

University of Central Florida (UCF) ANT2511 The Human Species Final Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. What does diaspora mean in cultural anthropology?
 - A. The integration of multiple cultures within a society
 - B. The dispersion of a group of people from their original homeland
 - C. The assimilation of cultural practices into a dominant culture
 - D. The establishment of cultural festivals in various regions
2. What is the purpose of studying cultural representation in anthropology?
 - A. To promote one culture over another
 - B. To understand power dynamics and identity
 - C. To ignore cultural differences
 - D. To focus solely on economic relationships
3. Which hominid was the first to adapt to both tropical and temperate climates?
 - A. H. habilis
 - B. H. erectus
 - C. H. sapiens
 - D. H. neanderthalensis
4. How did humans migrate to Australia?
 - A. By foot
 - B. By makeshift boats
 - C. By large ships
 - D. Through land bridges
5. What is the principal concern of ethical considerations in anthropology?
 - A. Maximizing efficiency of research
 - B. Ignoring community feedback
 - C. Respecting the rights of individuals and communities
 - D. Documenting cultural practices without consent

6. What year was H. habilis discovered?
- A. 1959
 - B. 1960
 - C. 1965
 - D. 1970
7. When was the specimen OH24 discovered?
- A. 1965
 - B. 1968
 - C. 1972
 - D. 1980
8. Describe the purpose of ethnographic fieldwork.
- A. To analyze the economic systems of different cultures
 - B. To collect data through observation and participation in a culture
 - C. To evaluate the effectiveness of government policies
 - D. To create theoretical models of human behavior
9. How do values influence human behavior?
- A. They determine physical characteristics
 - B. They are irrelevant to social interactions
 - C. They shape perceptions of what is important in life
 - D. They only reflect economic status
10. What is the alternate name for the Nariokotome "Turkana Boy" skeleton?
- A. KNM-WT 15000
 - B. KNM-WT 150000
 - C. KNM-ER 1470
 - D. KNM-KP 970

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does diaspora mean in cultural anthropology?

- A. The integration of multiple cultures within a society
- B. The dispersion of a group of people from their original homeland
- C. The assimilation of cultural practices into a dominant culture
- D. The establishment of cultural festivals in various regions

In cultural anthropology, the term diaspora specifically refers to the dispersion of a group of people from their original homeland. This phenomenon often occurs due to various factors such as migration, colonization, or economic challenges that compel individuals or entire communities to leave their ancestral places. When members of a diaspora settle in various regions, they maintain their cultural identities while also adapting to and interacting with the cultures of their new environments. This can lead to rich cultural exchanges and the creation of transnational communities where traditions, languages, and practices are preserved and transformed. The other choices reflect different cultural concepts but do not encompass the precise meaning of "diaspora." For instance, the integration of multiple cultures within a society hints at multiculturalism, while assimilation refers to the process where minority groups gradually adopt the customs of the dominant culture. Establishing cultural festivals pertains to the celebration and expression of cultural heritage but does not capture the essence of movement or dispersion inherent to the concept of diaspora.

2. What is the purpose of studying cultural representation in anthropology?

- A. To promote one culture over another
- B. To understand power dynamics and identity
- C. To ignore cultural differences
- D. To focus solely on economic relationships

Studying cultural representation in anthropology primarily aims to understand power dynamics and identity within various societies. This encompasses examining how different cultures perceive themselves and how they are perceived by others. This understanding involves analyzing symbols, narratives, and practices that shape cultural identities, as well as how these elements interact with social structures and power relations. Through this lens, anthropologists can explore how representation influences social hierarchies, cultural exchanges, and the construction of identity in a global context. This approach acknowledges that representation is not merely about portraying cultures authentically but is deeply intertwined with issues of power, privilege, and the ongoing impact of colonial histories. Engaging with cultural representation allows anthropologists to critically analyze contemporary issues related to race, gender, ethnicity, and class, fostering a deeper comprehension of the complex realities people face in their social environments. Thus, the study of cultural representation is essential for comprehending not only cultural diversity but also the dynamics that shape human experiences and interactions.

3. Which hominid was the first to adapt to both tropical and temperate climates?

A. *H. habilis*

B. *H. erectus*

C. *H. sapiens*

D. *H. neanderthalensis*

The correct choice is *H. erectus* because this hominid species exhibited significant adaptability that allowed it to thrive in a variety of environments, including both tropical and temperate climates. *H. erectus* is noted for its ability to migrate out of Africa into Europe and Asia, demonstrating a flexibility in habitat preference and survival strategies that were crucial for its expansion. This adaptability can be linked to various characteristics such as the development of more complex tools, the ability to control fire, and potentially changes in social organization. These innovations not only improved hunting and gathering efficiency but also provided the means to cope with varying environmental conditions, including colder temperatures found in more temperate regions. In contrast, the other hominid species listed had different ecological niches and adaptations that did not allow for such widespread climatic versatility. *H. habilis* primarily lived in Africa and focused on more tropical and subtropical environments, while *H. sapiens* and *H. neanderthalensis* came into prominence later and had their own specific adaptations more aligned with the environments they occupied, which were often shaped by the climatic conditions of their respective times.

4. How did humans migrate to Australia?

A. By foot

B. By makeshift boats

C. By large ships

D. Through land bridges

Humans migrated to Australia primarily by makeshift boats. This mode of travel reflects early seafaring capabilities as modern humans, or *Homo sapiens*, began to explore and settle in different regions outside of their origins in Africa. The journey to Australia likely involved navigating coastal and island routes, which would have required some form of watercraft. Archaeological evidence supports this hypothesis, indicating that people arrived in Australia at least 65,000 years ago, during a time when sea levels were lower, forming land connections between islands. However, to travel to the continent itself, early humans would have needed to construct simple boats to cross significant stretches of water. Other options that suggest travel by foot or large ships do not align with the evidence found. While land bridges did facilitate human movement to other areas, in the case of Australia, the final migration required crossing bodies of water that could not be navigated by foot. Therefore, makeshift boats are the most accurate representation of how early humans reached Australia.

5. What is the principal concern of ethical considerations in anthropology?

- A. Maximizing efficiency of research
- B. Ignoring community feedback
- C. Respecting the rights of individuals and communities
- D. Documenting cultural practices without consent

The principal concern of ethical considerations in anthropology revolves around respecting the rights of individuals and communities. Ethically responsible anthropological work prioritizes the dignity, integrity, and autonomy of people and cultures being studied. This means researchers must obtain informed consent, ensure confidentiality, and be mindful of the implications their work may have on the communities involved. By maintaining a focus on these rights, anthropologists aim to build trust and foster positive relationships with communities, which enhances the quality and relevance of their research. Research ethics also include considerations related to the potential consequences of the findings and how they could impact the individuals and communities studied. Recognizing the power dynamics at play, ethical anthropologists strive to avoid exploitation and work collaboratively with communities, thereby contributing positively to their well-being and representation. This ethical framework stands in contrast to practices that might prioritize efficiency or documentation without consent, which can lead to harm and misrepresentation.

6. What year was *H. habilis* discovered?

- A. 1959
- B. 1960
- C. 1965
- D. 1970

Homo habilis, often regarded as one of the earliest members of the genus *Homo*, was discovered in 1959. The discovery was made by the Leakey family at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. This species is significant because it shows a transition in human evolution, notably in the development of tools and the evolutionary lineage leading to modern humans. The correct answer, therefore, reflects the actual timeline of when this important species was first identified, marking a key moment in the field of paleoanthropology.

7. When was the specimen OH24 discovered?

- A. 1965
- B. 1968
- C. 1972
- D. 1980

The specimen OH24, which is a well-known fossil of an early hominin from the species *Australopithecus boisei*, was discovered in 1968. This specimen was part of a collection of fossils found at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania by the Leakey family, who were significant contributors to paleoanthropology. The discovery of OH24 provided valuable insights into human evolution, particularly regarding the physical characteristics and possible behaviors of early hominins. This timeline is significant as it highlights the ongoing research and discoveries in the field of anthropology during the mid-20th century, a period that saw numerous important finds that shaped our understanding of human ancestry.

8. Describe the purpose of ethnographic fieldwork.

- A. To analyze the economic systems of different cultures
- B. To collect data through observation and participation in a culture
- C. To evaluate the effectiveness of government policies
- D. To create theoretical models of human behavior

The purpose of ethnographic fieldwork is primarily to collect data through observation and participation in a culture. This method allows anthropologists and researchers to immerse themselves in the daily lives and practices of the people they study. By engaging with the community, they can gain deeper insights into social norms, behaviors, rituals, and interactions that might not be evident through other research methods. This immersive approach enables the researcher to capture the complexities and nuances of cultural contexts, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the people's lived experiences, beliefs, and social dynamics. Ethnographic fieldwork emphasizes the importance of the researcher's presence in the field, which contributes to a richer, more authentic portrayal of the culture being studied.

9. How do values influence human behavior?

- A. They determine physical characteristics
- B. They are irrelevant to social interactions
- C. They shape perceptions of what is important in life
- D. They only reflect economic status

Values play a significant role in shaping human behavior by influencing how individuals perceive what is important in their lives. They act as guiding principles that inform decisions, motivate actions, and ultimately govern how people interact with one another and their environment. Values can encompass various aspects such as beliefs, ethics, and cultural norms, which help define personal priorities and societal expectations. For example, an individual who values education highly may dedicate a significant amount of time and resources to learning and teaching, while someone who emphasizes community service may invest their efforts in volunteering and helping others. This shaping of perceptions leads to varied behaviors that reflect the diverse values found across different cultures and societies. In contrast, options that suggest values determine physical characteristics, are irrelevant to social interactions, or only reflect economic status do not capture the holistic and profound influence that values have on behavior and life choices. Values interact with other factors, but ultimately serve as crucial frameworks through which people interpret their experiences and define their actions.

10. What is the alternate name for the Nariokotome "Turkana Boy" skeleton?

- A. KNM-WT 15000
- B. KNM-WT 150000
- C. KNM-ER 1470
- D. KNM-KP 970

The Nariokotome "Turkana Boy" skeleton is scientifically referred to as KNM-WT 15000. This designation indicates its catalog number in the Kenya National Museums collection, where "KNM" stands for Kenya National Museums, "WT" denotes the site from which the skeleton was recovered (West Turkana), and "15000" is the unique catalog number assigned to that particular specimen. This fossil is significant as it represents one of the most complete early hominin skeletons discovered, dating back approximately 1.5 million years, and is attributed to *Homo erectus*. The well-preserved nature of the Turkana Boy provides invaluable insights into the physical characteristics, development, and evolution of early human beings. Understanding the correct nomenclature is crucial for anthropologists and researchers in accurately discussing and distinguishing between fossil specimens.

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