

Concept of Culture (10 Marks)

(A) Origin of the Word “Culture” (1 Marks)

Culture comes from the root word “kulture” in German, which refers to “civilization”. Thus, when one is said to be “cultured”, he or she is said to be civilized.

(B) Two Definitions of Culture (2 Marks)

1. • Culture is the ways of life that includes language, ideas, beliefs, customs, codes, institutions, tools, techniques, works of art, rituals, and ceremonies of a population that are passed down from generation to generation.
2. • Tylor (1871) defined culture as the complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities acquired by man as a member of society.

(C) Basic Characteristics of Culture (3 Marks)

1. **Culture is learned and shared** – People learn culture through socialization and share it within a group.
 2. **Culture is symbolic** – It uses symbols like language, signs, and gestures to express meaning.
 3. **Culture is dynamic (stable yet changing)** – Culture remains stable but changes over time through innovation and contact with other cultures.
 4. **Culture is material and non-material** – Material culture includes physical objects; nonmaterial culture includes beliefs, values, and norms.
 5. **Culture is supra-organic** – It continues beyond individual life.
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(D) Elements of Culture with One-line Example (2 Marks)

1. **Symbols** – Anything that carries meaning.
Example: National flag represents a country.
2. **Language** – System of communication using words and symbols.
Example: Bangla language expresses our thoughts and culture.
3. **Values** – Shared ideas about right and wrong.
Example: Honesty is considered a positive value.
4. **Norms** – Rules that guide behavior.
Example: Respecting elders in society.