

**NAME: HASSAN KAMAL**

**ID#: 12925**

**SUBJECT NAME: SOCIOLOGY**

## **QUESTION#1:**

What are some things that define a culture?

## **ANSWER:**

Culture can be viewed as the customs, arts and social interactions of a particular nation, people, or other social group. It can also be defined as an appreciation of the arts and human intellectual achievement. In both views of culture, examples can provide a good way to get a quick understanding of culture.

Culture at work can be shown in a variety of ways including how people dress, how the offices are designed, how the employees are treated and the way the company interjects its culture into its products services and how it projects itself to its customers.

- An office might be casual or formal in design.
- Employees may be encouraged to dress casually to encourage a feeling of equality and to encourage comfort and productivity.
- Management might project a caring and personable attitude by sending cards and gifts to employees on key dates in their lives such as birthdays, marriages, births and deaths of family members.
- The caring and personable attitude of management may be projected to the customers through a high level of service, personal recognition of key customers and corporate involvement in community and charitable organizations.
- The design and location of the offices may relate to the employee's seniority with more senior employees having larger offices or cubicles which are located the furthest from the door.

The attitudes and ways in which people act are an example of the corporate culture at your office.

## **QUESTION#2:**

Consider some of the specific issues or concerns of your generation. Are any ideas countercultural? What subcultures have emerged from your generation? How have the issues of your generation expressed themselves culturally? How has your generation made its mark on society's collective culture?

## **ANSWER:**

It may seem obvious that there are a multitude of cultural differences between societies in the world. After all, we can easily see that people have different beliefs and engage in different practices from one society to the next. It's natural that a young woman from rural Kenya would have a very different view of the world from an elderly man in Mumbai—one of the most populated cities in the world. Additionally, each culture has its own internal variations. Sometimes the differences between cultures are not nearly as large as the differences inside cultures. You'll examine these differences in this section.

Thousands of subcultures exist within the United States. Ethnic and racial groups share the language, food, and customs of their heritage. Other subcultures are united by shared experiences. Biker culture revolves around a dedication to motorcycles. Some subcultures are formed by members who possess traits or preferences that differ from the majority of a society's population. The body modification

community embraces aesthetic additions to the human body, such as tattoos, piercings, and certain forms of plastic surgery. In the United States, adolescents often form subcultures to develop a shared youth identity. Alcoholics Anonymous offers support to those suffering from alcoholism. But even as members of a subculture band together, they still identify with and for the most part harmoniously participate in the larger society.

Sociologists distinguish subcultures from countercultures, which are a type of subculture that rejects the larger culture's norms and values. In contrast to subcultures, which operate relatively smoothly within the larger society, countercultures might actively defy larger society by developing their own set of rules and norms to live by, sometimes even creating communities that operate outside of and apart from the larger society. It is this oppositional, perhaps even Religious and other "cults," a word that derives from the same root as "culture," are also considered counterculture groups. Antagonistic position that mainly distinguishes a counterculture from a subculture.

### **QUESTION#3:**

Identify ways sociology is applied in the real world.

### **ANSWER:**

Sociology is used in multiple applications: marketing strategies; governments might use the information concerning suicide levels to determine if it is a social problem we need to address; legal justice system definitely uses the info; sociology and psychology are used together to help identify criminals; sociology is also used via anthropology to study other cultures and how the development of government has changed. The correlations gathered from sociology can

be used bilaterally in different fields. When marketing, knowing the values of your customer base is definitely valuable when trying to “target” to a specific group of people. However, to the best of my knowledge, it is usually used by \*grand scheme\* thinkers (governments or corporations) to identify social trends, which can shift with the culture of a civilization. Suicide rates, birthrates, death rates, religious beliefs, etc can have an effect on the development of a country, and thus, keeping tabs on them as a ‘predictor’ has been used for decades. For example, when people stopped having children at the end of the babyboomer era, and the babyboomer got old — the number of working people to support the aging population creates strain on the economic development of the country.

There are lots of ways sociology is applied in the real world. E.g. social care for the elderly. Planning the kind of society, we want and how to create it. Making sense of the society we live in and determining that society’s needs. Socialism implied a sense of fairness which is fine in theory but harder to put in practice. For example, give 2 people 500 one might double it while the other may lose it all.

#### **QUESTION#4:**

Do you think "when in Rome, do as the Romans do" is always good advice? Why or why not? Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you had to "do as the Romans do"?

#### **ANSWER:**

Yes, I believe to *do as the Romans do*. It basically means that when in a situation that what you consider 'normal' isn't to others, you should adapt to their norms and values. I might be allowed to walk around the house with my shoes on; doesn't mean that I should walk in the relative's house with my shoes on. Common decency and social courtesy should be acknowledged when visiting a foreign culture/area. Everyone hates the idiotic 'Murcun running around in another country trying to impose his/her 'Murcun ideologies on others' environments/communities. But by the same token those who visit America and talk down about how much worse our culture is than theirs are being equally rude. When I go to Islamabad I don't complain about the food and try to find a McDonald's. Likewise, when my Islamabad friends visit me here in Peshawar they don't bother about our lack of public transportation. Yes, I have been in a situation where I felt I had to "do as the Romans do".

### **QUESTION#5:**

Have you ever experienced culture shock?

### **ANSWER:**

The first stage is when you've just arrived in a new place and you're fascinated by all the new things, the scenery, the smells, the tastes, the way people talk and think and act. Then after some weeks you start comparing the new place to the place where you've just come from, and you start finding faults in the new place. You can get pretty miserable during this period. It can take anywhere from six months to a year to adjust and accept this new culture and way of life (although frankly, there are some people who never make the adjustment). After you've been there a few years, you feel at home — you have friends, you know your way around, you know where to buy the freshest vegetables and the best fish, you've learned to cook the local dishes, and if the language is different you have become good at it. Then when it's time to move on, you don't want to, because you realize that this place has a lot of great things to offer.

The best way to make the adjustment is to keep an open mind, to realize that every place in the world has its pros and cons and every culture has something unique and good to offer, and to be social — make friends, join a club, take language classes, learn a local dance, check out the music scene, and so forth.