

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

10-11 классы / 10th and 11th Grades

Вариант 5 / Version 5

**The test consists of 2 parts: Language and Culture Studies and Analytical Writing.
Duration – 80 minutes. Maximum score – 100 points.**

PART 1. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE STUDIES (50 points)

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

Emotional Intelligence Doesn't Translate Across Borders

One of the greatest assets we have as natives of a culture is our ability to quickly read another person's emotions. Over time we learn how to understand whether our colleagues are truly interested or just giving it lip service by noticing the expression on their faces. We can tell when someone really likes something we've proposed by the way they react. And we can often detect whether someone is truly willing to put in the extra time and effort, just by seeing the fire in their eyes. The problem comes when we cross cultures and venture into a completely different world of emotional expression— both in terms of their expression and their meaning.

Take, for example, the expression of enthusiasm. In the US, it's culturally acceptable, even admirable, to show enthusiasm in a business setting. When arguing for a point in a meeting, it is quite appropriate to express your opinions passionately. It can help to convince those around you. Or when speaking with a potential employer, it is often encouraged to express your interest quite enthusiastically; the employer may interpret how invested you are in a job based on your expressed eagerness.

In many other cultures, however, enthusiasm implies something quite different. In Japan, for example, there are strict boundaries about when and where people are allowed to display emotion. During the regular workday, Japanese individuals are not typically emotionally expressive. Even if they feel excited, they will rarely show it explicitly. This often changes outside of the workplace setting, though, where Japanese people can show a great deal of emotion — for example, when drinking, having dinner with colleagues, or singing karaoke. In China, self-control and modesty are the coin of the realm, not one's ability to outwardly express emotion. In fact, expressing too much enthusiasm, for example, especially in front of a boss, could be seen as showing off.

And it's not just in East Asian cultures where outward expression of emotion isn't culturally appropriate. In the UK, people are typically far more understated and subdued than Americans are. A truly outstanding achievement, for example, is often characterised as “not bad.” And when people ask how each other are doing, the typical answer is “fine” (as opposed to “Great!” as it

might be in the US). What Americans might describe as an “exciting” initiative at work might pass without comment in Britain, since people in the UK value moderation, self-control, and reservedness rather than emotional expressiveness per se.

The problem, however, is that very few managers are aware of these differences. American bosses can be surprised by the lack of passion of their UK or Asian counterparts when, in fact, they may be quite interested but just show it differently. In the reverse situation, individuals from outside the US can be frustrated by how superficial Americans are when offering a big smile, handshake, or hug, not necessarily realising that these expressions may actually be genuine and authentic.

1. According to the author, consensus exists when evaluating and interpreting emotional experiences of the representatives of the same culture we belong to.
 - a) True
 - b) False
2. The linguistic expression “not bad” implies that
 - a) the British and Americans perceive achievement differently.
 - b) the British and Americans have different workplace cultures.
 - c) the British tend to suppress their verbal emotional expression.
 - d) English is less expressive than other languages.
3. What do the cross-cultural differences in emotion evaluation lead to, according to the text? Check all that apply.
 - a) the misinterpretation of the person’s intentions
 - b) the incorrect perception of one’s nonverbal behaviour
 - c) the emotional tension and subsequent conflict
 - d) the biased attitude to representatives of different cultures
4. According to the text, people across cultures feel the same emotions in similar situations, despite how they express them.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Not stated
5. Match these characteristics with reserved or expressive culture types described in the text.
 - a) Emotional expression is tightly linked with the setting.
RESERVED/EXPRESSIVE
 - b) Explicit demonstration of emotions, where appropriate, may benefit one’s career development. RESERVED/EXPRESSIVE
 - c) The social status of the interlocutor impacts the intensity of emotion display.
RESERVED/EXPRESSIVE
 - d) Being passionate about your work is perceived positively in the society.
RESERVED/EXPRESSIVE
6. Find the word from the text that means the following: ‘in a way that is clear and exact’ = _____ (*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. A nice _____ is the best letter of recommendation. (Swedish proverb)
 A man with a sour _____ should not open a shop. (Japanese proverb)
 One hand washes the other and both wash the _____. (Greek proverb)
8. If you have nothing else to offer me, offer me your _____. (Chinese proverb)
 Instead of worrying, a strong man wears a _____. (Japanese proverb)
 All are not friends who _____ on you. (Dutch proverb)
9. _____ is not perfected until it is shared. (African proverb)
 _____ opens the arms and closes the eyes. (German proverb)
 _____ and glass break easily. (Danish proverb)
10. A close mouth and open _____ never did any one harm. (German proverb)
 Only through the _____ of others can we really see our own faults. (Chinese proverb)
 The _____ have one language everywhere. (English proverb)
11. _____ hears no counsel. (German proverb)
 Laughter cannot bring back what _____ has driven away. (Japanese proverb)
 Don't promise something when you are full of joy; don't answer letters when you are full of _____. (Chinese proverb)
12. One man's happiness is another man's _____. (Brazilian proverb)
 One moment's error becomes a lifetime of _____. (Chinese proverb)
 _____ and gladness succeed each other. (French 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	Russia	G	China
B	USA	E	France	H	Argentina
C	Italy	F	Finland	I	South Africa

13. In the culture of this country, there is a concept of mianzi, or face, which refers to the amount of “dignity” or “prestige”. So, 'saving face' means to keep others from losing respect for oneself or to avoid embarrassment.
14. There are over 77 ways to express romantic feelings in the language of this country.

15. There is a gesture for almost everything in this country, from sharing your annoyance to saying that something is delicious.
16. Five possible feelings are recognised in this country: a pleasant feeling (sukha), an unpleasant feeling (duḥkha), neutral feeling (upekṣā), a happy mood (sau-manasya), and an unhappy mood (daur-manasya).
17. The people of this highly expressive country love invading the people's personal space by hugging and kissing to say "Hello," "Thank you," "Goodbye," and more.
18. In the culture of this country, there is an ancient folk round dance accompanied by a chorus. It has its origins in ancient pagan rituals and expresses the feeling of unity.
19. Friendship in this country is often compared to a peach: people often greet strangers with smiles and friendliness but rarely let them in their close circle.

PART 2. ANALYTICAL WRITING (50 points)

Task 4. Now you have learned about the perception of emotions across different cultures. Write an essay analysing the specifics of emotion expression, evaluation, and interpretation 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) A
- 2) C
- 3) A, B
- 4) C
- 5) a - RESERVED; b - EXPRESSIVE; c - RESERVED; d – EXPRESSIVE
- 6) explicitly

TASK 2

- 7) face
- 8) smile
- 9) happiness
- 10) eyes
- 11) anger
- 12) sadness

TASK 3

- 13) E

14)G

15)C

16)A

17)H

18)D

19)B