

Questions for Conceptual and Theoretical Development

Cultural Anthropology

1. What is Cultural Anthropology and how does it differ from Social Anthropology?
2. Discuss the main methods used in cultural anthropological research.
3. How does participant observation contribute to understanding culture?
4. Explain the concept of cultural relativism with suitable examples.
5. How does ethnography help in interpreting human cultural behavior?

Evolutionism

6. What is the basic idea of cultural evolution in anthropology?
7. Compare the unilinear and multilinear theories of cultural evolution.
8. Discuss the contributions of E.B. Tylor and Lewis Henry Morgan to Evolutionism.
9. How did evolutionist theories shape early anthropological thought?
10. What are the main criticisms of classical evolutionism in anthropology?

Diffusionism

11. Define Diffusionism in cultural anthropology.
12. Discuss the major ideas of British, German, and American diffusionist schools.
13. What role does migration and contact play in cultural diffusion?
14. Compare the theories of Grafton Elliot Smith and Fritz Graebner.
15. How does diffusionism explain the similarities among different cultures?

Culture

16. What are the main characteristics of culture according to anthropological theory?
17. How do symbols and language function in the transmission of culture?
18. Explain the difference between material and non-material culture.

19. Discuss the relationship between culture and personality.
20. How does culture influence social organization and institutions?

Magic, Religion, and Science

21. How did anthropologists like James Frazer interpret magic and religion?
22. What is the difference between magic, religion, and science according to Malinowski?
23. Discuss the role of ritual and belief in shaping social cohesion.
24. How do magical practices reflect the worldview of a traditional society?
25. What are some examples of magical or ritualistic practices in Bangladeshi folk culture?

All the best