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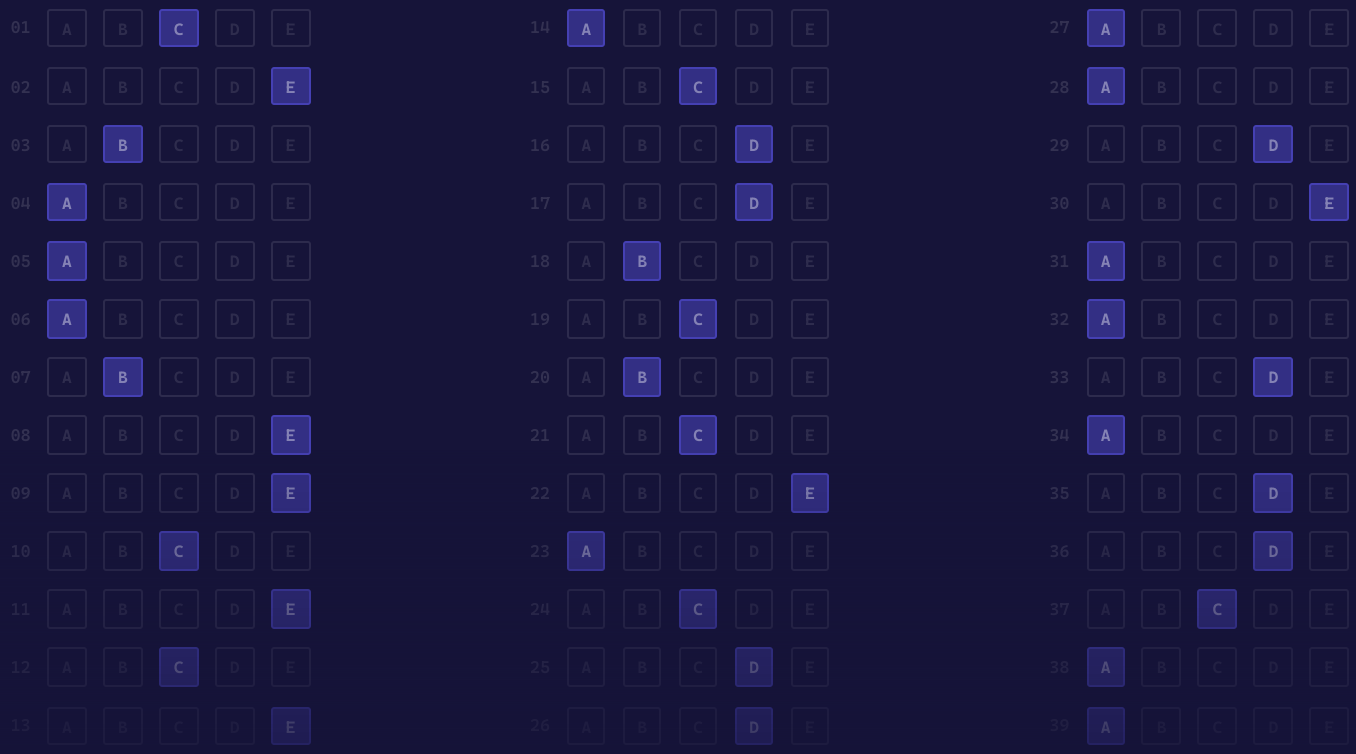

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST)

SN494

General Anthropology

EDITION	QUESTIONS	FORMAT
Demo	9	Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for DANTES Eligible Military Service Member (DSST) `SN494`, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, `SN494`
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

A fundamental principle in cultural anthropology that requires a researcher to interpret a cultural practice in terms of the meanings and values held by the people who practice it is known as:

A Ethnocentrism

B Cultural relativism

C Cultural diffusion

D Cultural materialism

ANSWER B

WHY Cultural relativism is the principle that an individual's beliefs and practices should be understood on their own terms, rather than judged by the standards of another culture. Ethnocentrism is the opposite — evaluating other cultures by one's own standards. Cultural diffusion refers to the spread of cultural traits, and cultural materialism is a framework that explains cultural features in terms of material conditions.

QUESTION 2 SINGLE CHOICE

Which subfield of anthropology is concerned with the study of the biology, evolution, and behavior of humans and their closest living and fossil relatives, including primates?

A Cultural anthropology

B Linguistic anthropology

C Archaeology

D Physical (biological) anthropology

ANSWER D

WHY Physical, or biological, anthropology focuses on human biology, evolution, fossil records, and primatology. Cultural anthropology studies living cultures; linguistic anthropology focuses on language; archaeology studies past human activity through material remains.

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QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

A relative dating technique used in archaeology that compares the fluorine, uranium, or nitrogen content of bones buried in the same soil to determine whether they are of the same age is called:

A Radiocarbon dating

B Potassium-argon dating

C Thermoluminescence dating

D Fluorine (chemical) dating

ANSWER D

WHY Fluorine analysis is a relative dating method in which bones absorb fluorine and other elements from groundwater over time; bones buried in the same deposits for comparable periods will show similar fluorine levels. Radiocarbon and potassium-argon dating are absolute (chronometric) methods, and thermoluminescence is used on fired materials such as pottery.

QUESTION 4 MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are examples of descent systems documented in the ethnographic record? (Choose two.)

A Patrilineal descent

B Endogamy

C Matrilineal descent

D Exogamy

ANSWER A · C

WHY Patrilineal and matrilineal descent are the two most common unilineal descent systems, tracing group membership through the father's line or the mother's line, respectively. Endogamy and exogamy are marriage rules (mating within or outside a given group), not descent systems.

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QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

Linguistic anthropologists distinguish between the *parole* and the *langue* of a language. These terms, associated with Ferdinand de Saussure, refer to:

A Writing versus speech

B **Specific utterances versus the underlying system of rules**

C Standard dialect versus regional dialect

D Vocabulary versus grammar

ANSWER B

WHY Saussure distinguished *langue* (the abstract system of linguistic rules shared by speakers of a community) from *parole* (the actual utterances produced by individual speakers). This distinction underpins much modern linguistic anthropology.

QUESTION 6 SINGLE CHOICE

The biological mechanism by which advantageous heritable traits become more common in a population across generations is called:

A Genetic drift

B Mutation

C **Natural selection**

D Gene flow

ANSWER C

WHY Natural selection is the process by which individuals with heritable traits better suited to their environment leave more offspring, so those traits increase in frequency over generations. Genetic drift is random change in allele frequencies, mutation is a source of new variation, and gene flow is movement of alleles between populations.

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QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

In economic anthropology, exchange among people who are closely related or who expect balanced reciprocity over time, with no immediate expectation of a return, is referred to as:

A Balanced reciprocity

B Generalized reciprocity

C Market exchange

D Redistribution

ANSWER B

WHY Generalized reciprocity involves giving without an immediate or specific expectation of return, typical among close kin and friends. Balanced reciprocity expects a roughly equal return within a defined period. Market exchange involves impersonal transactions at agreed prices; redistribution involves a central authority collecting and reallocating goods.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

A form of social stratification in which individuals can move up or down in the hierarchy based on factors such as education, occupation, or marriage is called:

A Closed stratification

B Caste system

C Open stratification

D Estate system

ANSWER C

WHY Open stratification (or open-class system) permits significant social mobility based on achieved status such as education and occupation. Closed stratification, such as caste, fixes an individual's position largely by ascribed status at birth.

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QUESTION 9 MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following anthropologists are correctly matched with the theoretical approaches they are associated with? (Choose two.)

A **Franz Boas — historical particularism and the four-field approach**

B **Bronislaw Malinowski — structural functionalism**

C Lewis Henry Morgan — cultural ecology

D Julian Steward — unilineal cultural evolution

ANSWER **A** · **B**

WHY Franz Boas is associated with historical particularism and is credited with establishing the four-field approach in U.S. anthropology. Bronislaw Malinowski developed structural functionalism through his fieldwork in the Trobriand Islands. Lewis Henry Morgan is associated with unilineal cultural evolution (not cultural ecology), and Julian Steward developed cultural ecology (not unilineal evolution).

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