



Fact Sheet

GENERAL ANTHROPOLOGY

TEST INFORMATION

This test was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that which is learned by students taking the course. The school may choose to award college credit to the student based on the achievement of a passing score. The passing score for each examination is determined by the school based on recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE). This minimum credit-awarding score is equal to the mean score of students in the norming sample who received a grade of C in the course. Some schools set their own standards for awarding credit and may require a higher score than the ACE recommendation. Students should obtain this information from the institution where they expect to receive credit.

CONTENT

The following topics, which are commonly taught in courses on this subject, are covered by this examination.

	Approximate <u>Percent</u>	
1. Anthropology as a Discipline Branches and Methodologies	7%	
A. Physical anthropology		
B. Cultural Anthropology		
1. Ethnology		
2. Ethnography		
C. Linguistics		
D. Archaeology		
II Various Theoretical Perspectives	3%	
A. Structuralism		
B. Functionalism		
C. Cultural ecology		
D. Cultural evolution		
E. Cultural determinism		
		III. Physical Anthropology
		17%
		A. Genetic principles - genes, heredity, Mendelian inheritance, genotypes - phenotypes, gene pools, mutations, molecular genetics
		B. Adaptation, natural selection, variations (e.g., blood chemistry)
		C. Living primates
		D. Fossils
		1. Relative and absolute dating
		2. Fossil hominids- <i>Australopithecines, Homo erectus, Homo habilis, Homo sapiens (neanderthalensis and sapiens)</i>
		A. Methodology (prehistoric and historic)
		B. Paleolithic and Mesolithic
		C. Neolithic - development of technology, domestication of plants and animals
		D. Development of civilization and urban societies
		V. Nature of Culture 12%
		A. Symbols and symbolic systems
		B. Language, sociolinguistics, morphology, phonology
		C. Society vs. culture
		D. Cultural variation: universals and alternatives
		E. Real vs. ideal culture
		F. Cultural change - invention, diffusion, innovation
		G. Cultural relativity, ethnocentrism

	Approximate <u>Percent</u>		Approximate <u>Percent</u> 3%
H. Etic and emic world views		X. Modernization and Application of Anthropology	
I. The individual in culture		A. Applied anthropology	
J. The arts		B. Cultural survival	
VI. Social Organization	16%	C. Directed cultural change	
A. Marriage and family patterns mate choice, residence, monogamy, polygamy, family of orientation-conjugal, natal family, incest, exogamy, divorce		Questions on the test require candidates to demonstrate the following abilities. Some questions may require more than one of the abilities.	
B. Kinship and descent groups - kindred, lineage, clan, phratry, moiety, bilateral vs. unilateral descent, matrilineal, patrilineal, kinship terminology		• Knowledge of basic facts and terms (about 50-55% of the examination)	
C. Groups and associations (e.g., age, sex)		• Understanding of concepts and principles (about 35-40% of the examination)	
D. Social stratification - caste, class, slavery, status (achieved and ascribed), role, rank		• Ability to apply knowledge to specific problems and situations (about 5-10% of the examination)	
VII. Economic Organization	7%	SAMPLE QUESTIONS	
A. Subsistence and settlement patterns		1. Which of the following statements best describes the concept of culture?	
B. Formal and substantive approaches		(A) Culture consists of genetically transmitted patterns of thinking and acting.	
C. Communal and private ownership of land, material and nonmaterial property		(B) Culture represents economic and political achievements.	
D. Reciprocity, redistribution, and market exchange		(C) Culture is primarily determined by artifacts and art.	
E. Production, allocation, use, and consumption of goods and services		(D) Culture consists of learned and shared patterns of thinking and acting.	
VIII. Political Organization	6%	2. A major contribution by Darwin is the	
A. Politics, political systems - bands, tribes chiefdoms, states		(A) principle of uniformism	
B. Political associations		(B) theory of diffusionism	
C. Social control- customs, laws, war		(C) theory of organic solidarity (D) theory of natural selection	
IX. Religion	10%	3. All of the following have traditionally been advanced as possible reasons for the incest taboo EXCEPT the	
A. Religious institutions (e.g., individual, shamanistic, revitalization movements)		(A) necessity to create alliances with other groups	
B. Belief systems, world views (e.g., animism, totemism, myth)		(B) instinctual sexual aversion to relatives	
C. Religious practices and practitioners (e.g., magic, healers)		(C) deleterious effects of continued inbreeding (D) example set by nonhuman primates	
D. Rites of passage - birth, maturity, marriage, death			

4. The Mesolithic era is often described as a period of transition because it
- (A) allowed for the development of great hunting cultures
 - (B) is characterized as a period of major growth in the early cities
 - (C) witnessed a sharp decline in the development of tools
 - (D) represented a period of diversification of subsistence strategies
5. Which of the following statements about ideal cultural patterns (norms) is true?
- (A) There is often great discrepancy between what people say they do and what they actually do. (B) A norm ceases to exist if the nonnative rule is not carried out in social behavior.
 - (C) Norms are seldom outmoded or maladaptive. (D) Ideal cultural patterns are found only among peoples who practice agriculture.

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6. The diagram above shows
- (A) an extended family (B) a patrilineage
 - (C) a nuclear family (D) a matrilineage

7. Which of the following is true of traits of humans and not true of other animals?
- (A) Prolonged care of young
 - (B) Sedentary residence patterns (C) Complex symbol systems (D) Socialization of young

- Jane Goodall observed chimpanzees in the wild and was surprised to find that they
8. (A) lived in large groups (B) made and used tools (C) lived in nuclear families (D) used sign language

9. The careful description of a culture is called
- (A) epistemology
 - (B) phenomenology
 - (C) ethnography
 - (D) ethnomethodology
10. The special nonn that a person must marry someone who is within his or her group is called
- (A) endogamy
 - (B) group marriage (C) exogamy
 - (D) polyandry

STUDYING FOR THE EXAMINATION

The following is a list of reference publications that were being used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. Appropriate textbooks for study are not limited to those listed below. If you wish to obtain study resources to prepare for the examination, you may reference either the current edition of the following titles **or** textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference **more than one textbook** on the topics outlined in this fact sheet. You should **begin by checking textbook content against the content outline** included on the front page of this Fact Sheet **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study. Textbooks may be found at the campus bookstore of a local college or university offering a course on the subject.

Sources for study material suggested but not limited to the following:

Barrett, Richard A. *Culture and Conduct: An Excursion in Anthropology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, current edition.

Bower, John. *In Search of the Past: An Introduction to Archaeology*. Chicago: Dorsey, current edition.

Fagan, Brian. *People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory*. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman & Co., current edition. **930 FAG, 11th ed., 2004**

Feder, Kenneth and Michael A. Park. *Human Antiquity*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, current edition. **573 FED, 5th ed., 2007**

Ember, Carol R. and Melvin Ember. *Anthropology*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, current edition.
306 EMB, 11th ed., 2004

Harris, Marvin. *Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Harper and Row, current edition.
306 HAR, 6th ed., 2003

Haviland, William A. *Anthropology*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, current edition.

Jolly, Clifford and Fred Plog. *Physical Anthropology and Archaeology*. New York: Knopf, current edition. Kottak, Conrad P. *Anthropology: The Exploration of Human Diversity*. New York: Random House, current edition.
573 JOL, 5th ed., 1995

McCurdy, David and James Spadley. *Issues in Cultural Anthropology: Selected Readings*. Boston: Waveland Press, current edition.

Nanda, Serena. *Cultural Anthropology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, current edition.
306 NAN, 9th ed., 2007

Poirier, Frank E. *An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and the Archaeological Record*. Minneapolis: Burgess, current edition.

Rosman, Abraham and Paula Rubel. *Tapestry of Culture*. New York: Random House, current edition.
306 ROS, 8th ed., 2004

Sharer, Robert and Wendy Ashmore. *Archaeology: Discovering Our Past*. Palo Alto, CA: Mayfield, current edition.

Swartz, Mark J. and David K. Jordan. *Culture: The Anthropological Perspective*. New York: John Wiley, current edition.

Thomas, D.H. *Archaeology*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, current edition.

Current textbook used by a local college or university for a course on the subject.

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Center For Adult Learning and Educational Credentials of the American Council on Education (ACE) has reviewed and evaluated the DSST examination development process. ACE has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course	
Equivalent:	General Anthropology
Level:	Lower level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit:	Three (3) semester hours
Source:	ACE Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials

INFORMATION

Colleges and universities that would like additional information about the national norming, or assistance in local norming or score validation studies should write to: DSST Program, Mail Stop II-P, Thomson Prometric, 664 Rosedale Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

It is advisable that schools develop a consistent policy about awarding credit based on scores from this test and that the policy be reviewed periodically. Thomson Prometric will be happy to help schools in this effort.

Footnote: These materials can be located at Little Rock Air Force Base Library - 976 Cannon Dr. /501-987-6979