

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

10-11 классы / 10th and 11th Grades

Вариант 4 / Version 4

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).

Taking it Slow, Spanish-Style

Apparently, when Spaniards think “American,” the first trait that springs to mind is “patriotic.” When I inquired my History of Spain professor about what makes her “proud” to be a Spaniard, she gave me an odd look. “I don’t know if I’m proud, but I appreciate the ‘Spanish way of life,’” she told me. By this, she implied the Spanish tendency to relish life in a laid-back way. My professor was careful to emphasize that Spaniards aren’t “lazy,” as the stereotype goes. They presume that every moment of life should be seized. Sometimes taking the time to smell the roses can be completely worth it, in Spaniard’s eyes. An American might moan if a waiter doesn’t make a beeline for their table right after they sit down, but in Spain, it’s considered polite for a waiter not to bug you, to give you time to unwind and look at the menu. What’s rude or not all stems from one’s perspective.

For my professor, who resided in the U.S. for several years, Americans exert too much pressure on themselves to be thriving. To her it always seemed they were in a hurry compared to the pace of life characteristic for Spanish culture. To some extent, I agree with her assessment. Especially when it comes to the business world, Americans are inclined to “live to work,” not “work to live.” It’s not that Spaniards don’t work diligently. They just acknowledge that sometimes you have to sit back and de-stress before you can be productive again.

And yet, as Thomas and Inkson indicate, not all members of a culture are identical: “Personality is based on the specific genetic makeup and personal experiences that make each of us a unique individual,” and it determines the major part of our behaviour. You can’t lump all members of a culture together and expect them to act exactly the same way. For example, I am a laid-back person, even if sometimes I stress out about school. If it’s midnight and I’m not done with my homework, I’ll head straight to bed and finish it in the morning. However, one of my roommates last year was the opposite. She was self-proclaimed “Type A” (a type of personality associated with high achievement, competitiveness and impatience) and always had to schedule her days down to the

minute. In exchange, she got to finish all her homework days before it was due. My roommate is more of a “textbook” American, even though both of us belong to the same culture.

From the moment I learned that siesta is a real cultural practice, I’ve embraced the Spanish “polychronic” sense of time and strived to say goodbye to the American need for “monochronic” punctuality. In simple terms, the concept of time in a polychronic culture is free-flowing and changes depending on each distinct situation. Distractions and interruptions are a natural part of life and have to be taken in stride. On the other hand, a monochronic culture focuses on doing one thing at a time, concentrating on the job at hand, steering clear of all distractions and highlighting the value of being prompt no matter what, keeping to plans as best they can. The critical difference between the two is that monochronic cultures prioritize schedules over personal affairs, while polychronic cultures value interpersonal relationships more than tasks.

Sure, sometimes I miss stores being open nearly 24/7 (oh, Target, te extraño), but I still favor the relaxed pace of Spanish culture over the constant fuss of my home country. I wonder if the rationale for siesta is to avoid the hottest part of the day in the summer? If only Texans were to catch on to that idea! None of this means that I want to completely become a Spaniard, though. As much as I love my host country, I can’t turn my back on the culture I grew up in. For one, I miss my boyfriend. Also hamburgers. For another, if I were to take a siesta for the rest of my life, I would never get anything done.

by Elle

1. The article is mainly about
 - a) the advantages of life in Spain and the disadvantages of life in the USA.
 - b) the causes for the Spanish laid-back attitude to life.
 - c) the interdependence of time perception and one’s life perspective.
 - d) the benefits of a siesta.
2. Which of the following statements are true according to the text? Check all that apply.
 - a) Americans consider the waiters' lack of punctuality inappropriate due to their high standards of table service.
 - b) Polychronic people may perceive the monochronic way of life as hasty.
 - c) The author's roommate was a "textbook" American because she excelled in her studies.
 - d) The causes of siesta are not driven by hot climate only.
3. According to the text, people with the polychronic concept of time have a tendency to remain idle throughout life.
 - a) True
 - b) False
4. The study of time perception suggests that
 - a) people’s sense of time is fully determined by their cultural background.
 - b) people’s sense of time is fully determined by their individual experiences.
 - c) people’s sense of time is determined by a unique combination of their cultural background and individual experiences.

5. Match these characteristics with the descriptions of monochronic and polychronic cultures' given in the text.
- a) Representatives of this culture prioritize the human factor over plans.
MONOCHRONIC/POLYCHRONIC
 - b) Digressions from the arranged schedule are perceived negatively.
MONOCHRONIC/POLYCHRONIC
 - c) Personal matters may be sacrificed to succeed in accomplishing the goals set.
MONOCHRONIC/POLYCHRONIC
 - d) People are more comfortable altering schedules to fit a situation as it changes.
MONOCHRONIC/POLYCHRONIC
6. Find the word from the text that means the following: 'happening or done in a continuous and natural way' = _____ (*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. Better three hours too soon than a _____ too late. (William Shakespeare)
One _____ of patience can result in ten years of peace. (Italian Proverb)
It is better to be a coward for a _____ than dead for the rest of your life. (Irish Proverb)
8. _____ is the thief of time. (Oscar Wilde)
_____ is the sole of business. (French Proverb)
_____ is the politeness of kings. (Hungarian Proverb)
9. Time and tide _____ for no man. (German Proverb)
If you _____, you may never start. (African Proverb)
If you have learnt to _____, you may be the Queen of Sweden. (Danish Proverb)
10. Today is _____'s pupil. (Spanish Proverb)
No man can call again _____. (Latin Proverb)
If we remember the quarrels and mistakes of _____, we will never have someone to party together with us. (Rwandese Proverb)
11. _____ is a bitter plant, but it has a sweet fruit. (German Proverb)
For what cannot be cured, _____ is best. (Irish Proverb)
With time and _____, the mulberry leaf becomes a silk gown. (Chinese Proverb)
12. Begin in time to finish without _____. (American Proverb)
Even waking up early doesn't _____ the dawn. (Mexican Proverb)
He who is in a _____ always arrives late. (Georgian 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	Spain	D	Israel	G	UK
B	Morocco	E	Moldova	H	Georgia
C	France	F	Argentina	I	Japan

13. In accordance with the date system of this country, years are counted in eras. Each era is given its name which starts the day the Emperor ascends to the throne and ends on the day of the Emperor's death.
14. A renowned surrealist painting of a world-famous artist who lived, studied, and worked in this country examines how variable and fluid the human perception of time is.
15. In this country that has a star on its flag the common time perception philosophy is stated in the following proverb: "One has all the necessary time to make it in life".
16. This country has a national holiday that celebrates the turning point in the season and is commonly associated with the tradition of tying red (to represent summer) and white (to represent winter) threads on a branch of a fruit tree as that is supposed to bring wealth and prosperity.
17. A tea-related ritual was introduced in the early 1840s in this country, which is a meal eaten between 3:30 pm and 5 pm and composed of sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, sweet pastries, and cakes. All of which is served with a pot or two of tea.
18. This European country has the highest number of time zones (12), mostly due to its various territories around the world.
19. If you are planning a visit to this eighth-largest country in the world, you should know that for a dinner at someone's home arriving at least an hour late is often expected. You will still be welcomed anytime afterwards though (but not earlier).

PART 2. ANALYTICAL WRITING (50 points)

Task 4. Now you have learned about the perception of time in different cultures. Write an essay analysing the impact of polychronic/monochronic sense of time on the way you structure and organise your daily activities 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) C
- 2) B, D
- 3) B
- 4) C
- 5) a - POLYCHRONIC; b - MONOCHRONIC; c - MONOCHRONIC; d - POLYCHRONIC
- 6) free-flowing

TASK 2

- 7) minute
- 8) punctuality
- 9) wait
- 10) yesterday
- 11) patience
- 12) hurry

TASK 3

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