

*Kingdom of Bahrain
Ministry of education
Al-Ahd Al-Zaker secondary school
i-EARN section*

Culture & Personality



*Know My culture
then you Know me*



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City: Hamad Town
Country: Bahrain



Name of Project:
Culture & Personality

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We do not understand them!!

Sometimes, if not all the time, we do not understand people when we visit their countries or even encounter them in our country. We even sometimes do not like them because of their behavior or attitude. We tend to judge them without knowing why they behave in a certain way not in another.



Have we asked ourselves whether others look the same way to us as we do?

Have we wondered whether they think we are "weird" or not?

Has anybody of us tried to find out why they are different from us, and why their personalities are totally different from ours?

Well, we have.. since we have a lesson about culture shock.

We do not realize the reasons behind people's attitudes especially if they are from different countries and different cultures. That's why we find some difficulties in understanding them.



What shapes our personalities?

Personality!



First, let's define what personality is. Personality is derived from the Latin word 'Persona' which means mask. Thus 'personality' stands for the way we present ourselves to others or the way others view us. It can be defined as an individual's relatively stable and enduring pattern of thoughts, feelings and actions. In simple words our personality defines us as a person, how we are different from others, or what behaviour patterns are typical of a person.





Personality is shaped by both genetic and environmental influences. Among the most important of the latter are cultural influences.

For example, there's reliable links between socialization practices and personality. Both within and between cultures when parents accept their children, the children become sociable, emotionally stable, have high self-esteem, feel self-adequate, and have a positive world view. When parents are rejecting (hitting, using sarcastic language), their children become adults who are hostile, unstable, immaturely dependent, and have impaired self-esteem and a negative world view.


Examples of national personalities:

Japanese personality

British Personality

Bahraini Personality





Japanese are said to be shy and extremely sensitive to what others might think of them and are very hesitant to do something new, different, or independent.

Why??

The Japanese have been raised to think of themselves as part of a group, and their group is always dealing with other groups. No matter how nice you are, or how good your Japanese becomes, you will always be treated as an outsider.

So, don't feel disappointed when you are treated like that in Japan.

British are said to be conservative and reserved. They are not very open or spontaneous. They do not kiss or embrace by way of greeting so as not to allow familiarity. They always keep a certain distance and are not willing to manifest their feelings and emotions. It is not easy to make friends with them but once you have made a friend, it is a friend for life. They say that their best characteristics are culture, courtesy and consideration for the needs of others. They are very polite. They always queue when they are waiting for a bus and hold the door open for the person behind them.



Bahrainis are similar to their Arab brothers because they share the same culture and religion. There are slight differences but not huge ones which may be obstacles in understanding each other. Bahrainis are said to be friendly and hospitable and that's because they are Muslims and Arabs as well. Islam emphasizes on hosting guests the best way we can, and Arabs also were famous for their hospitality even before Islam.



Photographed By Fai

We have set some questions to the collaborated schools in the learning circle, and Al Hoorah School -many thanks to them- wrote very interesting and useful answers :

Zainab A.Alrahman, Al Hoorah Secondary School

1- Do you think your culture affects your personalities? How?
Yes of course it does. I 'm talking about myself, I live in a very preservative family. I can't say anything I want, and be careful in choosing my clothes because I am Muslim so I have to wear Hijab.

2. Can you give us some information about the turning point in your culture which influences your present personalities?

I am going to tell you about relationships between girls and boys. We are not allowed to have any relationship with the other sex outside marriage bond, but nowadays it is something very popular in our society because of the media which affects our youths to do certain things which are not familiar in our culture.

*** note: we have edited Zainab's responses to fit the questions.**



Asma, Al Hoor Secondary School:

1-Do you think your culture affects your personalities? How?

My culture is obviously the foundation of my personality even though I'm only 18 years old and I wasn't born early enough to experience the true colors of my culture, but I continue living it every day through my parents and surprisingly with all the development that happened in Bahrain carry on with our traditions and values. They are a part of me and everyone in Bahrain.

My culture doesn't only affect my personality, it builds it through our customs and way of life; it is a part of our daily routine, our celebrations good and bad and those little things we do which are called habits and from that we can identify each other even if we were in a foreign country.



2- What are the special characteristics of your national personality?

My national personality is a mixture of the past, present and future. It is also built on strong cultural grounds in which Islam and the Arabian ethnicities play an important role in the creation of this personality. However Bahrain always keeps an open perspective towards other societies to seize all the advantages and implement them in order assure a bright future for its people.



3- Can you give us some information about the turning point in your culture which influences your present personalities?

The turning point in my culture is for sure the discovery of oil and independency but in my opinion that's not the only turning point. In 2002 after the signing of al-meethaq, a lot of things changed in every aspect. Democracy has become a part of our lives even us students have learned to speak our minds. Education has become an asset, Due to all that Bahrain now is one of the most educated countries in the gulf, different opportunities raised dreams fulfilled.

To me this is the most important turning point of my culture, this is why I can always speak my mind, and this is why I have goals and dreams I wish to reach.



What shall we do to overcome our differences and increase our understanding to each other?

Getting to know the other cultures is very useful to familiarize yourself with their customs and habits and therefore, you will be able to know them better, and accordingly to understand them better. As a result, you won't look to others as "weird" people, nor wonder why they act this way.

And one of the ways to get familiar with the other cultures and building fruitful relationships with them is :

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**Hope you have enjoyed
and got benefit from
our project and many
thanks to Al Hoorah
School for their
contributions.**