

Absent Work #5

All questions require at least
THREE sentences on own paper.

PLACES & TERMS

culture the total knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors shared by and passed on by the members of a specific group

society shares a common language, a sense of identity, and its culture

ethnic group shares language, customs, and heritage but has an identity as a separate group within their region

innovation taking existing elements and creating something new from them

diffusion the spread of ideas, inventions, or patterns of behavior

cultural hearth a place from where ideas, materials, and technology spread out to other cultures

acculturation the acceptance or adoption of an innovation by a society

dialect speech patterns related to class, region, or other cultural changes

religion the belief in a supernatural power or powers that are regarded as creators and maintainers of the universe

Defining Culture

What is culture?

Culture is the total knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors shared by and passed on by the members of a specific group. It helps people know how they should behave. It ties us to one group and separates us from others. It helps us solve the problems that all humans face.

A group that shares a common language, a sense of identity, and its culture is called a **society**. The term **ethnic group** refers to a specific group that shares language, customs, a common heritage, and an identity. They see themselves as a separate group and distinct from other groups in the region where they live.

1. How is an ethnic group defined?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Culture Change and Exchange

Why do changes occur?

Cultures and societies are always in the process of changing. Taking existing elements of society and creating something new to meet a need is called **innovation**. Innovation and invention may happen on purpose or by accident.

Good ideas or inventions spread when people from different societies come into contact with one another. This spread of ideas, inventions, or patterns of behavior is called **diffusion**. A **cultural hearth** is a place from where ideas, materials, and technology spread out to other cultures.

Just being exposed to an innovation does not guarantee that people in a society will accept it. Before accepting an innovation, individuals must decide if an innovation is useful. **Acculturation** occurs when individuals in a society accept an innovation.

2. Why is innovation sometimes necessary?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Language

How many languages are there?

Language is one of the most important elements of culture. It allows people within a culture to communicate. Language helps establish cultural identity and a sense of unity.

But language can also divide people. Sometimes more than one **dialect**, or version, of a language is spoken in an area. A dialect refers to changes in speech patterns related to class, region, or other cultural changes.

Geographers estimate that between 3,000 and 6,500 languages are spoken across the world today. Languages with the same origin are called language families.

Language can be diffused in many ways. It may follow trade routes. Sometimes a blend of languages develops. The blended language aids communication among groups speaking several languages. Diffusion can also be the result of *migration*.

3. How does language both unite and divide?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Religion

How are religions categorized?

Religion is the belief in a *supernatural* power or powers that are regarded as creators and maintainers of the universe. Religions establish beliefs and values of a group. It defines how people worship the *divine* being or forces. It also tells them how to behave toward each other.

Traditionally, religions have been categorized in three ways. Monotheistic is a belief in one god. Polytheistic is a belief in many gods. Animistic is a belief in divine forces in nature.

Religions spread across the world through diffusion and converts. Converts are people who are take up a new religion and give up their former beliefs.

4. How have religions spread?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Major Religions

What are the world's major religions?

Judaism is the oldest monotheistic religion. It is concentrated in Israel. Followers are called Jews. It has a long tradition of faith and culture tied tightly together.

Christianity evolved from the teachings of Judaism. It, too, is monotheistic. Christianity is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Islam is based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. Islam is a monotheistic religion. Its followers worship God, who in Arabic is called Allah.

Hinduism is an ethnic religion concentrated in India. It is usually considered to be polytheistic. Hinduism's rigid caste system shapes Hindus' lives.

An offshoot of Hinduism is Buddhism. It developed about 563 B.C. in India. Its founder, Siddhartha Gautama, is called the Buddha, or Enlightened One.

5. Which religions are monotheistic?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Creative Cultural Expressions

How do different cultures express themselves?

Cultures produce performing arts, visual arts, and written arts. Music is a cultural aspect found in all societies. However, the instruments and styles differ. Visual arts include architecture, painting, sculpture, and textiles.

Oral and written literature includes poems, folk tales, and stories. They often portray aspects of the attitudes and behaviors of the culture.

6. What forms do creative expressions take?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.