

Universals of Culture

A list of 10 cultural universals

1) THEMES

- a) Values
- b) Ethics
- c) Symbols

2) ECONOMICS

- a) Trade and money
- b) Division of labor
- c) Technology
 - i) Communication systems
 - ii) Transportation
 - iii) Inventions

3) GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

- a) Influence of other civilizations
- b) Resources
- c) Topographical characteristics

4) FOOD, CLOTHING, AND SHELTER

- a) Food (methods of production and animal domestication)
- b) Clothing and adornment
- c) Shelter, dwellings, and architecture

5) POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

- a) Government
- b) Law enforcement
- c) War and peace

6) FAMILY AND KIN

- a) Marriage and type of family groupings
- b) Child training and rites of passage
- c) Roles and responsibilities

7) ATTITUDE TOWARD THE “UNKNOWN”

- a) Religious beliefs
- b) Religious practices
- c) Scientific understandings
- d) Death rituals

8) ESTHETIC VALUES

- a) Art
- b) Music
- c) Dance, drama, literature

9) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Language
- b) Number systems

10) RECREATION

- a) Games and sports
- b) Use of leisure time