

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

10-11 классы / 10th and 11th Grades

Вариант 8 / Version 8

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).

What is Nonverbal Communication?

Nonverbal communication, also called manual language, is the process of sending and receiving messages without using words, either spoken or written. Similar to the way that italicizing emphasizes written language, nonverbal behaviour may emphasize parts of a verbal message. The term nonverbal communication was introduced in 1956 by psychiatrist Jurgen Ruesch and author Weldon Kees in the book ‘Nonverbal Communication: Notes on the Visual Perception of Human Relations.’ Nonverbal messages have been recognized for centuries as a critical aspect of communication. For instance, in ‘The Advancement of Learning’, Francis Bacon observed that ‘the lineaments of the body do disclose the disposition and inclination of the mind in general, but the motions of the countenance and parts do not only so, but do further disclose the present humour and state of the mind and will.’

Later on Judee Burgoon has identified seven different nonverbal dimensions: body movements including facial expressions and eye contact; paralanguage that includes volume, rate, pitch, and timbre; personal appearance; our physical environment and the artifacts or objects that compose it; proxemics or personal space; touch; and chronemics or time.

Certain forms of nonverbal communication have different meanings in different cultures. For example, a gesture or motion that means one thing to people in the United States may mean something entirely different in Japan. Whereas an American is likely to point with an index finger, a Japanese person will more likely gesture with a hand, as pointing with an index finger is considered to be rude in many Asian cultures.

An important cultural difference when it comes to nonverbal communication is the display of emotion: some cultures are more restrained than others and refrain from excessive displays of

emotion in public or at all. Some cultures may also suppress facial emotion, believing an animated face to show a lack of control over one's emotions.

Eye contact is another aspect of nonverbal communication that differs across cultures. In the United States, direct eye contact is generally considered to be a sign of trustworthiness and interest in an individual's words. However, in some instances, a prolonged gaze may be considered by some to be a sign of sexual interest or attraction. In countries such as Africa and Japan, eye contact is generally avoided, as direct eye contact may be considered disrespectful. Yet in Arabic cultures, the opposite is true: eye contact is believed to show interest and honesty.

Psychologists Paul Ekman and Wallace Friesen in discussing the interdependence that exists between nonverbal and verbal messages, identified six important ways that nonverbal communication directly affects our verbal discourse.

First, we can use nonverbal signals to emphasize our words. All good speakers know how to do this with forceful gestures, changes in vocal volume or speech rate, deliberate pauses, and so forth. Second, our nonverbal behaviour can repeat what we say. We can say yes to someone while nodding our head. Third, nonverbal signals can substitute for words. Often, there isn't much need to put things in words. A simple gesture can suffice (e.g. shaking your head to say no, using the thumbs-up sign to say 'Nice job,' etc.). Fourth, we can use nonverbal signals to regulate speech. Called turn-taking signals, these gestures and vocalizations make it possible for us to alternate the conversational roles of speaking and listening. Fifth, nonverbal messages sometimes contradict what we say. A friend tells us she had a great time at the beach, but we're not sure because her voice is flat and her face lacks emotion. Finally, we can use nonverbal signals to complement the verbal content of our message. Being upset could mean we feel angry, depressed, disappointed, or just a bit on edge. Nonverbal signals can help to clarify the words we use and reveal the true nature of our feelings.

In conclusion, nonverbal communication is an extremely complex yet integral part of overall communication skills. However, people are often totally unaware of their nonverbal behaviour. Knowledge of these signs can be used to encourage people to talk about their concerns and can lead to a greater shared understanding and cooperation, which is, after all, the purpose of communication.

by Richard Nordquist

1. According to the author, non-spoken cues do not constitute the essential part of discourse.
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. What nonverbal dimensions did Judee Burgoon mention? (*Check all that apply.*)
 - a) Accent
 - b) Symbols
 - c) Vocalics
 - d) Physical contact

3. Choose the word that best describes the 'relationships' between particular kinds of nonverbal communication and cultures.
 - a) Independence
 - b) Difference
 - c) Regulation
 - d) Understanding
4. According to the text, a basic awareness of nonverbal communication strategies cannot help to improve interaction with others.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Not stated
5. Match these examples with descriptions of verbal or nonverbal communication given in the text.
 - a) Someone stares at a person for a long period of time. VERBAL/NONVERBAL
 - b) Someone nods his head in agreement. VERBAL/NONVERBAL
 - c) Someone says 'Great job!'. VERBAL/NONVERBAL
 - d) Someone is unemotional and moody. VERBAL/NONVERBAL
6. Find the word from the text that means the following: 'be enough or adequate' = _____ (*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. _____ does not cook rice. (Chinese proverb)
 _____ about things of tomorrow and the mice inside the ceiling laugh. (Japanese proverb)
 When you _____ about the sun, you will see the beams. (Canadian proverb)
8. Different _____ means different custom. (Indonesian proverb)
 _____ is one thing, and varnish is another. (American proverb)
 There is no point in living if we cannot take back our _____. (African proverb)
9. A letter from the heart can be read on the _____. (Swahili proverb)
 A man says his word to the _____. (Azerbaijani proverb)
 Three things cause sorrow to flee: water, green trees and a beautiful _____. (Moroccan proverb)
10. _____ is also speech. (African proverb)
 Talking is silver, _____ is golden. (Hebrew proverb)
 Wisdom consists of ten parts – nine parts of _____, and one part with few words. (Arab proverb)
11. Discretion in _____ is more important than eloquence. (English proverb)
 Not _____ but facts convince. (Greek proverb)

The worst kind of person is one whose power of _____ is greater than his power of thought. (Hebrew proverb)

12. _____ trust themselves, ears trust others. (German proverb)

The _____ have one language everywhere. (English proverb)

Don't be too bold, or you will burn your _____; but don't be too slow, or you will lose your share. (Lithuanian 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	India	D	Azerbaijan	G	Latvia
B	South Korea	E	Norway	H	Great Britain
C	China	F	Russia	I	Bulgaria

13. If you dine in this country, you will need to take off your shoes, so be prepared to have presentable, clean feet and think about socks in advance.
14. The left hand is considered impure in this populous country; the proper etiquette is to use your right hand to greet someone, accept or give money.
15. It is common to give flowers for weddings, birthdays and other occasions in this country but give them only in odd numbers because it represents a happy or a joyful occasion whereas given in even numbers represents something sad.
16. In this Balkan country, moving your head up and down means 'no'.
17. For people in this country personal space is really important – they prefer 1,5 metres distance while communicating; besides, avoid putting your arm around someone's shoulder.
18. Slouching is thought to be impolite, rude, disrespectful and more than that, it is a sign of bad manners in this country.
19. When it comes to greetings in this country, men usually greet each other by shaking hands or kissing on the cheek and saying 'salaam' – literally 'peace' – but meaning 'hello'.

PART 2. ANALYTICAL WRITING (50 points)

Task 4. Now you have learned about nonverbal communication. Write an essay analysing the role of nonverbal communication in education 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) C, D
- 3) B
- 4) B
- 5) a - NONVERBAL; b - NONVERBAL; c - VERBAL; d - NONVERBAL
- 6) suffice

TASK 2

- 7) talk
- 8) culture
- 9) face
- 10) silence
- 11) speech
- 12) eyes

TASK 3

- 13) B
- 14) A
- 15) F
- 16) I
- 17) H
- 18) C
- 19) D