

3.1 Introduction to Culture

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

KEY WORDS culture 文化 • material culture 物质文化 • cultural trait 文化特征
• nonmaterial culture 非物质文化 • cultural complex 文化综合体

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **culture** 文化 and cultural traits.

You must be able to:

- define **culture** 文化 and a **cultural trait** 文化特征
- distinguish **material culture** 物质文化 from **nonmaterial culture** 非物质文化
- give an example of each
- explain how cultural traits combine into a **cultural complex** 文化综合体

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Culture and traits

Culture is the shared beliefs, practices, and objects of a group. A **cultural trait** is a single element of it — a food, a gesture, a belief.

■ Material vs nonmaterial

Material culture = physical objects (clothes, tools, buildings). **Nonmaterial culture** = ideas without physical form (language, religion, values).

■ Complexes

Related traits form a **cultural complex** — e.g. tea includes the leaf (material) plus customs of when and how to drink it (nonmaterial).

2 Practice

2.1 Define a cultural trait and give one example. [2]

2.2 State the difference between material and nonmaterial culture. [2]

2.3 Classify each as material or nonmaterial culture.

(a) A traditional festival's beliefs. [1]

(b) The costumes worn at the festival. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A religion's beliefs and moral values are an example of [1]

- **A** material culture
- **B** nonmaterial culture
- **C** a cultural landscape
- **D** relocation diffusion

3.2 Which is the best example of a cultural trait? [1]

- **A** an entire continent
- **B** a specific style of greeting
- **C** the global economy
- **D** a map projection

3.3 A group's cuisine involves special foods and rules about eating together.

(a) Name the material part. [1]

(b) Name the nonmaterial part. [1]

Solutions

2.1 a single element of a culture; e.g. a food, language, belief, or gesture.

2.2 material = physical objects; nonmaterial = ideas/beliefs/values with no physical form.

2.3 (a) nonmaterial. (b) material.

3.1 B. beliefs without physical form are nonmaterial culture.

3.2 B. a single custom (greeting) is a cultural trait.

3.3 (a) the foods/utensils themselves. (b) the customs/rules about eating.