

## AP Exam Prep – Unit 3 Culture, Language and Religion

### CULTURE

- **Culture** - The body of customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits that together constitute a group of people's distinct tradition.
  - **Syncretic** – Traditions that borrow from past and present.
- **Assimilation** - The process whereby a minority group gradually adopts the customs and attitudes of the prevailing culture (becoming part of the new area)
- **Acculturation**- the adoption of the behavior patterns of the surrounding culture (usually over three generations)
- **Custom** - The frequent repetition of an act, to the extent that it becomes characteristic of the group of people performing the act
  - **Taboo** - A restriction on behavior imposed by a social custom.
- **Artifact** - The material manifestations of culture, including tools, housing, systems of land use, clothing, etc
  - **Material Culture** - The tangible, physical items produced and used by members of a specific culture group and reflective of their traditions, lifestyles and technologies vs. **Nonmaterial Culture** - Includes the beliefs, practices, aesthetics, and values of a cultural group
  
- **Cultural convergence** - The tendency for cultures to become more alike as they increasingly share technology and structures in a modern world united by improved transportation and communication.
- **Cultural Landscape (built environment)** - Modifications to the environment by humans, including the built environment and agricultural systems, that reflect aspects of their culture
  - **Survey systems** - English metes and bounds / French long lots / American township and range
    - **Metes and Bounds landscapes** - (English origins) used landmarks (buildings, trees, etc) and then measured lot spaces from the reference points a system of land surveying east of the Appalachian Mountains. Depends on descriptions of land ownership and natural features
    - **Long lot landscapes** - (French origins) system implemented in Quebec, Louisiana, Texas that divide the land into narrow parcels stretching back from rivers, roads, or canals (so everyone would have the same variety of land)
    - **Township and range pattern - (Anglo-American landscape)** rectangular land division used to disperse settlers evenly across farmlands of the U.S. interior, established by American settlers in the west (Great Plains and Midwest) - *folk landscape*
- **Architectural form** - building style that is the result of cultural influence

- **Culture region** - A formal or functional region within which common cultural characteristics prevail.
- **Cultural realm** - A collective of culture regions sharing related culture systems (a major world area having sufficient distinctiveness to be perceived as set apart from other realms in terms of cultural characteristics and complexes)
- **Cultural core-periphery pattern** - The zone of greatest concentration or homogeneity of the culture traits that characterize a region, away from the central core, the characteristics weaken and disappear
- **Culture hearth** - A nucleus within which a distinctive set of culture traits, ideas and technologies develops and from which it diffuses
- **Adaptive strategies** - The unique way in which each culture uses its particular physical environment; Those aspects of culture that serve to provide the necessities of life - Food, clothing, shelter, and defense
- **Cultural appropriation** - The process by which other cultures adopt customs and knowledge, and use them for their own benefit.
- **Cultural Identity** - One's belief in belonging to a group or certain cultural aspect
  - **Neolocalism** - Seeking out regional culture and reinvigorating it into the modern world
  - **Authenticity** - Staying true to customs (when local cultural traits are commercialized, they are compromised and adapted and are not "authentic" - Chinese food)
  - **Cultural linkage** - migrants who have moved away but renew or maintain their connections with their homeland (facilitated by modern technology)
  - **Cultural revival** - process that works against globalization, revitalizing cultural ties and promoting distinction
- **Placelessness** - Loss of uniqueness of a place in the cultural landscape, so that one place looks like the next. (Many parts of the US look the same)
- **Folk culture** - Culture traditionally practiced by a small, homogeneous, rural group living in relative isolation from other groups vs. **Popular culture** - (mass culture) Culture found in a large, heterogeneous society that shares certain habits despite differences in other personal characteristics.
- **Enclave** - a small area occupied by a distinctive minority culture vs. **Ethnic Exclave** - an ethnic group which is geographically separated from the main group
- **Social distance** - the extent to which members of one culture have contact with members of another culture
- **Transculturation** - expansion of traits through both diffusion and adoption

## LANGUAGE

- **Language** - a set of sounds, combination of sounds, and symbols used for communication.
  - **Literary tradition** - A language that is written as well as spoken

- **Language family** - A collection of languages related to each other through a common ancestor long before recorded history
  - **Language subfamily:** group of languages with more commonality than a language family (indicates they have branched off more recently in history) - Romance languages
  - **Language branch** - A collection of languages related through a common ancestor that existed several thousand years ago. Differences are not as extensive or old as with language families, and archaeological evidence can confirm that these derived from the same family
  - **Language group:** A collection of languages within a branch that share a common origin in the relatively recent past and display relatively few differences in grammar and vocabulary.
- **Monolingual state** - country in which only one language is primarily spoken (e.g., Portugal, Japan, Venezuela, Poland, etc) vs. **Multilingual state** - country in which two or more languages are spoken (**Polyglot** - Multi-lingual state)
- **Official Language** - Used by countries with linguistic fragmentation in order to bring people together.
- **Lingua Franca** - Language used among speakers of different languages for the purpose of trade and commerce.
- **Global Language** - Common language of trade and commerce across the globe (English)
- **Trade language** - A language used between native speakers of different languages to allow them to communicate so that they can trade with each other.
- **Standard Language** - The form of a language used for official government business, education, and mass communications.
- **Language diffusion:** movement of languages through migration
- **Language convergence** - collapsing of two languages into one resulting from the consistent spatial interaction of peoples with different languages
- **Pidgin** - A form of speech that adopts a simplified grammar and limited vocabulary of a lingua franca, used for communications among speakers of two different languages (Spanglish, Franglish)
- **Language Divergence** - Lack of native speakers breaks a language into many dialects and then continued isolation forms them into individual languages.
- **Extinct Language** - A language without any remaining native speakers
  - **Language replacement (extinction)** - obliteration of an entire culture through war, disease, assimilation, etc
- **Backward Reconstruction (deep reconstruction)** - Technique used to track sound shifts backward to the original language.
  - **Sound Shift** - Slight change in a word across languages in the same family.

- **Dialect** - A regional variety of a language distinguished by vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation
  - **Dialect Chains:** Dialects closer to each other will be more similar than those which are further apart.
- **Isogloss** - geographical boundary within which a particular linguistic feature occurs
- **Vernacular** - a language or dialect spoken by the common people of a region
- **Ideogram** - The system of writing used in China and other East Asian countries in which each symbol represents an idea or concept rather than a specific sound, as is the case with letters in English.
  
- **Creole** - A language that results from the mixing of two languages (usually a colonizer's language with the indigenous language of the people being dominated)
- **Esperanto** - a constructed international language developed in the late 1880s and promoted after World War I to be a universal second language
- **Isolated language** - A language that is unrelated to any other languages and therefore not attached to any language family
  
- **Indo-European languages** - languages from the Indo-European family, spoken by half of the world's people, and includes, among others, the Germanic, Romance, and Slavic subfamilies.
  - **Romance Languages** - French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Portuguese.
  - **Slavic Languages** - Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian, Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian.
  - **Germanic Languages** - English, German, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish
- **Proto-Indo-European (Nostratic)** - hypothesized ancestral Indo-European language that is the hearth of the ancient Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit languages.
  - **Agriculture theory:** theory of the diffusion of the Proto-Indo-European language into Europe through the innovation of agriculture Its hearth is around modern day in Turkey "Fertile Crescent" (Renfrew Hypothesis - Colin Renfrew)
  - **Conquest Theory of Language:** Diffusion of Proto-Indo-European language, through conquest of the original inhabitants of Europe.
  - **Dispersal Hypothesis of Language** - Indo European languages first spread to Southwest Asia, around the Caspian Sea, through Russia/Ukraine, and onto the Balkans

## RELIGION

- **Religion** - A system of moral beliefs, following the teachings of a theistic being such as a God
  - **Branch** - A large and fundamental division within a religion.

- **Denomination** - A division of a branch
- **Sect** - A relatively small group that has broken away from an established denomination.
- **Autonomous religion** - A religion that does not have a central authority but shares ideas and cooperates informally
- **Monotheism** (one god) **vs. polytheism** (many gods)
- **Secularism** - Not being directly influenced by religion or its practices.
- **Religious conflict** - disagreements between religions - Israel-Palestine, etc.
- **Religious Extremism** - Fundamentalism which is carried out to the point of violence
- **Interfaith boundaries** - the boundaries between the world's major faiths, such as Christianity, Muslim, and Buddhism **vs. Intrafaith boundaries** - describes the boundaries within a major religion (Protestant & Catholic)
- **Fundamentalism** - Literal interpretation and strict adherence to basic principles of a religion
  
- **Universalizing religions** - (global, proselytic) a religion in which the followers attempt to appeal to all people, not just to those of one culture or location (Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism)
  - **Christianity**- a monotheistic religion centered on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth (around 30ad) as presented in the New Testament of the Bible. It is the most popular religion in the world, landscape contains churches and cathedrals; use the most land for their dead (cemeteries).
    - **Eastern Orthodox Church** - One of the three major branches of Christianity, common in Russia and Eastern Europe
    - **Roman Catholic Church** - Largest Christian groups, centered in Rome and ruled over by the Pope (Large concentrations in Latin America and Southern Europe)
      - **Hierarchal religion** - A religion in which a central authority exercises a high degree of control.
    - **Protestant Church** - Third major branch of Christianity. Split from Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages (concentrated in Northern Europe and North America)
  - **Mormonism** - a term used to describe religious, ideological, and cultural aspects of the various denominations of the Latter Day Saint movement. It is practiced around the world, but is concentrated in Utah. (Christians do not view this as a part of Christianity)
  - **Islam** - The youngest of major Modern Religions (6<sup>th</sup> century ad), based on the teachings of the Quran and the prophet Muhammad. (Five Pillars of Faith - Faith, Alms, Prayer, Hajj, Fasting). House of worship is usually a mosque - practiced in SW, North Africa and SE Asia. It is the second largest religion in the world (fastest growing due to birth rates), half of the world's 1.1 billion Muslims live in four countries outside the Middle East: Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India. Hijab refers to the need for

- women to cover themselves (burkas cover women entirely except for the eyes); landscape contains mosques and minarets (for calling out prayers).
- **Shi'ite (Shia)** - More fundamental sect of Islam centered in Iran vs. **Sunni** - sect of Islam who are the majority concentrated in Middle East, North Africa, Southeast Asia
  - **Sharia Laws** - Harsh Islamic Laws which if broken can result in amputation or even death
  - **Jihad** - Islamic Holy Wars against the West (America, Europe.)
  - **Buddhism** - Founded in India by Siddhartha Guatama (460 bc) based on the Four Nobles Truths and Eight Fold Path. It has over 360 million adherents especially in China and Southeast Asia. Has reincarnated leader known as the Dalai Lama, the third of the world's major universalizing religions. It has over 360 million adherents especially in China and Southeast Asia. Buddhists believe all life is dukkha (nothing permanent); seek to achieve nirvana (enlightenment); believe in no named deity, but do believe in god; cultural landscape contains statues of Buddha, pagodas & shrines (often bell-shaped to protect burial mounds).
  - **Proselytic religion** - to try to convert another person to one particular religion.
  - **Ethnic religion**- A smaller religion with a concentrated distribution whose principles are based on the physical characteristics of the location where its adherents are located
    - **Hinduism**- Created in India, approximately 4,000 years ago with (750 million followers) third largest in world religion behind Christianity and Islam. No single founder or text, but religion is inseparable from life; god (Brahman, universal soul) may be in many forms); karma and reincarnation are cornerstones; caste system locks people into class levels; cultural landscape has many temples and shrines often by water to please the gods
      - **Caste System**- System that gives every Indian a particular place in the social hierarchy from birth. Individuals may improve the position they inherit in the caste system in their next life through karma
    - **Confucianism**- Developed by Confucius around 500bc, it's a complex system of moral, social, political, and religious thought and has influenced China since. No particular house of worship, seen more in the daily life as a philosophy.
    - **Animism**: Belief that inanimate objects, such as plants and stones, or natural events, like thunderstorms and earthquakes, have a discrete spirit and life. Common in many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, Native American religions are fundamentally animistic, and even Shintoism is highly animistic
    - **Judaism**- Oldest modern religion in the world, it is the religion of ancient Hebrews, the first monotheistic faith. Roots in the teachings of

Abraham, who is credited with uniting his people to worship only one god. Abraham and God have a covenant in which the Jews agree to worship only one God, and God agrees to protect his chosen people, the Jews. Largest concentrations in US and Israel. Ethnic religion with roots in the Old Testament and synagogues as the house of worship with Rabbis as religious leaders.

- **Zionism** - The ideology of a homeland for Jewish people
- **Diaspora** - Scattering of the Jews after the destruction of Jerusalem. Now means the spatial dispersion of any ethnic group
- **Shamanism**- religion of northern Asia having the belief that the mediation between the visible and the spirit worlds is effected by shamans (similar to Animism)
- **Sikhism**- founded in the Punjab district of India in the 16th century, Sikhism now has nearly 20 million followers. Belief that the universe as a whole is their God, Sikhs worship Gurus, the main one being Guru Nanak Dev, along with twelve less-powerful Gurus
- **Shintoism**- native religion of Japan combining elements of Buddhism and local religions (syncretic) It involves the worship of spirits. / said to be the way of god.
- **Jainism** - religion and philosophy originating in ancient India. Stresses spiritual independence and equality throughout all life
- **Zoroastrianism** - Religion founded in Iran 3500 years ago based on "Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds"- has many similarities to more popular religions such as Christianity and Islam
- **Taoism** - religion founded by Lao-Tsu in China and based on his book titles "Book of the Way"; focused on proper political rule and on the oneness of humanity and nature.
- **Pagan** - follower of a polytheistic religion in ancient times
- **Cosmogony** - A set of religious beliefs concerning the origin of the universe.
- **Pilgrimage** - Travel to a religious site in order to pay respects or participate in a ritual
  
- **Religious toponym** - This refers to the origin and meaning of the names of religions
- **Landscapes of the dead** – burial grounds and traditions
- **Religious architecture** – houses of worship in particular styles
- **Sacred Sites** - Places infused with religious meaning (Jerusalem, Wailing Wall, Mecca, the Ka'ba, Ganges River)
- **Theocracy** - A state whose government is either believed to be divinely guided or a state under the control of religious leaders