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BS PSYCHOLOGY 1 - A

CAS101

Task: Communicating Across Cultures

1. Read the following statements carefully. Decide if each statement is true or false. Write T on the blank if the statement is true, and F if the statement is false. If the statement is false, re-write or revise it to make it true. Use the space provided for after each statement. (point system: 5 items x 3 points each= 15 points).

 T 1. Anyone is a proficient speaker of a language will find communicating across cultures easy.

 F 2. Our emotions do not matter whenever we communicate with others.

- Our emotions do matter whenever we communicate with others.

 T 3. There is no such thing as a right culture or a wrong culture.

 F 4. All cultures have the same way of thinking about time.

- Not all cultures have the same way of thinking about time.

 F 5. Communicating across cultures happens in one's own country because of the diverse domestic workforce of many companies today.

- Communicating across cultures does not always happen in one's own country just because of the diverse domestic workforce of many companies today.

2. Write a letter to a non-Filipino person who plans to reside in the Philippines someday. In this letter, give this person some pieces of advice about how to communicate with Filipinos.

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Greetings old friend,

How are you doing these days? I am glad to receive your email and it is indeed kind of you to ask me some information about my home country. I do hope this letter finds you in radiant health and in best of spirits. I couldn't express through words how much I get excited when I heard the news that you're planning to reside here in the Philippines soon. It was a long time ago since we met and there is so much to share with you.

My home country is the Philippines and I am sure you've always heard from me on how Filipinos are a very hospitable and friendly people. Always smiling no matter how they feel. I assure you that choosing this country as a place to reside wouldn't be that hard and it'll be lots of fun too. Worry not, for I will guide you on how you could communicate with the people here too. It's really easy, really. Firstly, Filipinos are fond of non-verbal communications. They use hand gestures, pursing of lips, raising of eyebrows and their eyes to communicate. They are less dependent on spoken words. They have a sharp intuitive sense or what we call here as the "pakiramdam" for what is implied and not stated. In our country, smile has various meanings. A smile is not always meant to convey happiness but can mask embarrassment, nervousness or feelings of insecurity. If they do not want to respond to a question, they may just smile. Another advice is that a respectful way of addressing an elder or someone older or one with a high and respected position in society is to say "po" or "ho" at the end of the sentence. In the Philippines, parents and other elders are never addressed on a first name basis. When you don't know something or you are having a hard time with looking for something, do not hesitate to ask. In fact, when responding to a request or a favour, Filipinos generally struggle with saying "no" for fear of hurting other people's feelings. Instead we may convey the diplomatic response of "maybe" even if they actually mean "no".

In the Philippines, handshake is acceptable for both male and female except for Muslim women. So do not be offended if women do not accept your handshake. They may just smile or vouch their head as an acknowledgement. But do also note that even it is imbibed in the Filipino culture to treat guests warmly, whether it's a fellow local or a foreign traveler, there are things better left unsaid too and thus there are things you should not say to any Filipino — else, you'll offend them. Don't say something blunt. Filipinos are usually a timid bunch, and it's unusual for them to be in confrontational situations. In Philippine psychology, there is an approach called 'pakikiramdam', which is a way of incorporating someone's feelings or state of being into your thoughts before performing an action. Try to use this approach before you make a negative remark, and imagine what the other person may feel if you say it. If you think what you're about to say is too frank, keep it to yourself or rephrase it. This way, you won't come off as too strong or cocky.

Honestly, there's really a lot to share. But these are the few things that might really come in handy when you arrive here in the Philippines. Thus, I say or welcome you in advance in my country! I am sure you will enjoy your stay here in the future! Aside from the friendly countrymen found in here, Philippines have a lot to offer too, especially with its cuisine and breathtaking places to go. Hope to see you again soon, Samu. Do always take care and stay healthy. Write to me again if you need any more information. Always here to help you.

Sincerely,

Your old pal, Alcott.