



21.ASSESSMENT

Self-check Questions

1. Which anthropologist is best known for developing Structuralism and analyzing social structures through binary oppositions and universal patterns of thought?

- a) Edmund Leach
- b) Claude Lévi-Strauss
- c) S.F. Nadel
- d) Talcott Parsons

2. Talcott Parsons developed the concept of the AGIL schema. What does the 'A' in AGIL primarily stand for in his functionalist view of social systems?

- a) Association
- b) Allocation
- c) Adaptation
- d) Action

3. Edmund Leach, in his work Political Systems of Highland Burma, challenged traditional structural-functionalism by arguing that social structures are often:

- a) Static and unchanging
- b) Determined solely by economic factors
- c) Fluid, dynamic, and subject to manipulation
- d) Universal and consistent across all cultures

4. S.F. Nadel is known for his systematic analysis of social structure, particularly his focus on the concept of role. How did he define a 'role' in relation to social structure?

- a) An individual's personal identity and unique characteristics
- b) A temporary performance for ritualistic purposes
- c) A pattern of expected behavior associated with a specific social status or position
- d) A psychological predisposition to conform to social norms



5. Which of the following best describes Claude Lévi-Strauss's view on the relationship between conscious models and unconscious structures in society?
- a) Conscious models are always accurate reflections of underlying structures.
 - b) Unconscious structures are irrelevant to understanding social phenomena.
 - c) Unconscious structures provide the underlying framework that conscious models may or may not accurately reflect.
 - d) Only conscious models are worthy of anthropological study.
6. Claude Lévi-Strauss believed that myths from different cultures often share common underlying structural patterns, despite surface differences.
7. Talcott Parsons' structural functionalism is often criticized for overemphasizing social change and conflict, rather than stability.
8. Edmund Leach argued that social structures are rigidly fixed and determine individual behavior without any room for choice or deviation.
9. S.F. Nadel emphasized that social structures are primarily subjective mental constructs, unique to each individual's perception.
10. Lévi-Strauss's structuralism is primarily concerned with the historical evolution of social structures over time.

Answers to Self-Check Questions

- 1. b) Claude Lévi-Strauss
- 2. c) Adaptation
- 3. c) Fluid, dynamic, and subject to manipulation
- 4. c) A pattern of expected behavior associated with a specific social status or position
- 5. c) Unconscious structures provide the underlying framework that conscious models may or may not accurately reflect.
- 6. True
- 7. False
- 8. False
- 9. False
- 10. False



Short Answer Questions

Q1. Briefly explain the central idea of Claude Lévi-Strauss's Structuralism in relation to understanding social structure.

Q2. How did Talcott Parsons' AGIL schema propose that social systems maintain equilibrium and persist over time? Briefly explain two of its functional imperatives.

Q3. Based on Edmund Leach's critiques, in what ways did he argue that traditional structural-functionalist models oversimplified the reality of social structure?

Long Answer Questions

Q1. Compare and contrast the views of Talcott Parsons and Edmund Leach on the nature of social structure. Discuss how their approaches differ in terms of stability vs. dynamism and the role of individual agency.

Q2. Analyze the contributions of Claude Lévi-Strauss and S.F. Nadel to the understanding of social structure. While both dealt with 'structure,' discuss how their theoretical foci (e.g., unconscious vs. observable, roles vs. universal patterns) distinguished their approaches.