

## THE CULTURE QUIZ

Look at the following cultural statements. They each relate to a particular country. Can you identify the country? Please note that they may refer to more than one country. Try to find the best fit. They are chosen to illustrate the wide variation between cultures and the possibility for misunderstandings. Match the statement to the correct country.

The countries featured are India, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Japan, Greece, Brazil, China, United Kingdom, Tanzania, Thailand, Australia, Uzbekistan. This is not a test: the answers are given in the next page.

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| 1.  | Giving a clock as a present is regarded as unlucky. The number 4 is also unlucky. Both are associated with death.   |
| 2.  | You arrange to meet in the evening 'at around 1 o'clock'. This makes sense when the day starts and ends at 6.00 (i.e. at sunrise and sunset).<br>The meeting time is actually 7.00 in the evening.                            |
| 3.  | When visiting this country it is wise to keep one's hands still. Local people have a rich repertoire of gestures including those which can be very insulting.   |
| 4.  | In business meetings presentations should be made in a straightforward way without elaboration or exaggeration: just present facts and figures. Emotions and feelings do not have a role to play in the business environment. |
| 5.  | Touching a person on the head will cause great offence.   |
| 6.  | When eating in somebody's home you may be offered 'gursha'. Food will be placed in your mouth by hand – by the host or another guest.   |
| 7.  | Guests are welcomed with bread and salt and these are commonly presented by a woman. A special type of bread may be prepared.   |
| 8.  | If you are offered tea, coffee or snacks you should politely turn down the first offer. The offer will be made again and again. Saying no to the first offer is part of the ritual of hospitality.                            |
| 9.  | People welcome the gift of orchids, but purple ones should be avoided. Gifts which are purple or black should not be given, as they are associated with death. For similar reasons handkerchiefs do not make a good gift.     |
| 10. | When communicating, people tend not to get excited and exaggeration is not a feature of their conversation. They may have emotional reactions but they do not express them openly.  |
| 11. | Bread is highly respected and is considered to be holy. It should never be cut with a knife. Bread is broken into pieces and placed flat side down by each place setting.   |
| 12. | Interdependence, cooperation and harmony are highly valued, and children are not raised to be independent but rather to work together.  |