Test Bank for Anthropology 16th Ember

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CHAPTER 1: What Is Anthropology?

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Anthropology is literally the study of:
A) humans
B) fossils
C) history
D) religion

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: What Is Anthropology?
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. Which type of culture was the traditional focus for anthropologists?
A) Western cultures
B) extinct cultures
C) non-Western cultures
D) post-industrialized cultures

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: The Scope of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. The anthropological curiosity is primarily interested in:
A) abnormal characteristics within a population
B) differences in individual behavior
C) behavioral changes over time
D) typical characteristics of populations

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: The Scope of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. What are the two broad classifications of subject matter within anthropology?
A) biological and cultural
B) contemporary and ancient
C) Western and non-Western
D) theoretical and practical

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

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Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Which of the following can encompass any of the four main subfields of anthropology?
A) biological anthropology
B) applied anthropology
C) anthropological linguistics
D) archaeology

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Prosimians, monkeys, apes, and humans are all members of the order:
A) Primates
B) Humans
C) *Homo sapiens*
D) Mammals

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. A cultural anthropologist is most likely to study which of the following questions?
A) How has a society evolved physically?
B) How are relationships formed in a society?
C) Where has a society been preserved?
D) Where did language originate?

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

8. The study of how languages change through time and how they may be related is called:
A) structural linguistics
B) sociolinguistics
C) ethnolinguistics
D) historical linguistics

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology

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Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. A _____ might study speech patterns in varying social contexts.
A) sociolinguist
B) anthropological linguist
C) historical linguist
D) ethnologist

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. A cultural anthropologist who spends a year or so living with, talking to, and observing people whose customs he or she is studying is known as a(n):
A) anthropological linguist
B) ethnographer
C) archaeologist
D) ethnohistorian

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

11. The intention of applied anthropology is to:
A) understand human evolution
B) limit anthropology to an academic setting
C) make anthropological knowledge useful
D) focus solely on Western cultures

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Anthropology is a comparatively young discipline. It was only in the late _____ that anthropologists began to go to live with people in faraway places.
A) 1800s
B) 1700s
C) 1600s
D) 1900s

Answer: A

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Learning Objective: 1.3 Communicate the relevance of anthropology.
Topic: The Relevance of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. Why is it incomplete to simply call anthropology "the study of humans"?
A) The focus of anthropology is on pre-human organisms.
B) Many other disciplines also study humans.
C) Anthropologists study only certain aspects of human life.
D) Anthropologists study all species of mammals.

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: What Is Anthropology?
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

14. How does anthropology differ from other disciplines concerned with humans?
A) Anthropology has a narrower focus on the cultural "other."
B) It has existed as a discipline longer than most other social sciences.
C) Anthropology has a less scientific approach than other disciplines.
D) It is broader in scope, both geographically and historically.

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: The Scope of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

15. A distinguishing feature of anthropology is the goal of understanding how aspects of human experience such as local history, physical environment, family life, language, settlement patterns, and religion are interrelated. This approach to culture is referred to as:
A) the holistic approach
B) the sociological approach
C) cultural materialism
D) participant observation

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: The Scope of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

16. In what way has anthropological research changed over the years?
A) Anthropologists only work in academic settings today.
B) Modern anthropologists are no longer trained with a holistic approach.
C) Anthropologists now have more specialized areas of research.
D) Anthropologists are now only interested in non-Western cultures.

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain

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specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

17. A human paleontologist might study:
A) prehuman fossils
B) the behavior of chimpanzees
C) dinosaur bones
D) artifacts such as pottery

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Which of the following disciplines would have the greatest overlap with biological anthropology?
A) history
B) genetics
C) philosophy
D) physics

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

19. Which subdiscipline is now frequently referred to as simply "cultural anthropology"?
A) ethnohistory
B) anthropological linguistics
C) ethnology
D) archaeology

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

20. Because historians rely on written records, they are limited to societies that existed within the last _____ years.
A) 5,000
B) 10,000
C) 50,000
D) 1,000
Answer: A

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Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

21. Unlike other linguists, anthropological linguists are primarily interested in:
A) the ways in which language is related to beliefs and behaviors
B) unwritten languages
C) the way language is used in different social contexts
D) the historical connections of different languages to each other

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

22. Which development did biological anthropologist Chuck Larson claim "changed everything" because of its impact on human society?
A) the development of writing
B) the invention of stone tools
C) the use of oral language
D) the shift to farming

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

23. Unlike ethnohistorians, ethnographers:
A) describe a given society based on their own fieldwork
B) study societies with writing systems
C) compare societies cross-culturally
D) are interested in “primitive” peoples

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

24. An ethnohistorian would _____.
A) work in the field for long periods of time
B) study only past cultures, much as archaeologists do
C) study the way in which cultures have changed over time
D) prepare lengthy reports on extinct cultures

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Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

25. What is the focus of cross-cultural researchers?
A) They hope to discover general patterns about cultural traits.
B) Their goal is to minimize the effects of cultural homogenization.
C) They are interested in finding the best ways of behaving.
D) They bridge the gap between anthropology and other social sciences.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

26. To what does the term *basic research* usually refer?
A) research that is necessary for the development of a new technology
B) research that is driven by simple curiosity
C) testing of already existing products
D) testing new tools to meet basic needs, such as medications

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

27. Which of the following may be trained in any or all of the subfields of anthropology?
A) applied anthropologist
B) biological anthropologist
C) ethnologist
D) political anthropologist

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

28. In contrast to basic researchers, who are almost always employed in universities, _____ anthropologists are commonly employed in government agencies, development agencies, consulting firms, charitable foundations, and other settings outside academia.
A) archaic

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B) historical
C) applied
D) philosophical

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

29. Which type of anthropologists may be called upon to give forensic evidence in court?
A) archaeological
B) linguistic
C) cultural
D) biological

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

30. The traditional division of anthropological fields contrasted the study of _____.
A) history and geography
B) biology and culture
C) politics and economics
D) ethnographic data and quantitative data

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

31. How did anthropology help disprove assumptions by American educators in the 1960s that African American schoolchildren rarely drank milk because they were poor and uneducated?
A) Anthropological research has shown that many ethnic groups in different parts of the world, including Asians, Arabs, Jews, and African Americans, avoid fresh milk because they cannot digest it.
B) Anthropologists established that milk was intentionally being withheld from black students as a form of institutionalized racism.
C) Researchers established that African Americans can afford milk but do not like the taste of it.
D) Anthropologists demonstrated that all ethnic groups who do not drink fresh milk are poor and uneducated, not just African Americans.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: The Scope of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know

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Difficulty Level: Difficult

32. How might anthropologists employ the holistic approach in the study of a particular religious custom?
A) They would consider the environmental and economic origins of the custom.
B) They would record the history of the custom as told by the community's elders.
C) They would employ the methods of participant observation to better understand the custom.
D) They would approach the custom with Western biases in mind.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

33. Which of the following areas of study is a part of anthropology?
A) how race is linked to behavior and intelligence
B) how insect colonies are organized
C) when and how dinosaurs became extinct
D) why contemporary peoples have different cultures

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

34. What two distinct sets of questions are sought by biological anthropologists?
A) the emergence and evolution of human beings; how and why contemporary humans vary biologically
B) reconstructing cultural changes in the past through artifacts; the history and diversity of languages
C) applying knowledge of culture to correct social problems; understanding how and why people today vary in their customs and behaviors
D) using cultural knowledge to dominate and exploit other societies; studying the earliest examples of tool use by our human ancestors

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

35. An epidemiologist is most likely to study which of the following?
A) inherited traits
B) the environment
C) economics
D) disease

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain

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specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

36. Which type of anthropologist would be best suited to investigating the daily life of an Asian civilization dating to 15,000 years ago?
A) an ethnologist
B) an archaeologist
C) an ethnohistorian
D) a primatologist

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

37. Compared to anthropologists of previous years, an anthropologist today is more likely to _____.
A) specialize in one certain topic or area
B) investigate many different aspects of life of the people studied
C) study a geographically more distant society
D) do fieldwork alone

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

38. Some specialties cross anthropological subfields. What subfields contribute to medical anthropology?
A) ethnology and biological anthropology
B) linguistic anthropology and ethnology
C) archaeology and linguistic anthropology
D) biological anthropology and archaeology

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

39. Anthropology helps us realize that people are physically and culturally adapted to their particular _____.
A) religions
B) lifestyles
C) environments
D) languages

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Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.3 Communicate the relevance of anthropology.
Topic: The Relevance of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

40. Which of the following illustrates one way in which anthropology helps to alleviate cultural misunderstandings?
A) Understanding differences across cultures helps with communication.
B) Anthropologists insist that you learn at least one other language.
C) Anthropology teaches that all behaviors are acceptable.
D) Anthropology encourages everyone to do a cross-cultural immersion course in college.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.3 Communicate the relevance of anthropology.
Topic: The Relevance of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

41. What drives anthropologists to choose such a broad subject of study?
A) A key tenet within anthropology is that there is a fundamental base to all human culture.
B) They believe that any generalization about humans should be applicable across time and space.
C) Many anthropologists believe that other disciplines lack scientific rigor.
D) Anthropology attracts people who have difficulty narrowing their research focus.

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: The Scope of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

42. Although archaeologists and historians are both interested in the past, how does archaeology differ from history in its approach?
A) Unlike historians, archaeologists only care about the writing systems of non-English speakers.
B) Archaeologists dig up dinosaurs, while historians focus on humans.
C) Archaeologists only rely on fossil remains from human ancestors.
D) Unlike historians, archaeologists study past societies that pre-date written records, using only material remains such as pottery and stone tools.

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

43. Compared to the historian, the archaeologist is _____.
A) more likely to study very ancient cultures
B) less likely to analyze written records of ancient societies
C) more likely to analyze written records of ancient societies

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D) more likely to study how societies change over time

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

44. Which of the following disciplines would have the greatest overlap with archaeologists researching early toolmaking?
A) anatomy
B) geography
C) geology
D) sociology

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

45. What is the primary purpose of an ethnologist's fieldwork?
A) It allows researchers to become more sympathetic to their research subjects' concerns.
B) Fieldwork is a training period to prepare ethnologists for jobs as professors.
C) It provides the data needed to describe the typical cultural behaviors of a group of people.
D) It is a rite of passage for anthropologists, as it is a traditional component of anthropological work.

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

46. How is the ethnohistorian's work similar to that of a historian?
A) They must piece together information from scattered sources.
B) They work entirely on populations from the past.
C) They eschew artifacts in favor of the written record.
D) Both are housed in history departments in most universities.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

47. Ethnology overlaps with more specific disciplines, such as literature, economics, or religious studies. What, then, is the distinctive feature of ethnology?

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A) It compares these topics cross-culturally.
B) It is interested in how these various aspects of life fit together.
C) It focuses on non-Western variation in these areas.
D) Only ethnology studies these issues among people with no written language.

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

48. Why do most disciplines become more specialized as they grow?
A) Knowledge accumulates and methods become more advanced.
B) People get bored studying the same topics over and over again.
C) Theories fade out of use and more complex ideas must take their place.
D) Scientists today are simply more intelligent than scientists of the past.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

49. How does specialization affect an anthropologist's connection to other disciplines?
A) Specialization isolates anthropologists from other disciplines.
B) There is very little specialization in anthropology, so communication with other disciplines is frequent.
C) Anthropologists can become so specialized they become a part of another discipline altogether.
D) Most anthropologists have some overlap with other disciplines that share their research.

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

50. How is the study of anthropology useful?
A) It teaches us that Western culture should be replaced by more indigenous belief systems.
B) The study of anthropology gives us a better understanding of humankind.
C) Exploring human variation shows us why social stratification is unavoidable.
D) The study of world cultures helps us determine which culture traits are the best.

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 1.3 Communicate the relevance of anthropology.
Topic: The Relevance of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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Essay Questions

51. Anthropology is sometimes called the "umbrella discipline" because it can encompass so many diverse areas of study. Explain what topics fall under the scope of anthropology, and why.

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Define anthropology as the study of humans
2. Explain breadth of scope, both geographically and historically
3. Focus on human life in all its expression and variety

Learning Objective: 1.1 Explain the purpose, scope, and distinctive curiosity of anthropology.
Topic: The Scope of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

52. What is the holistic approach? Demonstrate how the holistic approach is a vital component of the anthropological perspective.

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Define the holistic approach
2. Give a specific example of how anthropologists use this approach
3. Connect this to the overall scope of anthropological curiosity

Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

53. Consider the following subfields of anthropology: archaeology, primatology, paleoanthropology, ethnology, and linguistic anthropology. Group these subfields into either biological anthropology or cultural anthropology, and explain your answer.

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Define each of the five subfields given in the question
2. Correctly label primatology and paleoanthropology as biological, the rest as cultural
3. Justify the classification of each

Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

54. Anthropologists are becoming more and more specialized. Does this specialization complement or weaken the historically unique anthropological perspective?

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Explain the ways anthropologists are becoming more specialized, and why
2. Discuss the relationships between anthropologists and other scientists
3. Take a position (complements or weakens) and justify it

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Learning Objective: 1.2 Differentiate among the four major fields of anthropology and explain specialization.
Topic: Fields of Anthropology
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

55. What is the relevance of anthropology? Give at least three examples of anthropological knowledge being applied to real-world problems.

Answer: The ideal answer should include:

1. Show a clear understanding of basic research versus applied anthropology
2. Provide accurate examples of the application of anthropology in other fields

Learning Objective: 1.3 Communicate the relevance of anthropology.
Topic: The Relevance of Anthropology
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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