is the most fitting descriptor for the depth and variety of meanings that religious symbols can embody.

8. In Hallstatt, Austria, what happens to the body after 12 years in the cemetery?

- A. It is cremated
- B. It is buried again
- C. It is dug up and disposed of
- D. It is moved to another graveyard

In Hallstatt, Austria, once a body has been in the cemetery for approximately 12 years, it undergoes a specific process. After this period, the remains are typically exhumed from their burial site. The practice is rooted in the unique cultural and historical context of the area, where space in the graveyard is limited. Upon exhumation, the bones are usually cleaned and then placed into an ossuary, which is a container or room for the bones of dead people. This practice reflects the community's approach to managing the physical limitations of burial space while also honoring the deceased. Thus, exhumation and subsequent handling of the remains is a significant cultural ritual, emphasizing both respect for the dead and practical considerations regarding land use.

9. During Famadihana, how frequently do families typically dig up and celebrate the bodies of their deceased loved ones?

- A. Every year
- B. Every 2-7 years
- C. Every decade
- D. Every 5 years

Famadihana, commonly referred to as the "turning of the bones," is a traditional burial practice observed in Madagascar, especially among the Malagasy people. This ritual involves exhuming the remains of ancestors from their tombs, rewrapping them in fresh shrouds, and celebrating their lives. Families typically dig up and celebrate the bodies of their deceased loved ones every 2-7 years to honor the dead and strengthen familial bonds. This timeframe allows families to maintain a spiritual connection with their ancestors and is seen as a way to ensure the spiritual well-being of both the deceased and the living. The practice emphasizes the importance of ancestor worship in Malagasy culture, showcasing the belief that the dead continue to play a significant role in the lives of their descendants. The celebrations can include music, dancing, and feasting, as families share stories and memories, thus keeping the legacy of their ancestors alive within the family narrative.

10. Which of the following functions of religion helps to maintain societal conformity?

- A. Provides a common identity among believers
- B. Maintains the social order
- C. Outlet for frustrations
- D. Strong vehicle for social change

The function of religion that helps to maintain societal conformity is its role in maintaining the social order. This aspect of religion emphasizes the establishment and reinforcement of norms, values, and expectations that are critical for cohesive functioning within a society. By promoting shared beliefs and practices, religion acts to legitimize social structures and hierarchy, making it easier for individuals to understand their roles within the community. In addition, many religious traditions come with a set of moral directives or commandments that guide followers on acceptable behaviors, thus fostering a sense of accountability among community members. This creates a powerful mechanism through which societal norms are upheld, encouraging individuals to adhere to the established rules, which contributes to overall social stability. While the other functions mentioned can play significant roles in society, they primarily relate to personal or communal experiences and changes rather than directly enforcing conformity. For instance, providing a common identity among believers may help foster community but doesn't necessarily guarantee compliance with societal standards. Similarly, serving as an outlet for frustrations or being a vehicle for social change can challenge or critique social norms rather than maintain them.