Unit One: Introducing Anthropology

1. Etymologically, the term "logos" in anthropology most accurately translates to:

A) The study of ancient ruins

B) Human reason, study, or science

C) The history of biological evolution

D) The physical structure of mankind

2. Which of the following best describes the "holistic" approach in anthropology?

A) Focusing exclusively on the biological evolution of Homo sapiens

B) Studying a single aspect of a culture in isolation from others

C) Considering culture, history, language, and biology as essential to a complete understanding

D) Prioritizing the researcher's own cultural values over the subjects'

3. Anthropology is distinguished from other social sciences like sociology or political science primarily by its:

A) Use of quantitative data analysis

B) Breadth of scope in time, space, and human characteristics

C) Exclusive focus on modern industrialized nations

D) Reliance on historical documents over physical evidence

4. The professionalization of anthropology in the late 19th century was significantly fueled by:

A) The decline of European Enlightenment ideas

B) The expansion of Western colonial powers seeking to understand dominated peoples

C) The immediate rejection of Darwinian evolutionary theory

D) A shift away from museum-based research

5. Which sub-field is most likely to investigate how standards of attractiveness vary due to cultural influences?

A) Archaeology

B) Linguistic Anthropology

C) Physical/Biological Anthropology

D) Paleoanthropology

6. "Ethnography" as an approach is characterized by:

A) Comparative analysis of different ethnic groups across time

B) Synthesis of data collected by multiple researchers

C) Intensive, descriptive accounts of specific customs and ways of life

D) Laboratory-based experiments on human behavior

7. In contrast to ethnography, "ethnology":

A) Requires primary fieldwork to collect new data

B) Is group or community-specific

C) Uses data from various researchers to make cross-cultural generalizations

D) Focuses only on the material remains of past societies

8. The "relativistic" perspective in anthropology requires a researcher to:

A) Declare certain practices as "good" or "bad" based on universal morals

B) Understand a belief or practice within its own specific cultural context

C) Compare all cultures to Western standards

D) Ignore the biological evolution of the group being studied

9. Which of the following is considered an "invisible" source of biological variation passed through genes?

A) Habituation to high altitudes

B) Genetic mutations

C) Learning a second language

D) Cultural food preferences

10. The ultimate goal of anthropology is to:

A) Categorize humans into distinct racial types

B) Develop an integrated picture of humankind and what it means to be human

C) Document only "primitive" societies before they disappear

D) Prove that biology is more important than culture

11. Anthropology's focus on "small places" to answer "large questions" suggests that:

A) Only small tribes are worth studying

B) Insights from local life can help understand broad human connections

C) Global trends have no impact on local communities

D) Anthropologists prefer rural areas over urban megapolises

12. The "mirror for humanity" concept implies that by studying others, we:

A) Can confirm the superiority of our own culture

B) Better understand and become critical of our own ways of life

C) Should aim to make all cultures look the same

D) Can ignore the history of our own civilization

13. Which sub-specialization of Socio-Cultural Anthropology would most likely study the social impact of globalization on local farmers?

A) Medical Anthropology

B) Development Anthropology

C) Ethnomusicology

D) Archaeological Anthropology

14. Which of the following is NOT a unique feature of anthropology?

A) Holistic approach

B) Comparative perspective

C) Narrow focus on contemporary urban political systems

D) Relativistic perspective

15. The historical roots of academic anthropology can be traced back to:

A) The 1950s in Ethiopia

B) Ancient Greek and Medieval social thinkers

C) The post-World War II era exclusively

D) The discovery of DNA

16. Why is the definition of anthropology as "the study of humans" considered "not particularly illuminating"?

A) Because humans are too complex to study

B) Because many other disciplines also study human beings

C) Because it excludes the study of ancient ancestors

D) Because it ignores the biological aspect of humanity

17. Linguistic anthropology primarily focuses on:

A) The chemical composition of ancient scripts

B) The relationship between language and culture/social life

C) Teaching modern languages to indigenous groups

D) The physical evolution of the human throat

18. The term "Ethnocentrism" refers to:

A) The belief that all cultures are equal

B) The belief that one's own culture is superior to others

C) The study of ethnic groups in Ethiopia

D) A research method involving participant observation

19. Applied areas of anthropology include:

A) Urban and Medical Anthropology

B) Only the study of fossilized remains

C) The theoretical rejection of cultural relativism

D) Strictly historical geography

20. Biological variations like morphology and size are primarily reflections of:

A) Arbitrary cultural choices

B) Changes in living organisms resulting from natural selection and mutations

C) Direct imitation of neighboring species

D) Intentional changes made during a single lifetime

21. Which discipline is most closely related to Physical Anthropology?

A) Political Science

B) Biology

C) Economics

D) Jurisprudence

22. The concept of "Enlightenment" (18th century) contributed to anthropology by emphasizing:

A) Religious dogma over reason

B) Human progress and the power of reason

C) The rejection of the scientific method

D) Stagnation of human societies

23. Archaeology contributes to anthropology by:

A) Predicting future cultural trends

B) Reconstructing past human societies through material remains

C) Studying current spoken dialects

D) Interviewing living community leaders

24. A "diachronic" study in anthropology would focus on:

A) A single point in time across many cultures

B) Changes in a culture or species over time

C) The biological traits of a single individual

D) Purely modern social phenomena

25. Anthropology helps fight against prejudice by:

A) Encouraging people to ignore cultural differences

B) Leading us to realize our culture is just one way of life among many

C) Proving that some cultures are more evolved than others

D) Focusing only on common biological traits

26. Participant-observation is a distinctive methodology used to:

A) Conduct large-scale surveys via mail

B) Gain an insider's perspective on local culture through long-term immersion

C) Test biological samples in a lab setting

D) Document the movement of tectonic plates

27. What does the "spatial dimension" of anthropology include?

A) Only the Western hemisphere

B) Only rural and simple societies

C) All regions from the Arctic to deserts, and megapolises to hunting-gathering areas

D) Exclusively African and Asian contexts

28. In the context of development, anthropology is useful because it:

A) Imposes Western values on local communities

B) Pays attention to local conditions to ensure project sustainability

C) Only focuses on the economic profit of corporations

D) Replaces indigenous knowledge with modern technology

29. Paleoanthropology is a sub-field of:

A) Linguistic Anthropology

B) Physical Anthropology

C) Cultural Anthropology

D) Historical Archaeology

30. One misconception about anthropology is that it is:

A) Concerned with both past and present

B) Only the study of "primitive" or non-industrialized societies

C) Interested in the relationship between biology and culture

D) A comparative science

Unit Two: Human Culture

1. Which of the following is an example of "Independent Invention" as a mechanism of cultural change?

A) The spread of Christianity through trade

B) The development of agriculture in different parts of the world without contact

C) Adopting Western clothing after colonial contact

D) The exchange of musical styles between neighboring tribes

2. In the context of cultural unity, a "universality" refers to:

A) Traits common to several but not all human groups

B) Traits unique to a single cultural tradition

C) Biological, psychological, social, or cultural features found in every culture

D) The belief that one's own culture is the best

3. "Acculturation" differs from "diffusion" in that it involves:

A) The mere spread of a single trait from Group A to Group B

B) A continuous first-hand contact between two groups resulting in exchange

C) The invention of a completely new tool

D) The biological evolution of a species

4. A "Patrilineal" descent rule means that:

A) Descent is traced through both parents equally

B) Children belong to the mother's group, but only sons inherit

C) Succession and inheritance pass solely through the male line

D) Individuals are free to choose which line to follow

5. Which concept argues that no culture is superior and each is unique?

A) Ethnocentrism

B) Cultural Relativism

C) Globalization

D) Social Darwinism

6. The "incest taboo" is an example of:

A) A cultural particularity

B) A cultural universal that compels individuals to marry outside the family

C) A modern invention of industrialized societies

D) A trait that has no biological basis

7. In a "Matrilineal" descent group, children of both sexes belong to the:

A) Father's group by birth

B) Mother's group by birth

C) Group of the strongest sibling

D) Clan of the paternal grandfather

8. The term "Cognatic Descent" refers to a system where:

A) Only men trace their lineage

B) Individuals can trace genealogical links through either men or women

C) Marriage is strictly prohibited

D) Only the first-born inherits property

9. Anthropologists do NOT support "Female Genital Cutting" (FGC) in the name of cultural relativism because:

A) It is not a traditional practice

B) It violates the rights of girls to physical integrity and has health consequences

C) It is too expensive for local communities

D) It is only practiced in "primitive" societies

10. The process of "Globalization" is described as:

A) The isolation of nations to preserve culture

B) A series of processes promoting interlinked and mutually dependent nations

C) The complete disappearance of cultural diversity

D) The biological merging of all human races

11. Early or child marriage is rejected by anthropologists primarily because it:

A) Is a cultural universal

B) Violates rights to education and professional development

C) Increases the population too quickly

D) Has no impact on psychological well-being

12. The "Ties that Connect" in Unit Two specifically focus on:

A) Economic trade and military alliances

B) Marriage, family, and kinship

C) Technological exchanges

D) Biological evolution of the brain

13. Which mechanism of change refers to the borrow of traits between cultures?

A) Independent Invention

B) Diffusion

C) Natural Selection

D) Genetic Mutation

14. Kinship terminology in a society usually reflects:

A) Only the personal preference of the speaker

B) Patterns of descent, family type, and marriage

C) The complexity of the written language

D) The physical resemblance of relatives

15. A "nuclear family" is generally distinguished from an "extended family" by:

A) The number of generations living together

B) The presence of a marriage contract

C) The biological relatedness of members

D) The geographical location of the household

16. Culture is "learned" rather than "instinctual." This is demonstrated by:

A) Knowing which wood is good for a digging stick through language

B) The automatic blink reflex to light

C) The need for animal protein to survive

D) The biological structure of the hand

17. Which of the following is the “non-material" creation of a social group?

A) Stone tools

B) Religious beliefs and social values

C) Clothing artifacts

D) Architecture

18. Cultural "Generality" refers to:

A) Traits found in all human cultures without exception

B) Patterns found in several but not all societies

C) A trait unique to a single tribe in Ethiopia

D) The biological capacity for speech

19. The "biocultural" nature of humans means that:

A) Biology and culture are separate and never interact

B) Evolution is the result of both biological and cultural factors

C) Humans rely only on instinct to survive

D) Culture is purely biological and encoded in DNA

20. Post-marital residence rules result in:

A) The immediate dissolution of the family

B) The creation of a variety of family types

C) The rejection of the incest taboo

D) The end of kinship ties

21. In Unit Two, "Culture" is defined as consisting of:

A) Only the high arts like opera and painting

B) Things people make, their behavior, beliefs, and ideas

C) Only the biological traits of a population

D) The historical documents of a nation

22. The "incest taboo" and marriage prohibitions are designed to:

A) Keep wealth within the immediate family

B) Compel individuals to marry outside their family

C) Encourage the growth of isolated clans

D) Replace kinship with economic ties

23. Succession and inheritance are most closely related to:

A) Independent Invention

B) Rules of descent

C) Acculturation

D) Participant observation

24. In a patrilineal system, who continues the group affiliation?

A) Both sons and daughters equally

B) Only the daughters

C) Only the sons

D) Only the maternal uncles

25. The fact that humans can survive in the Arctic due to heavy coats is an example of:

A) Biological instinct

B) Cultural artifacts facilitating survival in non-natural environments

C) Genetic mutation for thick skin

D) The failure of evolution

26. Which of the following is a "cultural particularity"?

A) The use of language

B) Living in social groups

C) A unique food preparation method specific to one isolated valley

D) The practice of marriage

27. "Social Darwinism" is the idea that:

A) All cultures should be protected from change

B) Morally "superior" societies naturally weed out "savage" ones

C) Biology has no influence on social behavior

D) Cooperation is more important than competition

28. "Habituation" or "acclimatization" (like adjusting to high altitude) is:

A) Passed on genetically to children

B) Reversible and occurs within a lifetime

C) A permanent genetic change

D) A result of cultural diffusion

29. Which descent rule allows for "any combination of lineal link"?

A) Patrilineal

B) Matrilineal

C) Cognatic (Ambilineal)

D) Unilineal

30. The primary objective of "Ethnology" within culture studies is to:

A) Write a biography of a single leader

B) Uncover general cultural principles and "rules" governing behavior

C) Dig for ancient pottery

D) Map the geographical boundaries of a nation

Answers for Unit One: Introducing Anthropology

1. **B) Human reason, study, or science.** Derived from the Greek *logos*.
2. **C) Considering culture, history, language, and biology.** Holism is the "all-encompassing" study of the human condition.
3. **B) Breadth of scope in time, space, and human characteristics.** Anthropology spans from ancient ancestors to modern cities.
4. **B) Expansion of Western colonial powers.** Early anthropology was often used by colonial administrations to understand (and control) subject populations.
5. **C) Physical/Biological Anthropology.** This sub-field examines biological diversity, including physical traits like beauty standards.
6. **C) Intensive, descriptive accounts.** Ethnography is the "work" of the field—writing about a specific group based on direct observation.
7. **C) Uses data from various researchers.** Ethnology is the comparative study of ethnographic data to find general patterns.
8. **B) Understand a belief or practice within its own context.** This prevents judging other cultures by one's own standards.
9. **B) Genetic mutations.** Unlike tanning or learning, these are microscopic biological changes inherited over generations.
10. **B) Develop an integrated picture of humankind.** The goal is to understand the "whole" human experience.
11. **B) Insights from local life can help understand broad human connections.** Anthropologists look at specific communities to understand global humanity.
12. **B) Better understand and become critical of our own ways of life.** By seeing how others live, we see that our way isn't the only way.
13. **B) Development Anthropology.** This focuses on the social effects of economic and technological change.

14. **C) Narrow focus on contemporary urban political systems.** Anthropology is never "narrow"; it is holistic and comparative.

15. **B) Ancient Greek and Medieval social thinkers.** While it became a science in the 19th century, interest in "the other" is ancient.

16. **B) Because many other disciplines also study human beings.** Biology, history, and psychology also study humans; anthropology's *method* makes it unique.

17. **B) The relationship between language and culture.** It looks at how speech shapes social identity and thought.

18. **B) The belief that one's own culture is superior.** Using your own culture as the "yardstick" to judge others.

19. **A) Urban and Medical Anthropology.** These use anthropological theory to solve real-world problems in health and city life.

20. **B) Changes in living organisms resulting from natural selection.** These are biological adaptations to the environment over time.

21. **B) Biology.** Since it deals with human evolution and genetics, it is closely linked to biological sciences.

22. **B) Human progress and the power of reason.** The Enlightenment shifted focus toward scientific observation of human society.

23. **B) Reconstructing past human societies.** Archaeology uses "rubbish" (material remains) to tell the story of people who are gone.

24. **B) Changes in a culture or species over time.** Diachronic means "through time" (historical).

25. **B) Realizing our culture is just one way of life.** Knowledge of diversity reduces the "fear of the unknown."

26. **B) Gain an insider's perspective.** "Living the life" of the subjects is the hallmark of anthropological fieldwork.

27. **C) All regions...** Anthropology is not limited to "remote" places; it covers the entire globe.
28. **B) Pays attention to local conditions.** Projects often fail because they don't account for local culture; anthropologists fix this.
29. **B) Physical Anthropology.** It is the study of human evolution through the fossil record.
30. **B) Only the study of "primitive" societies.** Modern anthropology is just as interested in Wall Street as it is in the Amazon.

Answers for Unit Two: Human Culture and Ties that Connect

1. **B) Development of agriculture in different parts of the world.** This is when two cultures invent the same thing without meeting.
2. **C) Features found in every culture.** Examples include the incest taboo and the use of language.
3. **B) Continuous first-hand contact.** Unlike diffusion (passing a trait), acculturation is a wholesale exchange of culture due to living together.
4. **C) Succession and inheritance pass solely through the male line.** Men carry the family name and property.
5. **B) Cultural Relativism.** The principle that no culture is "better" or "worse," just different.
6. **B) A cultural universal.** Every known society has rules against marrying very close relatives.
7. **B) Mother's group by birth.** In matrilineal societies, the "family" is the mother's side.
8. **B) Individuals can trace links through either men or women.** This is a flexible system common in many modern societies.
9. **B) It violates the rights of girls.** Relativism does not mean accepting practices that cause physical or psychological harm.

10. **B) Series of processes promoting interlinked nations.** It involves the global flow of people, money, and information.
11. **B) Violates rights to education.** Anthropologists advocate against practices that limit a child's future potential.
12. **B) Marriage, family, and kinship.** These are the basic social building blocks that connect humans.
13. **B) Diffusion.** The "borrowing" of ideas (like a recipe or a fashion style) between groups.
14. **B) Patterns of descent, family type, and marriage.** What you call your "Uncle" depends on how your culture defines your family tree.
15. **A) The number of generations living together.** Nuclear is usually just parents and children; extended includes others.
16. **A) Knowing which wood is good through language.** We aren't born knowing this; we are taught it by our elders.
17. **B) Religious beliefs and social values.** Material culture is what you can touch; non-material is what you think or believe.
18. **B) Patterns found in several but not all societies.** For example, the "nuclear family" is common but not universal.
19. **B) Evolution is the result of both.** Our biology allows for culture, and our culture (like tools/cooking) affects our biology.
20. **B) The creation of a variety of family types.** Where you live after marriage (with his parents or hers) changes the family structure.
21. **B) Things people make, behavior, beliefs, and ideas.** Culture is the "total way of life."
22. **B) Compel individuals to marry outside their family.** This creates wider social networks and alliances.
23. **B) Rules of descent.** Descent determines who gets the "stuff" (inheritance) and "status" (succession).

24. **C) Only the sons.** In patrilineal systems, the "bloodline" technically stops with a daughter's children (they join her husband's line).

25. **B) Cultural artifacts facilitating survival.** Humans adapt through technology (coats) rather than just growing thick fur.

26. **C) A unique food preparation method.** While everyone eats, *how* one specific group cooks is a particularity.

27. **B) "Superior" societies naturally weed out others.** A discredited 19th-century theory used to justify colonialism.

28. **B) Reversible and occurs within a lifetime.** Unlike genetic evolution, your body "gets used" to the air and resets when you leave.

29. **C) Cognatic (Ambilineal).** This is the most "choosy" and flexible descent rule.

30. **B) Uncover general cultural principles.** Ethnology looks for the "why" and "how" behind human behavior across the world.