



SOC401

Solved Mid-Term_Spring2026

ABSTRACT

This comprehensive collection of notes is accurately crafted to empower students to excel academically, ensuring they achieve a minimum of 80% marks in their examinations. The content is organized with clarity and precision, focusing on key concepts, critical analyses, and practical applications tailored to the syllabus. These notes serve as a reliable resource for both thorough preparation and last-minute revision. Designed to inspire confidence and mastery, this guide is an essential tool for students striving for academic excellence.

Maha Malik
Solved Mid-Term

Short Questions

1. How does culture influence individuals?

Culture influences individuals by shaping their beliefs, values, attitudes, behavior, and ways of thinking. It guides how people interact with others, solve problems, and interpret the world, although it does not completely determine individual behavior.

2. Why are land rights rigid?

Land rights are more rigid among horticulturalists and agriculturalists because farming requires permanent cultivation, investment, and protection of land. Foragers and pastoralists usually have more flexible access to land.

3. Pastoralists' contact with agricultural communities

Pastoralists regularly maintain contact with agricultural communities to exchange goods and supplement their diet with cultivated products that they cannot produce themselves.

4. Affinal kin and consanguineal kinship

- **Affinal kin:** Relatives through marriage (e.g., mother-in-law, brother-in-law).
- **Consanguineal kin:** Relatives by blood (e.g., parents, siblings, grandparents).

5. Civilization

Civilization is a society characterized by cities, writing, advanced technology, and complex social and political organization. According to Lewis Morgan, civilization began with the invention of writing.

6. Vertical and horizontal kinship

- **Vertical kinship:** Relationships across generations (grandparents, parents, children).
- **Horizontal kinship:** Relationships within the same generation (brothers, sisters, cousins).

7. Write briefly about the use of fieldwork

Fieldwork is the primary research method in cultural anthropology. It allows anthropologists to collect firsthand cultural information, observe people's behavior, test hypotheses, and prepare detailed ethnographies.

8. Differentiate between synchronic and diachronic analysis

Synchronic Analysis

Studies culture/language at one point in time
Focuses on present structure

Diachronic Analysis

Studies changes over time
Focuses on historical development

9. Difference between horticulture and agriculture

Horticulture

Simple tools
Small shifting fields
Human labor
Lower production

Agriculture

Advanced machinery
Permanent cultivation
Irrigation, fertilizers, animals and machines
Higher production

10. Difference between organic and mechanical solidarity

Mechanical Solidarity

Little specialization
Based on similarity
People are self-reliant

Organic Solidarity

High specialization
Based on interdependence
People depend on each other

11. Adaptive and maladaptive features of culture

- **Adaptive features:** Help humans adjust to their environment (e.g., warm clothing in cold climates).
- **Maladaptive features:** Harm people or the environment (e.g., pollution from excessive automobile use).

12. Difference between economics and economic anthropology

Economics

Focuses on profit maximization
Assumes rational economic behavior

Economic Anthropology

Studies production, distribution, and consumption within cultural contexts
Recognizes that culture influences economic decisions

13. Effect of environment on food collection

The environment determines available plants and animals, carrying capacity, and possible food-gathering methods. Technology helps people adapt to environmental conditions.

14. Participant observation and its importance in cultural anthropology

Participant observation means living among the people being studied while systematically observing their daily lives. It provides authentic data, reveals actual behavior, and allows observation of non-verbal communication.

15. Population growth difference between foraging and early farming societies

- **Foraging societies:** Low population growth because they are nomadic.
- **Early farming societies:** Rapid population growth due to settled life, food surplus, and higher fertility after the Neolithic Revolution.

16. Primary method used in cultural anthropology research

The primary research method is **fieldwork**, especially **participant observation**, where anthropologists live with and observe the community they are studying.

Long Questions

1. Biotechnology-related question

Biotechnology is the application of scientific techniques to improve food production. It is an example of industrialized agriculture and includes methods such as genetically improved crops, laser land leveling, and GPS-guided harvesting. These innovations increase food production and efficiency, although excessive technological use may also create environmental problems.

2. Conceptual question about cultural materialism

Cultural materialism is an anthropological theory which argues that material conditions such as technology, natural resources, and methods of production are the main forces shaping culture. It emphasizes scientific observation (etic approach) rather than people's own explanations (emic approach). According to this theory, ideas and beliefs are less influential than economic and environmental conditions in shaping society.

3. Discuss the functions of the family

The family performs several important functions:

- Reproduction of society
- Socialization of children
- Economic cooperation
- Emotional support
- Care and protection of members

- Regulation of sexual behavior
- Transmission of culture, values, and traditions
- Social identity and inheritance

These functions help maintain social order and ensure the continuity of society.

4. Explain the role of an impact assessor

An impact assessor is an applied anthropologist who evaluates the effects of a project, policy, or development program on a community. They identify both positive and negative impacts and provide recommendations to reduce harmful effects and improve outcomes.

5. Social significance of family

The family is the basic unit of society. It provides love, protection, emotional security, education, and social identity. It teaches cultural values, norms, and traditions, supports economic cooperation, and helps maintain social stability by preparing children to become responsible members of society.

6. Gender stratification

Gender stratification refers to the unequal distribution of power, wealth, status, and opportunities between men and women. Different cultures assign different gender roles, influencing access to education, employment, political participation, and resources. Cultural expectations often create inequalities, although these patterns vary across societies.

7. How do cultural rules influence kinship classification? Provide an example.

Kinship classification depends on cultural rules rather than biology alone. Different societies classify relatives according to their customs, inheritance systems, marriage rules, and descent patterns. For example, in some cultures all male cousins may be called "brothers," while in others they are distinguished separately. Thus, kinship terms reflect cultural values and social organization rather than simple biological relationships.

8. What is culture shock? How does it affect researchers?

Culture shock is the psychological disorientation experienced when researchers live in a culture very different from their own. It can cause confusion, stress, loneliness, misunderstanding, and difficulty adjusting to new customs and values. Researchers must remain objective and adapt to the new environment to conduct accurate and unbiased fieldwork.

BS English

