

ИНОСТРАННЫЕ ЯЗЫКИ И МЕЖКУЛЬТУРНАЯ КОММУНИКАЦИЯ
(Английский язык) /
FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
(English Language)

10-11 классы / 10th and 11th Grades

Вариант 2 / Version 2

Duration – 80 minutes
Maximum score – 100 points

The test consists of 2 parts: Language and Culture Studies and Analytical Writing.

PART 1. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES (50 points)

Task 1. For questions 1-6, read the text below and answer the questions (24 points).

Understanding the Concept of Punctuality and Time in Different Cultures

Cultural differences across the globe range from those that are apparent like language, clothing, and food to some more subtle ones like family dynamics and working styles. Rehnema Choudhury, a woman of Bangladeshi origin, now living in the UK, shares her experiences becoming aware of the concept of punctuality and time across different cultures.

“I grew up in a small but quaint city in the southwest of England, UK. And growing up as the only person of non-Caucasian heritage in my school and friend circle, I gained an understanding of how diverse cultures can view the same thing very differently. One of the things that always stood out more was observing the difference between how my Bangladeshi family and friends’ families perceived being ‘on time’ versus my non-Bengali, exclusively Caucasian friends.

When we were told a family wedding started at 2pm, we would turn up at 3pm and so would all the other guests. For a dinner party starting at 6pm, we would roll comfortably in at 7pm. I always presumed this was a Bangladeshi thing. So, you can only imagine my astonishment when after being employed by a huge, multinational marketing agency, I discovered that my colleagues across the world would also turn up to virtual meetings a consistent 10 minutes late and be very casual about it.

Baffled and perplexed, I turned to Google for answers. Traipsing through the results brought up by an abundant number of blogs about business culture, it was revealed that the way we perceive time depends on where we come from, and it affects a huge variety of things; including how punctual we are, our willingness to wait, and our reactions to time pressure.

In monochronic cultures like the US, Canada and many northern European countries, time is divided into small units and seen as a commodity that can be spent, saved, or wasted. Regimented schedules allow for the ‘control’ of time. Tasks are often completed one at a time, and people see this as a way to use time to their advantage. As people believe that they have scarce time, they tend to structure their lives, especially business operations, by milestones and

deadlines. These time-related goals are so indispensable to everything they do that not meeting these can call their work ethic or competence to do their jobs into question.

In other cultures that are called polychronic people are less focused on accounting for every unit of time and take a more fluid approach to getting things done, sometimes working on multiple tasks at the same time. More importance is placed on maintaining harmony. In this context, deadlines could be viewed as targets to be met in the midst of other equally crucial tasks and priorities. They are viewed in terms of avoiding doing damage to a particular relationship, rather than getting something done just for the sake of meeting a deadline. Many Latin American, African, Asian and Arab cultures fall into this category, especially countries like Mexico, Pakistan, India, China (rural parts), the Philippines, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.”

by Rehnuma Choudhury

1. According to the author, time and punctuality perception mostly stems from personal factors.
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. What is TRUE about Rehnuma Choudhury’s Bangladeshi family and friends, according to the text? Check all that apply.
 - a) They adapted their habits and life dynamics to the culture of England.
 - b) They preserved their Bangladeshi habits and life dynamics living in England.
 - c) They have a hard time dealing with English people.
 - d) They perceive coming late as a habitual practice.
3. Rehnuma Choudhury was ‘astonished’ because
 - a) she found it disrespectful when other employees in her company were constantly late.
 - b) her colleagues never apologised for coming late.
 - c) she realised that Bangladeshi are not the only cultural group that comes late.
 - d) her colleagues wore casual clothes for business meetings.
4. According to the text, before starting her work at a multinational marketing agency, Rehnuma Choudhury did not recognise cross-cultural differences in time perception.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Not stated
5. Match these characteristics with monochronic or polychronic cultures described in the text.
 - a) “Time is money” is a common saying. MONOCHRONIC / POLYCHRONIC
 - b) People will often rely on other people as time cues. MONOCHRONIC / POLYCHRONIC
 - c) Time is flexible, and work merges with personal time. MONOCHRONIC / POLYCHRONIC
 - d) Tasks are completed in an orderly fashion. MONOCHRONIC / POLYCHRONIC
6. In the paragraph before last, find the word that means the following: ‘so good or important that you could not manage without it’ = _____ (*type it in small letters*).

Task 2. For questions 7-12, think of one word which can be used appropriately in all three idioms, proverbs, or expressions from around the world. Type the word in small letters (12 points).

7. The morning _____ has gold in its mouth. (German Proverb)
The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one _____. (Japanese Proverb)
A(n) _____ of play discovers more than a year of conversation does. (Portuguese Proverb)
8. Don't push yourself _____ if you don't have the heart. (Sicilian Proverb)
Do not fear going _____ slowly; fear only to stand still. (Chinese Proverb)
A boat doesn't move _____ if each one is rowing their own way. (Swahili Proverb)
9. Where there is action, there is _____. (Danish Proverb)
Study without reflection is a _____ of time; reflection without study is dangerous. (Chinese Proverb)
Haste makes _____. (African Proverb)
10. _____ and accuracy do not agree. (Irish Proverb)
Don't look for _____ in a cheap horse; be content if it neighs. (Nigerian Proverb)
It is hasty _____ that doesn't succeed. (Dutch Proverb)
11. What is the use of _____ when we are not on the right road? (German Proverb)
No one can see their reflection in _____ water. It is only in still water that we can see. (Taoist Proverb)
The turtle does not suffer when _____. (African Proverb)
12. A happy man does not hear the _____ strike. (German Proverb)
Even a broken _____ is right twice a day. (English Proverb)
Memory is life's _____. (Spanish Proverb)

Task 3. For questions 13-19, match the sociocultural facts with their countries of origin. There are more countries than you will need (14 points).

A	the USA	D	France	G	Japan
B	Thailand	E	Spain	H	Russia
C	Germany	F	the Czech Republic	I	Bangladesh

13. In this country, there is a period of time in the afternoon when shops, cafés, and other businesses would close for a few hours. This closing allows for people to eat, rest, and escape the heat.

14. In ancient times this country used candle clocks to gauge time's progression. They were made of wax or a wax and plant oil mixture, often decorated with elaborate artwork. They used the "koku" system, dividing day and night into six equal parts.
15. The most common national trait associated with the people of this country is that they are pathologically punctual. That is why being late for even a minute will require an apology.
16. Brunch – a combination of breakfast and lunch eaten usually during the late morning, originated in England in the late 1800s, but later became extremely popular and widespread in this country. Typical brunch foods and dishes include a bagel with cream cheese, an avocado toast, bacon, Eggs Benedict, and others.
17. If you're planning a visit to this country, one of the must-see attractions is the Astronomical Clock. Located in the heart of the capital's Old Town Square, this medieval clock has been ticking since 1410, making it the third-oldest astronomical clock in the world and the oldest still in operation.
18. This country is widely known for its celebration of the imminent end of winter. The holiday has its origin in both pagan and Christian traditions. A traditional food eaten is pancakes, being simultaneously funeral food linked to the ancestry cult and the symbol of the sun.
19. This country's way of expressing time can be confusing for Westerners who are used to a 12-hour clock divided between am and pm. That's because the time system commonly used there is the 6-hour clock. If a person from this country speaking in English tells you it's '2 o'clock', they might mean '2 o'clock in the afternoon' or 'sawng thum' (which translates as '2 o'clock in the evening') i.e. 8 pm.

PART 2. ANALYTICAL WRITING (50 points)

Task 4. Now you have learned about the key differences between monochronic and polychronic cultures. Write an essay analysing the specifics of time and punctuality perception in your country from the perspective of your cultural experience and background. Your essay should have an introduction, two/three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

You must:

- define the cultural phenomenon using your own words;
- explain how this cultural phenomenon impacts intercultural communication;
- analyse how this cultural phenomenon is reflected in your culture in the given sphere providing examples.

You can receive a maximum of 50 points for this task.

ANSWER KEY

TASK 1

- 1) B
- 2) B, D
- 3) C
- 4) B
- 5) a - MONOCHRONIC; b - POLYCHRONIC; c - POLYCHRONIC; d - MONOCHRONIC
- 6) indispensable

TASK 2

- 7) hour
- 8) forward
- 9) waste
- 10) speed
- 11) running
- 12) clock

TASK 3

- 13) E
- 14) G
- 15) C
- 16) A
- 17) F
- 18) H
- 19) B