TOPIC: CATEGORIES OF CULTURE

High and Popular Culture

- ◆ Cultural diversity can occur due to social ______ not all culture is equally accessible.
 - ► Cultural _____ (wealth, status, social connections) can give some people exclusive access.
- Sociologists distinguish between high culture and pop culture.

High Culture

Cultural patterns that distinguish a society's members.

- ▶ High culture is ______.
- Usually requires a person to have cultural capital to engage.
- Ex: Attending a gala, an opera, or ivy league school.

Pop (Popular) Culture

Cultural patterns that are widespread among a society's population.

- ▶ Pop culture is ______.
- Accessible to most people in a society.
- Ex: Watching sports, popular T.V. or films, county fairs, social media.



◆ These categories are _____ – things can shift between them over time and across cultures.

EXAMPLE

The distinction between high culture and pop culture depends mainly on...

- a) How longstanding the cultural tradition is.
- b) How objectively interesting the cultural tradition is.
- c) The social standing of the people who engage in the cultural pattern.
- d) How technologically advanced the culture is.

PRACTICE

Cultural patterns that are widespread and accessible to the vast majority of people are referred to as ______.

- a) High culture
- b) Low culture.
- c) Normal culture.
- d) Pop culture.

TOPIC: CATEGORIES OF CULTURE

Subcultures and Countercultures

◆ Cultural diversity can arise when groups form _____ identities.

• Sociologists distinguish between *subcultures*, and a type of subculture called *counterculture*.

A smaller cultural group with distinct

_____ & norms that exists

within a larger culture.

Subculture

Counterculture

A group that actively _____ the widely accepted norms and values of a society.

Operate smoothly _____ mainstream culture & society.

All countercultures are subcultures, **but not all** subcultures are countercultures.

Directly _____ the dominant culture & society.

This is a neutral term.

Subcultures include:

- Racial/ethnic subcultures (ex: Korean Americans)
- Social/lifestyle subcultures (ex: runners)
- Niche subcultures (ex: fans of a TV show).

Countercultures include:

- ► Lifestyle countercultures (ex: goth culture)
- Activist Countercultures (ex: feminists)
- Extreme Countercultures (ex: cults)

EXAMPLE

Which of the following is most clearly an example of counterculture?

- a) A group of high school jocks who all use similar slang and participate in the same activities.
- b) A self-proclaimed anarchist who opposes capitalism, lives off grid, and refuses to pay taxes.
- c) A religious group that dresses in specific clothing and adheres to specific dietary restrictions.
- d) Fans of a science-fiction franchise who regularly attend conventions.

PRACTICE

The term "subculture" refers to....

- a) A distinct cultural group with unique norms and values that operates within a larger culture.
- b) A type of pop culture.
- c) A micro-culture that directly opposes mainstream society.
- d) An elite category of high culture, exclusive to people with "old money."