

MODERN LANGUAGES – Cultural Knowledge

LEARNING OUTCOME

Students should be able to demonstrate understanding of the perspectives, practices, or products of the target culture(s).

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Date of Assessment:

Department/Course:

Description of Task:

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

TALLY or #	LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
	4 Advanced	Demonstrates a nuanced understanding of perspectives, practices, or products of the target culture(s).
	3 Proficient	Interprets and responds appropriately to various perspectives, practices, or products of the target culture(s).
	2 Basic	Displays specific knowledge of some perspectives, practices, or products of the target culture(s).
	1 Initial	Shows awareness of some differences between perspectives, practices, or products of the target culture and his/her own.

Common Strengths:

Common Areas for Improvement:

EXPANDED EXPLANATION OF CULTURAL COMPETENCE (From ACTFL)

CULTURE – Initial (1)

Limited interaction. Behaves with considerateness. Is resourceful in nonverbal communication, but is unreliable in interpretation of gestures or culturally-specific nonverbal cues, such as physical contacts with greetings, proximity of speaker. Is limited in language, as indicated under the listening and speaking skills but may be able to manage short phrases of courtesy and basic titles of respect. Lacks generally the knowledge of culture patterns requisite for survival situations.

CULTURE – Basic (2)

Survival competence. Can deal with familiar survival situations and interact with a culture bearer accustomed to foreigners. Uses behavior acquired for the purpose of greeting and leave-taking, expressing wants, asking directions, buying food, using public transportation, tipping. Comprehends the response. Is able to use conventional phrases when being introduced, as well as proper greetings at different times of day. Shows comprehension of formal and informal terms of address. Can provide background information in a format appropriate to the culture, such as street designation before name, and telephone number groupings. Is able to express wants in a culturally acceptable fashion in simple situations. Understands need to go to specialty shops to buy foods. Can identify very common products, prices in local currency, and ask questions on conditions of promotion or sale. Is aware of different meal schedules as well as content of each. Makes errors as the result of misunderstanding; miscommunication, and misapplies assumptions about the culture such as arriving too early for dinner.

CULTURE – Proficient (3)

Survival competence. Can deal with familiar survival situations and interact with a culture bearer accustomed to foreigners. Is able to use conventional phrases when being introduced, as well as proper greetings at different times of day or night. Can provide background information, such as personal address and telephone number. Is able to express wants in simple situations. Is able to ask directions. Understands the need to go to different specialty shops to buy foods. Is aware of the use of the metric system and knows simple phrases. Is aware of different meal schedules as well as the content of each meal. Knows that public transportation has different structure or organization according to country. Comprehends responses. Is generally aware that tips are expected in restaurants, hotels, theaters, and other service situations, yet may make errors as the result of misunderstanding or misapplying assumptions about the culture, such as not tipping gas station attendant or arriving too early for dinner.

CULTURE – Advanced (4)

Can deal with a familiar variety of situations and interact with a culture bearer not accustomed to foreigners. Is able to use sophisticated and typical phrases in a variety of presentational and interpersonal settings. Can provide varied information. Understands nuanced utterances and can perform interpretive communication at an advanced level. Comprehends nuanced responses. Is aware that of cultural expectations, practices, perspectives, and products. Can explain how beliefs, perspectives, and attitudes affect the target countries' position on global issues. Can discuss historical and philosophical backgrounds that have influenced a culture's patterns of interaction. Is able to connect objects and symbols of other cultures to their underlying beliefs and perspectives