Cultural Anthropology Exam 1

For each of the questions below, please select the best answer from among the available choices. Please be sure to check your Scantrons for errors or incomplete erasures. I will NOT be held accountable for omissions or incomplete erasures missed by the machine – remember, your first guess is likely your best guess. Please answer all 37 questions, but remember that I will only grade you based on 35 of them.

1. Which of the following things is anthropology absolutely NOT interested in?
   a. Biological variation among people
   b. Evolution of cultural traits
   c. Variation and diversity among current cultures
   d. Biological evolution of human ancestors
   e. All of the above ARE of interest to anthropologists.

2. If we say that anthropology attempts to see the “big picture” and look at all of the possible variables affecting a cultural phenomenon, we are talking about anthropology’s _________ nature
   a. Biocultural
   b. Holistic
   c. Interdisciplinary
   d. Comparative
   e. Ethnocentric

3. If we discuss the effects that the introductions of Western food products and ideas about diet have had on Pima Indians’ diabetes and obesity rates, we are exploring the problem from a __________ approach.
   a. Biocultural
   b. Holistic
   c. Interdisciplinary
   d. Comparative
   e. Ethnocentric

4. If, in our study of the Pimas we seek the help of a doctor, an anthropologist, a geneticist, and a social worker, we are showing adherence to the __________ principle of anthropology.
   a. Biocultural
   b. Holistic
   c. Interdisciplinary
   d. Comparative
   e. Ethnocentric

5. Someone who writes ethnographies is most likely what type of anthropologist?
   a. Physical
   b. Cultural
   c. Linguistic
   d. Archaeological
   e. Applied

6. Cultural relativity was a term first used by followers of Franz Boas in the early 20th century who believed that each culture needed to be studied in light of its own particular developments and differences. What theoretical orientation was Boas and his students known for?
   a. Cultural ecology
   b. Unilineal evolution
   c. Interpretive anthropology
   d. Historical particularism
   e. Functionalism
7. Which of the following would NOT be considered an element of cultural knowledge?
   a. Norms
   b. World Views
   c. Values
   d. Symbols
   e. All of the above ARE in fact considered parts of cultural knowledge

8. The way that people interpret themselves, people around them, reality at large, and their place in the world is a function of their:
   a. Norms
   b. World Views
   c. Values
   d. Symbols
   e. Integrity

9. The way people say members of a culture are expected to behave in a given situation is an expression of:
   a. Norms
   b. World Views
   c. Values
   d. Symbols
   e. Integrity

10. The collection of an individual’s idiosyncratic quirks and beliefs, which may or may not agree wholeheartedly with his societal norms, but are influenced by them as well as personal experiences, is best described as:
    a. Culture
    b. Personality
    c. Insanity
    d. Classification of Reality
    e. Symbolism

For the next five questions, choose from among the following responses:
   a. Phoneme
   b. Grammar
   c. Displacement
   d. Dialect
   e. Creole

11. The ability to speak about things not present in time or space.
12. The shared and conventional rules used in formulating linguistic meaning.
13. Regional variant of a language.
14. The smallest unit of sound with the ability to change meaning for speakers of a language.
15. A new grammar and often lexicon created from a combination of two previously distinct ones.

16. The study of the ways in which people use language in various social situations is called:
    a. Phonics
    b. Phonemics
    c. Sociolinguistics
    d. Phonetics
    e. Proxemics

17. The study of the actual sounds produced by speakers of a language is called:
    a. Phonics
    b. Phonemics
    c. Sociolinguistics
    d. Phonetics
    e. Proxemics
18. The study of a speaker’s physical position relative to his audience would be part of:
   a. Phonics
   b. Phonemics
   c. Kinesics
   d. Phonetics
   e. Proxemics

19. A researcher who developed an idea about the effect of language on cultural perceptions about the world along with a colleague by the name of Benjamin Whorf was:
   a. Franz Boas
   b. Julian Steward
   c. Edward Sapir
   d. Bronislaw Malinowski
   e. None of the above

20. Which theoretical paradigm focused on how culture meets peoples’ biological, psychological, and social needs?
   a. Unilineal Evolution
   b. Functionalism
   c. Interpretive
   d. Postmodern
   e. None of the above

21. The belief that culture is shaped to great extent by the environment in which a group of people finds itself is part of what theoretical orientation?
   a. Historical particularism
   b. Cultural ecology
   c. Unilineal evolution
   d. Functionalism
   e. Postmodernism

22. The preferred term used to refer to an individual who shares cultural knowledge with a researcher is:
   a. Informant
   b. Culture Broker
   c. Headman
   d. Stoolie
   e. Consultant

23. The process of transmitting culture from one generation to the next through passive and active means is called:
   a. Culturology
   b. Transmission
   c. Enculturation
   d. Culture Brokering
   e. Participant Observation

24. Napoleon Chagnon spent the bulk of his career working with the Yanomamo who live in:
   a. South America
   b. South Africa
   c. Tibet
   d. South Dakota
   e. Southpark
For the remaining questions, please decide if each is true or false. Mark A for true or B for false.

25. _______ Chagnon noted a great tendency for peace-loving and conflict avoidance among the tranquil and idyllic Yanomamo people.

26. _______ A researcher who utilizes documents rather than personal experience in the field to analyze a culture and create ethnography is called an applied anthropologist.

27. _______ From our discussions about the characteristics and nature of culture, it is possible for an individual to possess a culture unique and distinct from every other individual on the planet.

28. _______ Ethnohistory, ethnography, and ethnology are all three terms for the same thing; they are synonyms.

29. _______ The method of ethnographic research that involves living with and working among members of another culture is called participant observation.

30. _______ It has been shown that culture is, in fact, passed from one generation to another through genetic inheritance.

31. _______ Followers of the historical particularism or culture history school first introduced the idea of fieldwork as a necessity to understanding culture.

32. _______ Participant observation is a largely outmoded form of gathering data.

33. _______ Malinowski was a well known functional anthropologist who worked in the Trobriand Islands during the first world war.

34. _______ The chimp Kanzi was shown to engage in previously “human-only” aspects of communication, such as displacement.

35. _______ If I believe that my belief system is better than that of everyone else in the world I am being culturally relative.

36. _______ The earliest theory (from the 1850s) about cultural development was cultural ecology.

37. _______ The definition, “culture is Man’s extrasomatic means of adaptation” refers to the idea that culture is not based in biological ability but upon cognitive (thinking) ability and provides a means of adapting to the environment beyond that which nature has provided us in our physical bodies.