

Study Guide for ANTH 156 Exam Three

The test format is written paragraph/short essay answers.

All exam questions will be drawn from the lecture material and class discussion with reference to the required readings.

To prepare for the test make sure that you understand, or even better, that you can provide a written answer to the following issues/statements:

1. Why sex? Discuss two of the hypotheses explaining the evolution of sexual reproduction. Why are some of the hypotheses about the evolution of sex more teleological than others?
2. What is Fisher's argument explaining why there are "so many males" (a balanced male/female sex ratio)? What is the Trivers-Willard hypothesis regarding the manipulation of sex ratios?
3. Evolutionary theory predicts that male and female reproductive strategies will be, both, mutualistic and conflicting. Briefly discuss each of these predictions using human examples.
4. How is the Lek an example of differences in non-human male and female reproductive strategies? What are the different constraints on reproduction, and the different potential costs faced by male and female birds?
5. Using examples, distinguish between inter- and intra-sexual selection. What are likely physical or behavioral consequences of intra-sexual selection? How is variation in reproductive success related to intra-sexual selection?
6. Using examples, distinguish between "good taste" and "good sense" theories about inter-sexual competition.
7. Describe two key ways in which human life history differs from that of the chimpanzee. What sort of environmental factors could explain these differences in life history?
8. How do differences in male and female reproductive strategies affect human life-history stages?
9. Human Behavioral Ecology stresses the importance of individual reproductive success. Discuss with reference to Betzig's study of inclusive fitness in Ifaluk.
10. According to Symons, what is the difference between "adaptiveness" and "adaptation"? Why does he think that "adaptiveness" is incompatible with a meaningful evolutionary theory of behavior/psychology? Illustrate with an example.
11. In the evolutionary psychological perspective, "psychological mechanisms" are often described using the terms domain-specific and content-dependent. With reference to the human capacity for language (e.g. Senghas et al. on Nicaraguan Sign Language), describe how content-

dependent domain-specific mental mechanisms will differ in function from content-independent and domain-general mechanisms (e.g. *tabula rasa* models of the brain).

12. People seem more able to correctly complete Wason's selection task when it is presented in social contexts with conditional social rules. Discuss the evolutionary rationale for these outcomes as argued by Cosmides and Tooby (in Cartwright). What is the rationale for Sugiyama and colleagues repeating this test in a non-Western foraging society?

13. How does "Hume's Guillotine", that "ought" must be distinguished from "is" in accounts of human affairs, impact controversies over hot-button issues in evolutionary theory. Discuss in relation to a human propensity for violence and selfishness; or biological and behavioral sex-differences.

14. Appeals to Nature to resolve moral issues in human affairs ("good" versus "bad") invoke the Naturalistic fallacy. Using examples (e.g. such as whether or not violence, sex differences, or herbal supplements are "natural"), discuss how the naturalistic fallacy confuses what is "good" and "bad" in reference to Nature, evolution, and human affairs.

15. The Environment of Evolutionary Adaptation (EEA) is a key concept for Evolutionary Psychological theory. What is a definition of the EEA, why is it important to Evolutionary Psychology, and what are some of the points of contention about what we can know about it?

16. Data about the life-ways and subsistence strategies of living human foragers are interpreted in different ways by evolutionary theorists. Briefly discuss some key differences in the interpretation of these data by Human Behavioral Ecologists and Evolutionary Psychologists.