

## **TEXT: The American Cultural Tapestry**

To understand American behavior and public policies, it is essential to know the culture of the United States. In many languages culture usually refers to art, music, history, and literature. In the United States, these would be viewed as the results or artifacts of culture. Our definition of culture is much more anthropological. In American English “culture” simply means the way of life of a group of people passed down from one generation to another through learning. It includes fundamental beliefs, values, thought patterns, and worldviews that are shared by most Americans. We can examine these external aspects of culture and infer that they reflect our internal values, beliefs, and worldviews. Unless we understand American internal culture, it is almost impossible to explain external behavior, including our public policies.

If we had to develop a graphic representation of the American dominant or mainstream culture, we might consider an iceberg. Most of an iceberg is under water and hidden. The same is true of culture. Most of it is internal or inside our heads and well below the water level of conscious awareness. While the visible tip may change - as an iceberg will melt with sun and rain - the base does not change very much over time. In the same way, one’s fundamental beliefs, values, ways of thinking and worldviews change very slowly.

This part of culture is learned unconsciously simply by growing up in a particular community or family. No parent sits down at the breakfast table with a child and teaches a lesson on “cultural values”. Rather they are learned unconsciously just by growing up in a particular family. This is the reason we are relatively unaware of our cultural values until we leave our country and interact with people of other cultures.

## **QUESTIONS (20 points)**

### **I- READING COMPREHENSION (5 points)**

#### **A. Multiple choice questions (1 point)**

*Copy the complete sentence containing the correct answer.*

1. ... part of an iceberg is hidden under water.
  - a. The smallest
  - b. The largest
  - c. The all
  - d. No.
2. The base of culture...
  - a. doesn't change slowly
  - b. changes rapidly.
  - c. doesn't change very much.
  - d. doesn't change at all.

#### **B. True / False questions (2 points)**

*Copy the true sentences and correct the false ones.*

1. The word culture is defined the same way everywhere.

2. The visible part of culture cannot change.
3. The fundamental beliefs, values, ways of thinking and worldviews are the base of culture.
4. Cultural values are learnt at school.

**C. Answer the following questions (2 points)**

1. What does "culture" mean in America?
2. What can melt an iceberg?

**II- LANGUAGE (10 points)**

**A. Copy down each word from the list on the left with the correct definition from the right. (2 points)**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
artifact	to enjoy with others
pattern	having no knowledge of
share	object made by man
unaware	a decorative design

EPREUVESEXAMENS

**B. Put the following into the passive voice. (2 points)**

1. Most Americans share fundamental beliefs, values and worldviews.
2. My sons learnt many things at school.

**C. Copy the dialogue and supply the missing part. (2 points)**

*Adam:* Why are we unaware of our cultural values?

*Assétou:*.....

*Adam:* You're right. They are learnt unconsciously but where?

*Assétou:*.....

**D. Translate into English (2 points)**

1. Le comportement d'un enfant est le reflet de l'éducation qu'il a reçu.
2. Le milieu culturel peut avoir un impact sur l'évolution de l'individu.

**E. Translate into French (2 points)**

This part of culture is learned unconsciously simply by growing up in a particular community or family. No parent sits down at the breakfast table with a child and teaches a lesson on "cultural values."

**III- COMPOSITION (5 points)**

Choose only one topic.

**A.** "Culture is what remains after you have lost everything."

Explain this assertion referring to the text.

**B.** Jeanne Keita is a student in TAL. LHDS - Sévaré. She wants to enter the University. She is given a university admission form to complete.

She was born on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 1996 in Mopti. She lives in Mossikin - Mopti. She is Christian. Her phone number is 76 13 10 29. She succeeded in the DEF exam in 2011. She speaks Bamanan, French, English and Russian. She likes watching TV and playing cards. She would like to study Arts.

Write a form and fill in it for Jeanne using the information given.

(A form covers personal details: name, sex, family status, date of birth, religion, address, contact phone number, schooling and exam passed, languages, hobbies, career ambitions.)