

Soc401 Final Term short notes by VSC

Most important questions

❖ Describe the negative impact of biased gender ideologies on societies?

Answer: In some societies, gender ideologies become so extreme that females suffer serious negative consequences such as female infanticide, female nutritional deprivation, honor killings and domestic violence. These atrocities are due to the negative impact of gender ideologies as well as due to the disempowerment of females which is another simultaneous consequence of these ideologies.

❖ Define feminization of poverty?

Answer : There has been a trend in recent decades toward the feminization of poverty. Being disempowered, women fall victims to poverty much more easily than men. They also have less access to resources with which to fight against poverty. Women often are responsible for looking after their children, and their poverty results in declining health standards of both women and their children.

❖ What is women employment? Describe in your own words?

Answer: Although the words 'breadwinner' and 'housewife' accurately described the middle-class western household around the beginning of the twentieth century, the separate gender roles implied by these two terms have become more myth than reality. Over the past four decades the number of women in working outside the home has increased dramatically. This is true for not only industrialized but also developing countries, due to the ongoing phenomenon of globalization, which has led more and more women into the workforce.

❖ Briefly define the term "stratification" ?

Answer: Individuals in different cultures and societies have varying amounts of access to wealth, power and prestige. This evident inequality

leads to stratification, whereby groups or categories of people are ranked hierarchically relative to one another

❖ **Write the types of societies?**

Answer: Stratified societies, which are associated with the rise of civilization, range from open class societies, which permit high social mobility, to more rigid caste societies, which allow for little or no social mobility

Class societies are associated with achieved status, the positions that the individual can choose or at least have some control over.

Caste societies, on the other hand, are based on ascribed statuses into which one is born and cannot change. The United States is often cited as a prime example of a class society with maximum mobility Although its

national credo includes a belief in the possibility of going from rags to riches, most people in the United States remain in the class into which they are born because social environment has an appreciable effect on a person's life chances.

❖ **Define dimensions of inequality proposed by Max Weber?**

Answer: According to Max Weber, stratification takes place on the basis of three reasons People are distinguished from each other on the basis of wealth or economic resources they possess. Secondly, stratification takes place on the basis of differing levels of power. Power is the ability to achieve one's goals and objectives, even against the will of others. The amount of power often correlates to amount of wealth individuals possess.

❖ **Write down the functional theory about social stratification?**

Answer: Functionalists adopt a conservative position and maintain that social inequality exists because it is necessary for the functioning of society. Functionalists emphasize the integrative nature of stratification, which results in stability and social order. They point out that class systems contribute to the overall well-being of a society and encourage constructive endeavour. Functionalists argue that differential awards are necessary if societies are to recruit the best trained and most highly skilled people for highly valued positions. They maintain that highly skilled people need to be given greater rewards to act as an incentive for them to acquire the required skills. For example, a brain surgeon needs to spend enormous

amounts of time and energy to develop his skills and help society and society must in turn reward him more than it does other people who do not have to make a similar investment in obtaining a skill. Functionalists cannot account for non-functional success of pop icons for example. Famous personalities are often given enormous amounts of money to make public appearances due to their popularity rather than their exceptional amount of skill. Functionalists ignore the barriers to participation of certain segments of society.

❖ **What conflict theorists assumes about stratification?**

Answer: Conflict theorists assume that the natural tendency of all societies is toward change and conflict. Conflict theorists believe that stratification exists because the upper classes strive to maintain their superior position at the expense of the lower classes. Conflict theorists do not view stratification systems as enviable or desirable. Lack of social mobility leads to exploitation, crime, revitalization, reform and even to revolution. Conflict theory is influenced by the wirings of Karl Marx.

❖ **How cultures change?**

Answer: The two principal ways that cultures change are internally through the processes of invention and innovation and externally through the process of diffusion. It is generally recognized that the majority of cultural features (things, ideas, and behavior patterns) found in any society got there by diffusion rather than invention.

❖ **Describe the generalization about the process of diffusion?**

Answer: Cultural diffusion is selective in nature (selectivity) – not all things diffuse from one culture to another at the same rate Diffusion is a two-way process (reciprocity) – both cultures change as a result of diffusion Cultural elements are likely to involve changes in form or function (modification) – a diffused cultural item will not remain exactly the same as it is to be found in its original culture. Consider for example the case of Chinese food or pizza, which are modified according to the taste of different countries. The idea of chicken tikka topping is an example of cultural modification.

❖ **What is meant by “Inventions” in culture?**

Answer: Inventions can be either deliberate or unintentional. Although intentional inventors usually receive the most recognition and praise, over the long run, unintentional inventors have probably had the greatest impact on

cultural change. Consider for example the common phrase, 'necessity is the mother of all invention', which implies that often circumstances are a more compelling factor inducing innovations in society than the declared intention to make something new. Because they are not bound by conventional standards, many inventors and innovators tend to be marginal people living on the fringes of society. Anthropologists examine the backgrounds and psychological factors that influence innovative personalities. Some of them maintain that inventors are often amongst the well off segments of society, yet there are other anthropologists who present other arguments concerning innovators.

❖ **Define Acculturation?**

Answer: Acculturation is a specialized form of cultural diffusion that is a result of sustained contact between two cultures, one of which is subordinate to another. Whereas diffusion involves a single or complex of traits, acculturation involves widespread cultural reorganization over a shorter period of time. There are events in history, like colonization, which have caused acculturation to occur in many parts of the world. Some anthropologists have described situations of acculturation in which the non-dominant culture has voluntarily chosen the changes. Other anthropologists claim that acculturation always involves some measure of coercion and force.

❖ **Write down the barriers to cultural change?**

Answer: Some societies can maintain their cultural boundaries through the exclusive use of language, food, and clothing. Some societies can resist change in their culture because the proposed change is not compatible with their existing value systems. Societies resist change because it disrupts existing social and economic relationships. The functional interrelatedness of cultures serves as a conservative force discouraging change. Cultural boundaries include relative values, customs, language and eating tastes.

❖ **Define change agents?**

Answer: Change agents including development workers for example facilitate change in modern times. Change agents sometimes fail to understand why some people are resistant to change and should realize cultural relativity and barriers to change.

❖ **Define the term Globalization with examples?**

Answer: Globalization is a broad-based term which is used to describe the intensification of the flow of money, goods, and information across the world, which is seen to be taking place since the 1980s. Globalization has made the study of culture change more complex due to its varied effects on various cultural processes including that of change. In some cases, globalization is responsible for an accelerated pace of change in world cultures. Globalization has resulted in diffusion of technology but also compounded existing inequalities. There are human and environmental costs associated with globalization. For example, increased productivity has led to pollution and there are many theorists who argue that globalization has also increased the gap between the rich and the poor, with those with wealth doing even better and those without it, experiencing even worse poverty than before

❖ **Define the process of cultural change in urban and rural areas?**

Answer: Until some decades ago, anthropologists made differentiations between the mechanical solidarity of rural areas and the organic solidarity of cities. Recent research notes that there is not a simple flow of migrants from rural areas to urban areas but rather a circulation of people between these areas. Urbanization or the process of rural development therefore needs to take into account the fact that there is a constant criss-crossing of people, ideas and resources from urban to rural areas. Rural migrants rely on kinsmen for land purchase, dispute resolution general household management, while they go to the cities in search for cash based employment. Conversely rural kinsmen may in turn obtain economic support from a urban wage earner, or seek his support in finding work or a place to stay in the city for other kinsmen.

❖ **Write down the types of political systems?**

Answer: Societies based on bands have the least amount of political integration and role specialization (Kung in Kalahari).

Bands : Bands are most often found in foraging societies and are associated with low population densities, distribution systems based on reciprocity, and egalitarian social relations. Tribal Organizations With larger and more sedentary populations than are found in band societies, tribal organizations do also lack centralized political leadership and are egalitarian. Tribally based societies have certain pan-tribal mechanisms that integrate clan members to face external threats. Clan elders do not hold formal political offices but usually manage affairs of their clans (settling disputes, representing clan in negotiation with other clans etc.).

Chiefdoms : Chiefdoms involve a more formal and permanent political structure than is found in tribal societies. Political authority in chiefdoms rests with individuals, who acts alone or with advice of a council. Most chiefdom tends to have quite distinct social ranks, rely on feasting and tribute as a major way of distributing goods. In the late nineteenth and twentieth century, many societies had chiefdoms imposed on them by colonial powers for administrative convenience (for e.g. British impositions in Nigeria, Kenya and Australia). The pre-colonial Hawaiian political system of the 18th century was a typical chiefdom.

❖ **Define state system?**

Answer: State systems have the greatest amount of political integration, specialized political roles and maintain authority on the basis of an ideology. States are associated with intensive agriculture market economies, urbanization, and complex forms of social stratification. States began to be formed 5,500 years ago with the Greek city-states and the Roman Empire providing impressive examples of state based political organization.

❖ **What is nation-state?**

Answer: A nation is a group of people sharing a common symbolic identity, culture history and religion. A state is a distinct political structure like bands, tribes and chiefdoms. Nation-state refers to a group of people sharing a common cultural background and unified by a political structure that they consider to be legitimate. Few of the world's 200 nation-states have homogenous populations to fit the description of a nation state.

❖ **Describe political organisations theories?**

● **Answer:** Voluntaristic State Formation :

Some theorists suggest that those engaging in specialized labor voluntarily gave up their autonomy in exchange for perceived benefits. Political integration can mediate between and protect interests of varied groups and provide them an economic superstructure required for specialization (Chide, 1936).

● Hydraulic Theory of State Formation :

Small-scale farmers in arid or semi-arid areas also voluntarily merged into larger political entities due to the economic advantage of large-scale irrigation (Karl Wittfogel, 1957)

Coercive Theory of State Formation: Another explanation for state based political organization is that offered by Cornier, hold that states developed as a result of warfare and coercion rather than due to voluntary self-interest.

❖ **How social control be maintained?**

Answer: Band and tribal societies (Inuit and Kung) maintain social control by means of informal mechanisms such as socialization, public opinion, lineage obligations, age organizations and sanctions. Societies control behavior by more formal mechanisms, such as through laws and law enforcement agencies, whose major function is maintaining social order and resolving conflicts.

❖ **Write down the cross-cultural variations?**

Answer: Instead of focusing on uniqueness, anthropologists look at psychological differences found within and between different cultures. Researchers focus on child rearing practices to account for observable personality differences. Some anthropologists believe that child rearing practices are adaptive and societies produce personalities according to their requirements .

❖ **How emotional development affected by cultural development?**

Answer: Emotional Development

Early research in anthropology was concerned mainly with supposedly universal stages of emotional development which seems to be affected by cultural differences. Margaret Mead found Samoan girls were much less rebellious or emotional turmoil than those in western societies. In western societies, adolescence is a time of turmoil that helps prepare emotionally for independence.

❖ **Define the term socialization? Also evaluate the direct & Indirect socialization?**

Answer: Socialization is the term that psychologists and anthropologists use to describe the development of, through the influence of parents and others, of patterns of behavior in children that conform to cultural expectations.

• Direct and Indirect Socialization

Socialization takes place both directly and indirectly. Indirectly, the degree to which parents like children, the kinds of work children are asked to do and

whether children go to school may at least partially influence how children develop psychologically.

❖ **Write down the types of personality?**

Answer: The tradition-oriented personality places a strong emphasis on doing things the same way that they have always been done. Individuals with this sort of personality are less likely to try new things and to seek new experiences.

II Those who have inner-directed personalities are guilt oriented. That is to say, their behavior is strongly controlled by their conscience. As a result, there is little need for police to make sure that they obey the law. These individuals monitor themselves. If they break the law, they are likely to turn themselves in for punishment.

III In contrast, people with other-directed personalities have ambiguous feelings about right and wrong. When they deviate from a societal norm, they usually don't feel guilty. However, if they are caught in the act or exposed publicly, they are likely to feel shame

❖ **What is ideology and how it works in every day life?**

Answer: An ideology is a collection of ideas. An ideology can be thought of as a comprehensive vision, as a way of looking at things. Ideology can also be seen as a set of ideas proposed by the dominant class of a society to all members of this society.

Ideology in Everyday Life

Every society has an ideology that forms the basis of the public opinion or common sense, a basis that usually remains invisible to most people within the society. This dominant ideology appears as 'neutral', while all others that differ from the norm are often seen as radical, no matter what the actual circumstances may be.

❖ **Write a brief note on "Hegemony"?**

Answer: When most people in a society think alike about certain matters, or even forget that there are alternatives to the current state of affairs, we arrive at the concept of Hegemony, about which the philosopher Antonio Gramsci wrote. The much smaller-scale concept of groupthink also owes something to his work. The ideologies of the dominant class of a society are proposed to all members of that society in order to make the ruling class' interests appear to be the interests of

all, and thereby achieve hegemony. To reach this goal, ideology makes use of a special type of discourse: the lacunar discourse. A number of propositions, which are never untrue, suggest a number of other propositions, which are. In this way, the essence of the lacunar discourse is what is not told (but is suggested).

❖ **Briefly describe the epistemological ideologies of culture?**

- **Answer:** Even when the challenging of existing beliefs is encouraged, as in science, the dominant paradigm or mind set can prevent certain challenges, theories or experiments from being advanced. The philosophy of science mostly concerns itself with reducing the impact of these prior ideologies so that science can proceed with its primary task, which is (according to science) to create knowledge. There are critics who view science as an ideology itself, called scientism. Some scientists respond that, while the scientific method is itself an ideology, as it is a collection of ideas, there is nothing particularly wrong or bad about it. Other critics point out that while science itself is not a misleading ideology, there are some fields of study within science that are misleading.

❖ **Define economic ideology?**

Answer: Karl Marx proposed a base/superstructure model of society. The base refers to the means of production of society. The superstructure is formed on top of the base, and comprises that society's ideology, as well as its legal system, political system, and religions. Marx proposed that the base determines the superstructure. It is the ruling class that controls the society's means of production - and thus the superstructure of society, including its ideology, will be determined according to what is in the ruling class' best interests. On the other hand, critics of the Marxist approach feel that it attributes too much importance to economic factors in influencing society. This is far from the only theory of economics to be raised to ideology status - some notable economically based ideologies include mercantilism, Social Darwinism, communism, laissez-faire economics, and "free trade".

❖ **Define interaction between Legal and economic ideologies?**

Answer: Ideologies often interact with, and influence, each other in the real world. Consider for example, the statement 'All are equal before the law', which is a theory behind current legal systems, suggests that all people may be of equal worth or have equal 'opportunities'. This is not true, because the concept of private property over the means of production results in some people being able to own more (much more) than others, and their property brings power and influence (the rich can afford better lawyers, among other things, and this puts in question the principle of equality before the law).

❖ **What are associations and also describe the variations in associations**

Answer: Associations are non-kin and non-territorial groups found amidst Associations are non-kin and non-territorial groups found amidst all types of societies and cultures around the world. Associations possess some kind of formal, organizational structure and their members also have common interests and a sense of purpose which binds the varied types of societies together all types of societies and cultures around the world.

❖ **What qualifications are required for associations?**

Answer: Achieved qualities or skills are those acquired through one's own efforts, there may be hurdles in acquiring necessary skills, but by and large skills have to be learnt through personal effort as they are not biologically transferable. Ascribed qualities are determined at birth because of gender or ethnicity or family background. A person does not need to make an effort to acquire ascribed qualities nor can effort do much in changing ascribed status since it is largely determined by forces beyond the control of individuals. Universally ascribed qualities are found in all societies. Gender is an example of an ascribed quality. Variably ascribed qualities are unique and thus vary across cultures, like ethnicity, social class differences etc.

❖ **What are regional associations? Evaluate with examples?**

Answer: Regional and ethnic organizations are voluntary associations whose members possess variably ascribed characteristics. Both forms of associations are usually found in societies where technological advance is accelerating, bringing with it numerous forms of economic and social complexities as well. Regional associations (serranos) help rural migrants adapt to urban life and Lima, Peru. The serranos have been seen to

actively lobby the government on community issues, assist members with enculturation, organize fiestas, and act as clearing house for flow of information. Chinatowns in major cities of the world have associations performing similar function for Chinese immigrants.

❖ **Describe the process of formation of associations?**

Answer: Age sets arise in societies which have frequent warfare breaking out amidst them, or it is found amongst groups with varying populations, due to which kinship systems are not sufficient for alliance purposes. Urbanization and economic compulsions (lack of access to credit) also form associations due to the need to cooperate out of self interest.

❖ **Write a brief note on ethnicity and also write down the categories of ethnicity?**

Answer: Ethnicity refers to selected cultural and sometimes physical characteristics used to classify people into (ethnic) groups or categories considered to be significantly different from others. Commonly recognized American ethnic groups include American Indians, Latinos, Chinese, African Americans, European Americans, etc.

❖ **Ethnic Categorizations**

For many people, ethnic categorization implies a connection between biological inheritance and culture. They believe that biological inheritance determines much of cultural identity. If this were true, for instance, African American cultural traits, such as "black English", would stem from genetic inheritance. This is not true. The pioneering 19th century English anthropologist E. B. Taylor was able to demonstrate conclusively that biological race and culture is not the same thing.

❖ **Write a detailed note on the complex nature of human variation?**

- **Answer:** The actual patterns of biological variation among humans are extremely complex and constantly changing. They can also be deceptive. All of us could be classified into a number of different "races", depending on what genetic traits are emphasized. For example, if you divide people up on the basis of stature or blood types, the geographic groupings are clearly different from those defined on the basis of skin color. Using the B blood type for defining races, Australian Aborigines could be lumped together with most Native Americans. Some Africans would be in the same race as Europeans while others would be categorized with Asians. Historically, human "races" have been defined on the basis of a small

number of superficial anatomical characteristics that can be readily identified at a distance, thereby making discrimination easier. However, focusing on such deceptive distinguishing traits as skin color, body shape, and hair texture causes us to magnify differences and ignore similarities between people. It is also important to remember that these traits are no more accurate in making distinctions between human groups than any other genetically inherited characteristics. All such attempts to scientifically divide humanity into biological races have proven fruitless.

❖ **How ethnic & racial groups relate to each other can be viewed as a continuum ranging?**

Answer: Pluralism: Two or more groups living in harmony while retaining their own heritage and identity

- **Assimilation:** when one racial or ethnic minority is absorbed into the wider society. Pacific Islanders assimilation into Hawaiian society provides a good example of assimilation.
- **Legal Protection of Minorities:** While such legislation cannot ensure that minorities have equal rights, they provide a measure of security against blatant forms of prejudice and discrimination.
- **Population Transfer:** physical removal of minority to another location. The ethnic Tutsi fleeing Rwanda to avoid prosecution by the Hutu government is an example of population transfer.
- **Long-termed Subjugation:** Political, social and economic suppression evident in political history. The example of the black majority's subjugation in South Africa under apartheid is a recent example from history.
- **Genocide:** Mass annihilation of groups of people in Nazi Germany or Serbia for example.

❖ **Write down the psychological functions of beliefs?**

- **Answer:** Belief systems perform certain psychological functions by providing emotional comfort by explaining the unexplainable (for e.g. to confront and explain death). A belief system also helps a person cope with stress, fears and anxieties about the unknown. Beliefs lift the burden of decision making from our shoulders because they tell us what is right and wrong, which is of tremendous help in times of stress or

crisis. Even prayers provide psychological comfort and solace. Moreover, beliefs help ease the stress during life crises such as birth, marriage, serious illnesses by providing appropriate guidelines and rituals.

❖ **Write down the social functions of religions in society?**

- **Answer:** Belief systems fulfill social needs. They can be powerful, dynamic forces in society. Beliefs provide a basis for common purpose and values that can help maintain social solidarity. By reinforcing group norms, they help bring about social homogeneity. A uniformity of beliefs also helps bind people together to reinforce group identity. Beliefs enhance the overall well-being of the society by serving as a mechanism of social control and also reduce the stress and frustrations that often lead to social conflict, whereby helping intensify group solidarity. In most societies, beliefs play an important role in social control by defining what is right and wrong behavior. If individuals do the right things in life, they may earn moral approval.

❖ **What is local knowledge?**

- **Answer:** Local knowledge consists of factual knowledge, skills and capabilities possessed by people belonging to a specific area. Given that local knowledge is usually geared to real-life practices, it can usually only be understood with reference to the situation in which it is to be applied. Local knowledge is local to the extent that it is acquired and applied by people with respect to local objectives, situations and problems. Local knowledge may on the one hand comprise fixed and structured "knowledge" which can be defined, or on the other hand may by virtue of its combination with the performance of actions involve a more fluid process of "knowing". Human beings exist in a continuous flux of experiences and practices.

❖ **Write down the changing definitions of local knowledge?**

- **Answer:** Originally, "indigenous" was equivalent to "local" or "folk" or, when applied to knowledge, "informal knowledge". In the 1960s and '70s, the word then took on a populist flavor of grass-roots politics, in the sense of "indigenous" as opposed to state or "high" culture. In view of the marginalization and destruction of the eco-zones inhabited by ethnic groups, the term "indigenous knowledge" is being used in a context of "non-western" or "anti-western" knowledge. Local knowledge also refers to knowledge of the minorities, contrasted with knowledge at

the level of the nation state. There are therefore various types of local knowledge.

❖ **Describe the usage of local knowledge?**

Answer: Use of local knowledge for development should not be restricted to extracting information. The availability of local knowledge to multinationals carries the danger of delegating power to authorities, which are external to the local communities, and therefore restricts establishment of competent leadership and sustainable social structures in local communities. There is an ongoing debate on intellectual property rights, equal benefit sharing and the role of local knowledge for development.

❖ **Write down the differences between local & scientific knowledge?**

Answer: Scientific knowledge seeks information which is transferable to any spatial or social situation, i.e. which is not context-bound. As a result, scientists know a great deal about small sections of reality. In contrast, local knowledge systems seek spatially, situation-bound or context-bound information. The validity of items of local knowledge is locally restricted, i.e. they cannot be transferred to other local contexts. The potential for generalization and thus also mutual learning is in principle limited with local knowledge. Owners of local knowledge are often only inadequately aware of market mechanisms.

❖ **Write down the similarities between local & scientific knowledge?**

Answer: Local knowledge and knowledge derived from science are similar primarily in having an empirical and a methodological basis. Both local knowledge and science use observations of the outside world which are in principle accessible and communicable. While both forms of knowledge use experiments, local knowledge proceeds rather from observations gained through trial-and-error or so-called "natural experiments", i.e. inferences drawn from the impacts of natural changes in certain quantities. Scientific knowledge on the other hand relies on controlled experiments

❖ **What is development?**

• **Answer:** the term, development is a transition towards directed change, towards modernization, industrialization and capitalization. However, major development agencies and multilateral organizations often interpret development in terms of poverty. Poverty, defined in relation

to the absence of basic services and in income terms (less than one dollar a day), becomes a proxy for the absence of development, and a justification for intervention. Poverty and development are measured by indicators and targets, some global, others national, which become standard devices for undertaking development. But even focusing on poverty does not necessarily imply that poor people are more involved in the development planning process.

❖ **Briefly describe the role of anthropologies study in development?**

Answer: Anthropological studies focus on the processes of social transformation, positive and negative, conventionally associated with development. Anthropology helps development initiatives realize the context in which their activities are to be introduced. The cultural insights and the kinds of understandings that anthropology offers enables social development professional to envision what kinds of impacts particular interventions may have on particular types of social relations and institutions.

❖ **Who undertake development?**

Answer: Development Organizations include multilateral agencies like the World Bank and UN agencies, bilateral agencies, national and international NGOs. Typical partner organizations include national governments, national NGOs and the lower tier community based organizations.

❖ **Briefly note down the changing motions of development?**

- **Answer:** Development necessitates a kind of social analysis of the situations which the proposed intervention will be designed to address. From an anthropological view, this essential requires matching two representations of reality, that of development practioners and that of local environments. Participation means that development should involve all its stakeholders. Even the World Bank has recognized the complex local environments in which development policy was supposed to operate and had failed was due to lack of participation. A modified policy discourse spoke the need to include local people, civil society, and social networks in planning and implementation.

❖ **What are the requirements & rewards of anthropological inputs?**

Answer: Research into culture and development requires time. It involves considering the interaction and interchange of different kind of knowledge and learning between development agents, the so-called

experts, and people representing local knowledge - all this also requires much effort and resources. Much work done by the anthropologist is anticipatory in nature. Anthropological experience helps anticipate potential, both negative and positive changes. A well done cultural analysis of development initiatives also helps to anticipate conflicts, which can be addressed before they become serious problems.

❖ **What is Art? Describe with examples?**

Answer: Art can be defined as the process and products of applying certain skills to any activity that transforms matter, sound, or motion into a form that is deemed aesthetically meaningful to people in a society. Yet there is no universal definition of art. Art reflects the human urge to express oneself and to take pleasure from aesthetics.

• Examples of Art

Painting, sculpture and ceramics are common forms of western art. Religiously inspired art forms are also impressive (including architecture). Smaller societies also have distinct art forms.

❖ **Write down the differences in Art forms?**

Answer: Major differences in art forms are found between different cultures of the world. In small-scale societies of foragers, pastoralists or shifting cultivators, with nomadic or semi-nomadic residence patterns, the art in these societies either involves performing arts (song, dance or story telling) or is highly portable (jewelry, tattooing).

❖ **How Art can control social systems?**

Answer: A popular perception concerning artists is that they are non-conformist, visionary and aloof. Art often reinforces existing socio-cultural systems. It also instills important cultural values and influences people to behave in socially appropriate ways. Art can buttress inequalities of existing stratification systems. In highly stratified societies, state governments use art for maintaining the status quo and to solicit obedience and respect.

❖ **How Art relates to social integration?**

Answer: Art functions to sustain longevity of the society in which it is found. Art is connected to other parts of the social system and used to evoke positive feelings for its rulers. Even in ancient Aztec and Egyptian civilizations the ziggurats and pyramids served to provide a visual

reinforcement of the awesome power of the rulers. Art forms like music also help reinforce social bonds and cultural themes. Martial music, on the other hand, helps rally people against a common enemy. Story-telling also passes on social values from one generation onto the next, whereby helping social integration.

❖ **How Art is considered as a status symbol?**

Answer: Acquiring art objects provides a convincing way to display one's wealth and power. Possessing art objects implies high prestige due to its uniqueness. Art in ancient Egypt was the personal property of the pharaohs. Art galleries often exhibit personal collections obtained from high ranking members of society.

❖ **Orientalism?**

- **Answer:** By studying the orient the scholar separates him or herself from the culture they study and recreates it as another world. Said believes that Asians are confined by the Oriental label that has been constructed by the European scholar. It is natural for the human race to divide itself into "us" and "them." It is this division that leads to hostility. The separation that arises due to scholarly study only strengthens this hostility.

❖ **What is the Future of Anthropology?**

Answer: Few cultural anthropologists are studying pristine cultures as the discipline is adapting to the realities of this changing world. Concern for survival of indigenous cultures and the study of complex societies is now the new focus area for many cultural anthropologists. There is also greater emphasis on using anthropological perspectives to deal with developmental problems. There is little evidence to suggest that the world is becoming a cultural melting pot, so despite cultural changes there is enough diversity in the world to keep cultural anthropologists occupied for a long time to come.

❖ **How a culture survived?**

Answer: The indigenous population of Tasmania in 19th century by white settlers for sheep herding is a tragic example of cultural extinction. The 1884 Berlin Conference was a civilized way of dividing spoils of Africa but not safeguarding rights of indigenous people and numerous

conflicts on the African continent are based on this insensitive division and lumping together of different ethnic groups. The Brazilian Amazon shelters the largest population of the world's still indigenous people. But by building roads through the Amazonian frontier, the Brazilian government has introduced diseases such as influenza and measles amongst the indigenous communities.

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