

University of Central Florida (UCF) ANT2511 The Human Species Practice Exam 2 (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. Which of the following behaviors is considered altruistic?
 - A. Infanticide
 - B. Food sharing
 - C. Dominance behavior
 - D. High-ranking access to food
2. What major change does the Neolithic Revolution signify?
 - A. Transition from industrial to agricultural societies
 - B. Shift from nomadic lifestyles to settled agriculture
 - C. Evolving from agriculture to urbanization
 - D. Development of modern technology in society
3. What key factor defines a person's social class?
 - A. Personal preferences
 - B. Economic status and education
 - C. Occupational titles only
 - D. Geographic location
4. What is a mutation in the context of evolutionary biology?
 - A. An increase in population size due to environmental changes
 - B. A minor change in geographic distribution of a species
 - C. A change in the DNA sequence that can lead to new traits
 - D. The elimination of less fit individuals from a population
5. Which primate group demonstrates the most sexual dimorphism?
 - A. Monogamous groups
 - B. Polyandrous groups
 - C. Single-male groups
 - D. Multimale groups

6. What is the primary focus of the cultural landscape concept?
- A. Examining biological influences on culture
 - B. Modifications of the environment by human activity
 - C. Studying ancient civilizations and their artifacts
 - D. Understanding personal identity within cultural contexts
7. What function do larger social groups provide for primates?
- A. Access to communal nesting sites
 - B. Enhanced protection from predators
 - C. Increased territory size
 - D. Better food sharing practices
8. In anthropology, how are gender roles defined?
- A. As biological differences between sexes
 - B. As social expectations of behavior for men and women
 - C. As universal traits across all cultures
 - D. As economic roles assigned by society
9. How can globalization impact local cultural practices?
- A. It leads to uniformity in all cultures
 - B. It only has a negative impact on cultural practices
 - C. It can cause both cultural homogenization and revitalization
 - D. It exclusively benefits local practices
10. Which primate characteristic is associated with having well-developed arboreal adaptations?
- A. Postorbital bar
 - B. Claws
 - C. Tiny brains
 - D. Highly specialized teeth

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following behaviors is considered altruistic?

- A. Infanticide
- B. Food sharing
- C. Dominance behavior
- D. High-ranking access to food

Food sharing is considered an altruistic behavior because it involves providing resources to other individuals, often at a personal cost or risk to the giver. Altruism, in this context, refers to actions that benefit others while potentially sacrificing one's own welfare or resources. In social species, food sharing can enhance the survival of group members, promote social bonds, and reinforce cooperative relationships. The other behaviors, while they may occur in social animals, are typically not classified as altruistic. Infanticide, though it occurs in some species, usually serves to benefit the perpetrator by increasing their own reproductive success or resource availability. Dominance behavior often relates to establishing social hierarchies for access to resources and not necessarily includes selfless acts. High-ranking access to food is a product of social structure and competition, primarily benefiting those in power rather than providing benefit to others at a personal cost.

2. What major change does the Neolithic Revolution signify?

- A. Transition from industrial to agricultural societies
- B. Shift from nomadic lifestyles to settled agriculture
- C. Evolving from agriculture to urbanization
- D. Development of modern technology in society

The Neolithic Revolution marks a significant turning point in human history primarily characterized by the shift from nomadic lifestyles to settled agriculture. This transformation allowed humans to establish permanent settlements, which fundamentally altered social structures, economic practices, and demographic patterns. As people began to cultivate crops and domesticate animals, they no longer needed to move frequently in search of food, enabling them to form communities. This stability led to the development of more complex societal structures, including the emergence of specialized roles, trade, and eventually, the rise of cities and more organized forms of governance. The agricultural practices initiated during the Neolithic period laid the groundwork for the development of civilization as we understand it today. The other options do not accurately reflect the core change associated with the Neolithic Revolution. For example, the transition from industrial to agricultural societies is not relevant, as the Neolithic period predates industrial society by thousands of years. Likewise, while urbanization did follow from agricultural developments, it was not the direct change heralded by the Neolithic Revolution itself. The mention of modern technology also misses the mark, as the technologies developed during the Neolithic were primarily related to farming and basic tool-making, rather than the advanced technologies we consider today.

3. What key factor defines a person's social class?

- A. Personal preferences
- B. Economic status and education
- C. Occupational titles only
- D. Geographic location

The defining factor of a person's social class is primarily their economic status and education. Economic status involves income, wealth, and the financial resources that contribute to a person's overall position in society. This financial aspect typically influences access to various opportunities, including education, healthcare, and other social privileges. Education is also a significant component, as it not only affects an individual's job prospects and earning potential but also shapes their social networks and cultural capital, further determining their standing within social hierarchies. In contrast, while personal preferences, occupational titles, and geographic location can influence social class, they do not comprehensively capture the essence of social stratification. For example, an individual's preferences may vary widely regardless of their class status, and occupational titles often depend on various economic factors and educational backgrounds. Geographic location can also affect social status but is more of a contextual factor rather than a defining criterion, as people within the same area can belong to very different social classes based on their economic and educational experiences. Thus, economic status and education serve as the cornerstone for understanding an individual's placement within the social class structure.

4. What is a mutation in the context of evolutionary biology?

- A. An increase in population size due to environmental changes
- B. A minor change in geographic distribution of a species
- C. A change in the DNA sequence that can lead to new traits
- D. The elimination of less fit individuals from a population

In the context of evolutionary biology, a mutation refers to a change in the DNA sequence of an organism's genome. This change can occur due to various factors, such as errors during DNA replication, exposure to radiation, or chemical influences. Mutations are significant because they can lead to the development of new traits or variations within a species. These variations can be beneficial, neutral, or harmful, and they provide the raw material for natural selection to act upon. If a mutation results in a trait that enhances an organism's ability to survive and reproduce in its environment, that trait may become more common in subsequent generations. This process is fundamental to evolutionary change and contributes to the diversity of life we observe. In contrast, the other options describe concepts that are related to population dynamics or ecological changes but do not encapsulate the concept of mutation as it pertains to genetic variation and evolution. For instance, population increase, geographic distribution changes, and the elimination of less fit individuals all relate to evolutionary processes but do not specifically define what a mutation is within the genetic context.

5. Which primate group demonstrates the most sexual dimorphism?

- A. Monogamous groups
- B. Polyandrous groups
- C. Single-male groups
- D. Multimale groups

The primate group that illustrates the greatest degree of sexual dimorphism is indeed the group characterized by a single-male social structure. In these groups, one male typically mates with multiple females, which creates a scenario where the male must compete for access to females. As a result, males often develop larger body sizes, more pronounced secondary sexual characteristics (such as larger canine teeth or more robust musculature), and variations in coloration compared to females. This pattern of sexual dimorphism is often driven by sexual selection, where traits that enhance a male's chances of attracting mates and successfully reproducing become exaggerated. In contrast, groups that are monogamous tend to show less sexual dimorphism, as both sexes often share similar roles and there is less competition among males for mating opportunities. Similarly, polyandrous groups, where one female mates with multiple males, may also have reduced dimorphism due to the more balanced mating strategy compared to the highly competitive single-male groups. Multimale groups may have some level of dimorphism, but it generally does not reach the extremes seen in single-male groups where the competitive pressures are more intense.

6. What is the primary focus of the cultural landscape concept?

- A. Examining biological influences on culture
- B. Modifications of the environment by human activity
- C. Studying ancient civilizations and their artifacts
- D. Understanding personal identity within cultural contexts

The primary focus of the cultural landscape concept is on the modifications of the environment by human activity. This concept refers to how human beings interact with their surroundings, shaping and transforming the natural environment according to their cultural practices and needs. Through agriculture, urban development, architecture, and infrastructure, societies create distinct landscapes that reflect their values, beliefs, and social structures. This modification can include anything from farming practices that alter land use to the construction of cities that influence local ecosystems. The cultural landscape encapsulates the idea that culture is not only a set of beliefs and practices but also manifests physically in the world around us. It allows anthropologists and other social scientists to analyze how cultures influence the geographic and environmental conditions, and conversely, how those conditions impact cultural practices. Understanding this interplay helps reveal the broader dynamics between society and nature, illustrating how various cultures adapt to and alter their environments throughout history.

7. What function do larger social groups provide for primates?

- A. Access to communal nesting sites
- B. Enhanced protection from predators
- C. Increased territory size
- D. Better food sharing practices

Larger social groups provide enhanced protection from predators, which is a critical factor in the survival of primates. When animals form larger groups, it becomes more challenging for predators to successfully single out and attack an individual, as the sheer number of individuals can deter potential threats. This phenomenon is often referred to as the "dilution effect," where the risk of any one individual being caught decreases as group size increases. Additionally, larger groups can engage in collective vigilance, where individuals take turns watching for predators while others feed or engage in other activities, further enhancing overall safety. This protection is a significant evolutionary advantage, as it can lead to greater survival rates among group members, thereby increasing reproductive success within the group. In contrast, access to communal nesting sites, increased territory size, and better food sharing practices, while relevant to primate social behavior, do not primarily address the critical survival aspect associated with predator avoidance. Hence, the focus on enhanced protection from predators is a fundamental reason for the evolution of larger social groups among primates.

8. In anthropology, how are gender roles defined?

- A. As biological differences between sexes
- B. As social expectations of behavior for men and women
- C. As universal traits across all cultures
- D. As economic roles assigned by society

Gender roles in anthropology are primarily understood as social expectations of behavior for men and women. This perspective emphasizes that gender roles are not fixed or solely determined by biology; rather, they are influenced by cultural norms, societal expectations, and the historical context in which individuals live. Anthropologists examine how different cultures define and interpret gender roles, which can vary significantly from one society to another. For instance, what is considered appropriate behavior for men and women in one culture might be very different in another. This social construction of gender roles allows for a broader understanding of how identities and behaviors are shaped by social context, rather than being strictly tied to biological factors. This understanding of gender roles also aligns with contemporary discussions about gender fluidity and the acknowledgment that people may not conform to traditional expectations of masculinity and femininity. Therefore, highlighting gender roles as social expectations is essential for understanding the complexities of human behavior and social structures in various cultures.

9. How can globalization impact local cultural practices?

- A. It leads to uniformity in all cultures
- B. It only has a negative impact on cultural practices
- C. It can cause both cultural homogenization and revitalization
- D. It exclusively benefits local practices

Globalization can significantly influence local cultural practices in various ways. The correct choice highlights that globalization can lead to both cultural homogenization—where local cultures may adopt characteristics from dominant global cultures leading to a loss of unique traditions—and cultural revitalization, where global connections encourage the revival or reassessment of local customs and identities. For instance, exposure to global ideas and practices may prompt communities to reclaim and re-energize traditional practices, blending them with new influences in innovative ways. This duality reflects the complex dynamics of cultural interaction in a globalized world, allowing for both the dilution of local uniqueness and the nurturing of local identity through reinvention and adaptation. This answer effectively captures the nuanced effects of globalization on local cultures, illustrating that the impacts are not simply negative or positive but rather a complex interplay of various factors.

10. Which primate characteristic is associated with having well-developed arboreal adaptations?

- A. Postorbital bar
- B. Claws
- C. Tiny brains
- D. Highly specialized teeth

The presence of a postorbital bar is indeed associated with well-developed arboreal adaptations in primates. The postorbital bar is a bony structure that encircles the eye socket and helps provide structural support for the eyes, which is beneficial for animals that navigate a three-dimensional arboreal environment. This feature is characteristic of many primates, indicating their adaptations for living in trees, where depth perception and visual acuity are essential for activities like jumping between branches and assessing distances. Primates with well-developed arboreal adaptations tend to have forward-facing eyes, which enhance their stereoscopic vision, allowing for better depth perception crucial for navigating in complex forest canopies. The postorbital bar aids in stabilizing the eye position, making it easier for these primates to judge distances accurately as they move through their environment.