

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

10-11 классы / 10th and 11th Grades

Вариант 3 / Version 3

The test consists of 2 parts: Language and Culture Studies and Analytical Writing.
Duration – 80 minutes.

PART 1. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES (50 points)

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

Individualist or Collectivist? How Culture Influences Behaviour

If someone asked you to finish the sentence, “I am _____”, what sorts of things would you include in your response? Would you focus on your personality traits? Your job title? Or your relationships to others? Psychologists have found that someone’s cultural background can affect what sorts of things they choose to write down in an exercise like this. Although there are many ways we can define culture, one of the most fascinating cultural dimensions best studied by psychologists has been the difference between individualistic and collectivistic cultures or individualism/collectivism index.

How does culture affect the way we see ourselves? People from individualistic cultures are more likely to have an independent view of themselves (they see themselves as separate from others, define themselves based on their personal traits, and see their characteristics as relatively stable and unchanging). On the other hand, people from collectivistic cultures lean towards an interdependent view of themselves (they see themselves as connected to others, define themselves in terms of relationships with others, and perceive their characteristics as more likely to change across different contexts). Going back to the example I began this post with, people from individualistic cultures demonstrate a tendency to mention personal traits when finishing the sentence “I am...”, while people from collectivistic cultures are more inclined to list relationships and group memberships. Researchers have found that Western cultures tend to be more individualistic, while East Asian cultures score higher on collectivism. However, it’s important to remember that many factors can influence individualism/collectivism, so individuals within a culture can also differ in their levels of independence/interdependence.

How does culture impact relationships? In individualistic cultures, relationships are often seen as voluntary, and it’s not uncommon to choose to end relationships that are not beneficial. On the other hand, relationships in collectivistic cultures are often seen as more stable and permanent. Additionally, researchers have hypothesised that, in collectivistic cultures, there is a greater obligation to not be a burden on close ones.

How does culture affect social support? When we're under stress, our cultural background may impact the type of social support we strive to receive and benefit from most. Research has found that East Asians and Asian Americans are less likely than European Americans to talk about an event that they are stressed by. Psychologists have suggested that East Asians refrain from exposing a stressful event because doing so can present a challenge to relationships in collectivistic cultures. Instead, it is more probable that individuals from East Asian cultures will seek out implicit social support, which involves spending time with close others without actually talking about a stressor.

How does this affect you? Well, when next time deciding how best to help a friend who is under stress, considering culture may be important for understanding where they are coming from and how to support them in the most productive way. It's important to remember that cultural psychology doesn't allow us to know a given person's level of individualism/collectivism (after all, there can be collectivistic Westerners and individualistic East Asians). However, cultural psychology suggests that thinking about individualism and collectivism can help us to better understand ourselves and our relationships.

By Elizabeth Hopper, PhD

1. Elizabeth Hopper's article is mainly about
 - a) the key differences between individualism and collectivism.
 - b) the impact of the individualism/collectivism index on one's social behaviour.
 - c) the ways to help a friend in need relying on their level of individualism/collectivism.
 - d) the psychological premises of the individualism/collectivism index.
2. Which of the following statements are true according to the text? Check all that apply.
 - a) The individualism/collectivism index has been thoroughly investigated by psychology scientists.
 - b) People in individualistic cultures always break up with their partners if they derive no benefits from them.
 - c) People in collectivistic cultures believe that keeping things that stress them out to themselves can have a negative effect on relationships.
 - d) Studying cultural psychology improves one's self-awareness and interpersonal communication skills.
3. Representatives of individualistic cultures tend to name personal traits when finishing the sentence "I am..." because they
 - a) are self-centred.
 - b) define themselves independently from others.
 - c) want to stand out from others.
 - d) do not have any interdependence with other group members.
4. According to the text, one's individualism/collectivism index is strictly geographically determined.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Not stated

5. Match these characteristics with individualistic or collectivistic cultures' descriptions given in the text.
- People _____ favour _____ consistency _____ in _____ relationships.
INDIVIDUALISTIC/COLLECTIVISTIC
 - People view their personality characteristics as flexible and situationally adaptive.
INDIVIDUALISTIC/COLLECTIVISTIC
 - People under stress may openly share what causes their anxiety problems.
INDIVIDUALISTIC/COLLECTIVISTIC
 - People are more inclined to endeavour not to create problems for the people they love.
INDIVIDUALISTIC/COLLECTIVISTIC
6. Find the word from the text that means the following: 'suggested but not communicated directly' = _____ (*type it in 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. Where _____ is, there shall my country be. (Latin Proverb)
It's better to eat a mushroom in _____ than to eat meat in slavery. (African Proverb)
He who has lost his _____ has nothing else to lose. (German Proverb)
8. It takes _____ to tango. (Traditional Proverb)
_____ shorten the road. (Irish Proverb)
_____ is an army against one. (German Proverb)
9. Habit is the intelligence of the _____. (German Proverb)
A tiger cannot beat a _____ of monkeys. (Chinese Proverb)
Never give advice in a _____. (Arab Proverb)
10. Try to be in good company, even when you are _____. (Hungarian Proverb)
Who speaks _____ is always right. (Zanzibar Proverb)
Laugh, and the world laughs with you; weep, and you weep _____. (English Proverb)
11. Live _____ like brothers and do business like strangers. (Arab Proverb)
Birds of a feather flock _____. (Traditional Proverb)
Once the teeth are _____ they can crack the bone. (African Proverb)
12. Cheerful _____ shortens the journey. (German Proverb)
Tell me the _____ you keep, and I will tell you who you are. (Dutch Proverb)
Misery loves _____. (English 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	Indonesia	D	Argentina	G	USA
B	Japan	E	Germany	H	China
C	Russia	F	Morocco	I	Moldova

13. The plates are served on a turntable also called a rotating tray or “Lazy Susan”. Everybody takes from the dishes, turning the table to reach the food they want to sample or eat.
14. A city in this country is home to a large number of communal apartments (about 70,000 in total), a type of housing where two to seven families each have their own room but share the hallways, kitchen, and bathrooms.
15. One of the biggest challenges upon entering university or college for students of this country is the task of creating their own individual schedule choosing the courses they want to study in the fall semester.
16. According to this country’s law, a prospective employer may only ask the candidate questions that are reasonable, legitimate, and do not disproportionately invade the candidate’s privacy.
17. Most traditional families on this island (which is part of a large archipelago) live within a family compound in villages that may have a population of around 700-800 people. Family compounds typically contain several homes for different members of the extended family.
18. Under this country’s law, married couples are not allowed to have separate surnames and must choose one or the other. About 96 percent choose the man's surname.
19. The yerba mate is a popular drink in this country. When you are invited to try it with the locals, you will share the same traditional ‘cup’, which is passed in a circle among the guests in a counter clockwise direction.

PART 2. ANALYTICAL WRITING (50 points)

Task 4. Now you have learned about the individualism/collectivism dimension in intercultural communication. Write an essay analysing the role of individualism/collectivism in school 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.

ANSWER KEY

TASK 1

- 1) B
- 2) A, D
- 3) B
- 4) B
- 5) a - COLLECTIVISTIC; b - COLLECTIVISTIC; c - INDIVIDUALISTIC; d - COLLECTIVISTIC
- 6) implicit

TASK 2

- 7) freedom
- 8) two
- 9) crowd
- 10) alone
- 11) together
- 12) company

TASK 3

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