



SOC401

Final-Term (Solved)

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.

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Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

SHORT QUESTIONS (3 Marks)

1. What is Cultural Diffusion?

Answer:

Cultural diffusion is the process by which cultural traits, ideas, beliefs, customs, or technologies spread from one society to another. Diffusion is usually selective because cultures adopt only those traits that suit their values and needs. During diffusion, cultural items are often modified to fit the receiving culture. For example, pizza with chicken tikka topping in Pakistan is a modified form of cultural diffusion.

2. Define Assimilation.

Answer:

Assimilation is the process through which a minority group gradually adopts the culture, language, values, and customs of the dominant society until cultural differences become less visible. It usually occurs after long-term interaction between different cultural groups.

3. What are Moots?

Answer:

Moots are formal public meetings held to settle disputes among members of tribal societies. Relatives, friends, and respected elders participate in the discussion to resolve conflicts peacefully. Moots are an example of an informal system of social control.

4. Explain Formal and Informal Mechanisms of Social Control.

Answer:

Formal Mechanisms

- Written laws
- Police
- Courts
- Law enforcement agencies
- Official punishments

These are common in states.

Informal Mechanisms

- Family
- Public opinion
- Lineage obligations
- Age organizations
- Customs
- Traditions
- Socialization

5. Why do Functionalists support inequality?

Answer:

Functionalists believe inequality is necessary because different jobs require different skills and responsibilities. Important jobs must offer greater rewards such as higher salaries and prestige to motivate qualified people. Therefore, inequality helps society function efficiently by ensuring that capable individuals occupy important positions.

6. Explain Functional Perspective on Stratification.

Answer:

According to the functional perspective, social stratification benefits society. It motivates people to obtain education, develop skills, and perform important occupations. Higher rewards encourage individuals to fill positions that are essential for society, which promotes stability and social order.

7. Margaret Mead's Research on Adolescence.

Answer:

Margaret Mead studied adolescent girls in Samoa and found that they experienced much less emotional conflict than Western adolescents. She concluded that adolescence is shaped mainly by culture rather than biology, showing that different societies influence personality and behavior differently.

8. Difference between Caste and Class.

Caste	Class
Based on birth	Based on achievement
Closed system	Open system
No social mobility	Social mobility possible
Status inherited	Status can change

9. Explain Biological and Anthropological Perspectives of Race.

Answer:

Biological Perspective

All humans belong to one species. Modern biology shows that genetic differences among races are very small.

Anthropological Perspective

Anthropologists believe race is mainly a social and cultural concept rather than a biological reality. They emphasize cultural diversity instead of racial superiority.

10. Why do Anthropologists Study the Origin of Customs?

Answer:

Anthropologists study the origin of customs to understand how cultures develop, why traditions continue, and how societies adapt to changing environments. Studying customs also helps explain similarities and differences among cultures.

11. Why were Anthropologists Criticized?

Answer:

Early anthropologists were criticized because they focused mainly on exotic and non-Western societies while ignoring modern societies. Some research was ethnocentric and reflected colonial attitudes. Modern anthropology has become more objective and studies all cultures equally.

12. How do Beliefs Maintain Social Solidarity?

Answer:

Shared beliefs unite members of society by promoting common values,

cooperation, trust, and respect for social norms. They strengthen group identity and help maintain social order and stability.

13. What is Hegemony?

Answer:

Hegemony refers to the dominance of one group over others through ideas, beliefs, and values rather than force. The dominant group's worldview becomes accepted as normal by society.

14. Explain Ideology.

Answer:

Ideology is a system of beliefs and ideas that guides people's thinking and behavior. It reflects the interests of individuals or groups and influences politics, economics, gender roles, and society.

15. Explain Max Weber's Three Dimensions of Stratification.

Answer:

Max Weber explained stratification through three dimensions:

- **Class:** Economic position based on wealth and income.
- **Status:** Social prestige and respect.
- **Party:** Political power and influence.

According to Weber, all three determine a person's position in society.

LONG QUESTIONS (5 Marks)

1. Explain the Functional Perspective of Social Stratification.

Answer:

The functional perspective explains that social stratification performs important functions for society. Functionalists believe that not all jobs have equal importance. Positions requiring greater skills, education, and responsibility must offer higher rewards.

Compilation

Important occupations such as doctors, engineers, judges, and scientists require many years of education and training. High salaries and prestige motivate talented individuals to perform these jobs.

Functionalists argue that inequality:

- motivates people to work harder;
- encourages education and skill development;
- ensures qualified people fill important positions;
- maintains social order and stability;
- improves the efficiency of society.

Although inequality exists, functionalists believe it benefits society because it helps distribute people into different social roles according to their abilities.

2. Explain Formal and Informal Mechanisms of Social Control.

Answer:

Social control refers to the methods used by society to regulate people's behavior.

Formal Mechanisms

Formal mechanisms are official methods enforced by the government.

Examples include:

- laws;
- police;
- courts;
- judges;
- law enforcement agencies.

These are common in modern states where violations are punished through legal action.

Informal Mechanisms

Informal mechanisms operate through customs, traditions, and social expectations.

Examples include:

- family;
- public opinion;
- lineage obligations;
- age organizations;
- religion;
- customs;
- socialization.

Bands and tribal societies mainly rely on informal mechanisms because they usually lack written laws.

Conclusion

Both formal and informal mechanisms help maintain social order, prevent conflict, and encourage people to follow accepted norms.

3. Explain Max Weber's Three Dimensions of Stratification with Examples.

Answer:

Max Weber argued that social inequality depends on three factors.

1. Class

Class is based on wealth and economic resources.

Example:

A successful businessman belongs to a higher class because of his income.

2. Status

Status refers to social prestige and respect.

Example:

A respected religious scholar may enjoy high status even without being wealthy.

3. Party

Party refers to political power and the ability to influence decisions.

Example:

A politician may have political power despite having average income.

Conclusion

Weber believed that class, status, and party together determine a person's life chances and social position.

4. Explain Race from Biological and Anthropological Perspectives.

Answer:

Biological Perspective

Modern biology states that all humans belong to one species. Genetic differences between races are very small, and there is no scientific basis for ranking races as superior or inferior.

Anthropological Perspective

Anthropologists consider race mainly a social and cultural concept. Human behavior is shaped by culture rather than biological race. They reject ethnocentrism and emphasize cultural diversity and equality.

Conclusion

Modern anthropology focuses on understanding cultural differences instead of promoting racial classifications.

5. Explain Margaret Mead's Research on Adolescence.

Answer:

Margaret Mead studied adolescent girls in Samoa to understand whether adolescence is universally stressful.

She found that Samoan girls experienced much less emotional conflict and rebellion than adolescents in Western societies. Their smooth transition into adulthood resulted from cultural practices, social expectations, and family support.

Her research showed that adolescent behavior is strongly influenced by culture rather than biology.

1. What is Local Knowledge? (3–5 Marks)

Answer:

Local knowledge refers to the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and practices that local communities develop through generations of living in a particular environment. It includes traditional farming methods, herbal medicine, water management, food preservation, and cultural practices.

Local knowledge is:

- based on experience;
- passed from one generation to another;
- adapted to local environmental conditions;
- useful for sustainable development.

Development projects are more successful when they respect and incorporate local knowledge instead of ignoring it.

2. Occupational Association and its Impact on Workforce (3–5 Marks)

Answer:

An occupational association is an organization formed by people working in the same profession to protect their common interests.

Examples include:

- Medical Association
- Bar Council
- Teachers' Association

Its impacts include:

- improving professional standards;
- protecting workers' rights;
- providing training and skill development;
- improving wages and working conditions;
- promoting ethical practices.

Occupational associations also help resolve workplace disputes and improve communication between workers and employers.

3. Community-Based Association (3–5 Marks)

Answer:

Community-based associations are local organizations formed voluntarily by community members to solve common problems and improve social welfare.

Their objectives include:

- improving education;
- promoting health services;
- supporting environmental conservation;
- reducing poverty;
- encouraging community participation.

Examples include village committees, women's organizations, youth clubs, and local development committees.

4. Define Institutional Racism with Example (3–5 Marks)

Answer:

Institutional racism refers to discrimination that exists within the policies, practices, and structures of organizations or institutions. It disadvantages certain racial or ethnic groups even when discrimination is not intentional.

Example:

If a company consistently hires people from one ethnic group while rejecting equally qualified applicants from another group because of biased recruitment practices, it is an example of institutional racism.

5. Why do Development Methods Prioritize Policy over Local Knowledge?

Answer:

Many development programs are designed by governments, international organizations, or experts who rely mainly on official policies and scientific knowledge. As a result, they sometimes ignore the experiences and knowledge of local communities.

This approach can create several problems:

- local people may reject development projects;

- projects may fail because they do not fit local culture;
- traditional knowledge is overlooked;
- communities become less involved in decision-making.

Modern development anthropology emphasizes combining scientific knowledge with local knowledge.

Development becomes more successful when:

- local communities participate in planning;
- traditional practices are respected;
- policies are adapted to local conditions;
- development is people-centered rather than policy-centered.

6. How Can Anthropologists Predict the Impact of Development? (5 Marks)

Answer:

Anthropologists predict the impact of development by studying local culture, economy, environment, and social relationships before development projects begin.

They:

- conduct fieldwork;
- interview local people;
- identify community needs;
- study cultural traditions;
- assess possible social and environmental effects.

Their recommendations help reduce conflicts and improve the success of development programs.

7. Why is Interaction between Development Agents and Local Communities Important?

Answer:

Development agents include governments, NGOs, and international organizations that introduce development projects.

Interaction with local communities is important because it:

- builds trust;
- helps identify real community needs;
- respects local culture;
- increases community participation;
- reduces project failure;
- encourages local ownership.

When communities participate in decision-making, projects become more sustainable and effective.

8. Can Change Agents Promote Change?

Answer:

Yes. Change agents are individuals or organizations that encourage positive social change.

Examples include:

- teachers;
- social workers;
- NGOs;
- community leaders;
- health workers.

They promote change by:

- creating awareness;
- introducing new technologies;
- improving education;
- encouraging better health practices;
- empowering marginalized groups;
- promoting gender equality.

Successful change agents understand local culture and involve community members in the change process.

9. Importance of Education in Making an Inclusive Society

Answer:

Education plays an essential role in creating an inclusive society where everyone has equal opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, or social class.

Education:

- reduces discrimination;
- promotes equality;
- develops critical thinking;
- encourages respect for diversity;
- improves employment opportunities;
- reduces poverty;
- strengthens democracy and social participation.

Inclusive education ensures that every individual can contribute to society.

10. Government-Sponsored Art in Public Spaces (5 Marks)

Answer:

Government-sponsored art includes monuments, murals, museums, public sculptures, and cultural festivals supported by the government.

It influences citizens by:

- promoting national identity;
- preserving cultural heritage;
- educating people about history;
- encouraging patriotism;
- strengthening social unity.

However, critics argue that governments may also use public art to promote political ideologies.

11. What Happens if a Society Lacks a Shared Belief System? (5 Marks)

Answer:

Without a shared belief system:

- social unity decreases;
- conflicts become more common;
- people lose a sense of identity;
- cooperation declines;
- social norms weaken;
- maintaining social order becomes more difficult.

Shared beliefs are important for maintaining solidarity and stability.

12. Radcliffe-Brown's Social Function (5 Marks)

Answer:

Alfred Reginald Radcliffe-Brown believed that every social institution performs a function that contributes to the stability of society.

According to him:

- family maintains socialization;
- religion promotes unity;
- law maintains order;
- education transmits culture.

He believed that institutions should be studied according to the functions they perform rather than their historical origins.

13. Culture Bias and How to Avoid It (5 Marks)

Answer:

Culture bias occurs when people judge another culture using the standards and values of their own culture.

Anthropologists avoid culture bias by:

- practicing cultural relativism;
- conducting fieldwork;
- learning local languages;
- respecting cultural differences;
- avoiding ethnocentric judgments.

This approach helps produce more accurate and respectful research.

Subjective Conceptual + Application based.

MCQs Tip: Ratta nahi, concept samajhna hai

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