

HM Task

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Reading 1 key Sentences

1. The inhabitants of the United States consume almost twice as much sugar as the French.
→ This sentence highlights a significant difference in sugar consumption between two countries. From an anthropological perspective, it suggests that food habits and preferences are shaped by cultural factors, economic influences, and historical contexts. It raises questions about the cultural significance of sugar consumption and its impact on food practices and lifestyles.
2. Sugar is not just a foodstuff, even when it is used in conjunction with other foods; it is, if you will, an 'attitude,' bound to certain usages, certain 'protocols,' that have to do with more than food.
→ This sentence emphasizes that sugar goes beyond its nutritional value and becomes associated with attitudes, usages, and protocols in a society. It highlights the cultural and symbolic meanings attributed to sugar consumption. This insight is valuable for understanding how food choices and preferences are not solely based on physiological needs but also involve social and cultural factors.
3. M. Perrot came to the conclusion that economic factors played a less important role in the changes that have taken place in middle-class food habits in the last hundred years than changing tastes; and this really means ideas, especially about nutrition.
→ From an anthropological perspective, this sentence highlights the significance of changing tastes and nutritional beliefs in shaping middle-class food habits. It suggests that cultural and ideological factors have a more substantial influence than economic factors in determining how individuals and communities choose and consume food.

4. For what is food? It is not only a collection of products that can be used for statistical or nutritional studies. It is also, and at the same time, a system of communication, a body of images, a protocol of usages, situations, and behavior.
→ This sentence expands the concept of food from a mere collection of products to a complex system of communication. It suggests that food carries meaning and plays a role in social interactions, cultural practices, and identity formation. This viewpoint encourages anthropologists to examine food as a cultural phenomenon and analyze the messages and symbols embedded within food-related practices.
5. To eat is a behavior that develops beyond its own ends, replacing, summing up, and signaling other behaviors, and it is precisely for these reasons that it is a sign.
→ This sentence emphasizes the symbolic nature of eating as a behavior. Anthropologically, food is not merely consumed for sustenance but also serves as a signifier for other behaviors and activities. Eating becomes a symbol that represents and encompasses various aspects of life, such as work, sports, leisure, and celebration.
6. Food, in short, will lose in substance and gain in function; this function will be general and point to activity (such as the business lunch) or to times of rest (such as coffee).
→ This sentence underscores the changing dynamics of food in contemporary society. From an anthropological perspective, food is seen to undergo a transformation where its substance becomes less important than its function. Food now serves as a symbol that directs attention to specific activities or moments of rest, reflecting the shifting cultural values and priorities within a given society.
7. Underlying our original triangle, there is hence a double opposition between elaborated/unelaborated on the one hand, and culture/nature on the other.
→ This sentence highlights the underlying oppositions within the culinary triangle. Elaborated cooking methods, such as boiling, represent cultural transformations of raw food, while unelaborated methods, such as roasting, maintain a closer connection to nature. This distinction reflects the broader anthropological concept of the relationship between culture and nature in human societies.

8. Behind the opposition between roasted and boiled, then, we do in fact find, as we postulated at the outset, the opposition between nature and culture.
→ This sentence emphasizes the underlying opposition between nature and culture manifested in the distinction between roasting and boiling. Roasting represents a more natural, unmediated cooking method, while boiling symbolizes cultural mediation. Anthropologically, this opposition reflects the fundamental tension between natural processes and cultural interventions in human societies.

9. In any cuisine, nothing is simply cooked, but must be cooked in one fashion or another.
→ This sentence underscores the complexity and diversity of cooking practices across different cultures. It highlights the fact that cooking is not a simple act but involves specific techniques, methods, and cultural considerations. From an anthropological perspective, this sentence emphasizes the cultural and social significance attached to the preparation and consumption of food in different societies.

10. These differences in appraisal of the boiled and the roasted, dependent on the democratic or aristocratic perspective of the group, can also be found in the Western tradition.
→ This sentence highlights how cultural evaluations of cooking methods can be influenced by social and hierarchical structures. It suggests that the perception of boiled and roasted food can vary based on the societal context, revealing the interplay between food practices and social systems.

11. Everything transpires as if the lasting possession of a cultural acquisition entailed, sometimes in the ritual realm, sometimes in the mythic, a concession made in return to nature: when the result is durable, the means must be precarious, and vice-versa.
→ This sentence explores the relationship between cultural acquisitions, durability, and concessions to nature. It suggests that in cooking, when a culinary outcome is long-lasting, the means or tools used may be more precarious or vulnerable. It highlights the interplay between nature and culture in food preparation and the trade-offs involved in maintaining durable cultural practices.

12. Cooking rather represents their necessary articulation. It partakes of both domains, and projects this duality on each of its manifestations.

→ This sentence emphasizes that cooking serves as a bridge between nature and culture, embodying aspects of both domains. It highlights the inherent duality of cooking practices and their ability to reflect and express the dynamic relationship between human society, culture, and the natural world. It underscores the anthropological significance of studying cooking as a cultural practice that connects various dimensions of human existence.