

Appendix 4 Culture definitions

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/culture>

1. The [arts](#) and other [manifestations](#) of [human intellectual achievement regarded](#) collectively: *20th century popular culture*
- 1.1 A [refined understanding](#) or [appreciation](#) of culture: *men of culture*
2. The [ideas, customs,](#) and social [behaviour](#) of a [particular people](#) or [society](#): *Afro-Caribbean culture*
- 2.1 The [attitudes](#) and [behaviour](#) characteristic of a [particular](#) social [group](#): *the emerging drug culture*

Fundamental Questions and Culture

Fundamental Questions Paper 1:

The word 'culture' in this context is taken to mean the various abstract aspects of human societal systems, including beliefs, knowledge, assumptions, values and technology (i.e. technical know-how). Also considered as an aspect of culture are the various *cultural arrangements* that arise in society through the aptitude for culture, such as the social hierarchies, institutions, social organisation, the economic system and legislation (Figure 3).

Especially important among the consequences of human culture, from the standpoint both of the ecosystems of the biosphere and of human experience, are various human artefacts, which include for example, all tools, ornaments, machines, works of art, buildings and roads. These *artefacts* are part of the biophysical environment, and in our conceptual model are regarded as an aspect of the biosphere (Figure 3).

This simple model can also be expressed as a pyramid (Figure 4), reflecting the interdependencies of the three elements. At the base of the pyramid are the underlying biophysical processes of the biosphere which gave rise to humans as biological beings, and on which humans remain entirely dependent. Culture, at the top of the pyramid, is the product of the activities of humans, and is entirely dependent on them, as well as on the underlying processes of the biosphere. In turn it also influences human activities, and consequently also the processes of the biosphere.

... Biohistory pays attention especially to the processes of *cultural adaptation* that may be brought into action in response to culturally induced threats to human survival and well-being. Such cultural adaptive responses have been very important in human history; and whether or not humankind survives the next century will depend on the extent to which they are successful in the near future.

Boyden, speech June 2015: culture is a biologic entity; it exists in the neurobiology. It is a force in biological systems.