Read the following text about culture and highlight the most important ideas in the text.

World cultures



By Kim Ann Zimmermann - Live Science Contributor July 13, 2017

Culture could be roughly defined as "the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, **encompassing** language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts". The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition goes a step further, defining culture as "shared patterns of behaviors and interactions, cognitive constructs and understanding that are learned by socialization". Thus, it can be seen as the growth of a group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group.

"Culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe is right or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and a million other things," Cristina De Rossi, an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in London, told Live Science. The word "culture" derives from a French term, which in turn derives from the Latin "colere," which means to tend to the earth and grow, or cultivation and nurture. "It shares its etymology with a number of other words related to actively fostering growth," De Rossi said.

Based on **the two first paragraphs:**

1. Why is culture derived from colere?

   a. Both words are french

   b. It relates to society's growth

   c. Both related to agriculture

2. Based on De Rossi's definition

   A. culture has inborn factors

   B. Culture intertwines and changes depending on different aspects of our lives.

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C. Culture intertwines and affects our world framework and judgement.

3. We can predict that:

A. The text will focus on different definitions of culture

B. The text will show how cultural elements affect people around the world.

C. The text will focus on history and people learning about cultures.

D. A and B are right.

E. B and C are right.



Western culture: The term "Western culture" has come to define the culture of European countries as well as those that have been heavily influenced by European immigration, such as the United States, according to Khan University. Western culture has its roots in the Classical Period of the Greco-Roman era and the rise of Christianity in the 14th century. Other drivers of Western culture include Latin, Celtic, Germanic and Hellenic ethnic and linguistic groups. Today, the influences of Western culture can be seen in almost every country in the world. Values of Western culture have, throughout history, been derived from political thought, widespread employment of rational argument favouring freethought, assimilation of human rights, the need for equality, and democracy. Furthermore, historical records of Western culture in Europe begin with Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome.

Based on **paragraph 3**, it can be inferred that:

a. The beliefs from ancient Rome have been widespread through colonization.
b. Western beliefs separate themselves from international politics and religion.
c. Democracy and freedom have only been taught in Western culture.



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Eastern culture: Eastern culture generally refers to the societal norms of countries in Far East Asia (including China, Japan, Vietnam, North Korea and South Korea) and the Indian subcontinent. Like the West, Eastern culture was heavily influenced by religion during its early development, but it was also heavily influenced by the growth and harvesting of rice, according to the book "Pathways to Asian Civilizations: Tracing the Origins and Spread of Rice and Rice Cultures" by Dorian Q. Fuller. In general, in Eastern culture there is less of a distinction between secular society and religious philosophy than there is in the West.

Based on **paragraph 4,** It can be inferred that:

a. Eastern countries have a stronger relationship with religion than Western cultures.

b. In Eastern countries, secular life and religious traditions come in tandem in their daily life.

c. In Eastern countries, religious philosophies are less relevant than secular values.



Latin culture: Many of the Spanish-speaking nations are considered part of the Latin culture, while the geographic region is widespread. Latin America is typically defined as those parts of Central America, South America and Mexico where Spanish or Portuguese are the dominant languages. Originally, the term "Latin America" was used by French geographers to differentiate between Anglo and Romance (Latin-based) languages, according to the University of Texas. While Spain and Portugal are on the European continent, they are considered the key influencers Latin culture.



Middle Eastern culture: The countries of the Middle East have some but not all things in common. This is not a surprise, since the area consists of approximately 20 countries, according to PBS (Public Broadcast Station). The Arabic language is one thing that is common throughout the region; however, the wide variety of dialects can sometimes make communication difficult. Religion is another cultural area that the countries of the Middle East have in common. The Middle East is the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.



African culture: The continent of Africa is essential to all cultures because it is believed that Human life originated on this continent, according to the Natural History Museum in London. Africa is home to a number of tribes, ethnic and social groups. One of the key features of this culture is the large number of ethnic groups throughout the 54 countries on the continent. Nigeria alone has more than 300 tribes, for example. Currently, Africa is divided into two cultural groups: North Africa and

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Sub-Saharan Africa. This is because Northwest Africa has strong ties to the Middle East, while Sub-Saharan Africa shares historical, physical and social characteristics that are very different from North Africa, according to the University of Colorado. The harsh environment has been a large factor in the development of Sub-Saharan Africa culture, as there are a number of languages, cuisines, art and musical styles that have arisen among the **far-flung** populations.

Based on the former 3 paragraphs which of these affirmations are true:

A. Language is a key element to differentiate cultures as language usage connects to behaviour and thinking processes.	
B. Middle East is the cradle of human religious philosophies	
C. Africa is the least relevant of humanities' cultures due to its undeveloped tribes	
D. All cultures connect to Africa due to shared physical traits among humanity.	
E. The Middle East shares little to no connection with Western culture.	



Constant change: No matter what culture a people are a part of, one thing is for certain, it will change. "Culture appears to have become key in our interconnected world, which is made up of so many ethnically diverse societies, but also riddled by conflicts associated with religion, ethnicity, ethical beliefs, and, essentially, the elements which make up culture," De Rossi said. "But culture is no longer fixed, if it ever was. It is essentially fluid and constantly in motion." This makes it so that it is difficult to define any culture in only one way.

While change is inevitable, the past should also be respected and preserved. The United Nations has created a group called The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to identify cultural and natural heritage and to conserve and protect it. Monuments, buildings and sites are covered by the group's protection, according to the international treaty, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. This treaty was adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

Based on this last paragraph. What can be inferred about culture?

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Adapted from: https://www.livescience.com/21478-what-is-culture-definition-of-culture.html



Vocabulary: Choose the most suitable answer to the question.

1. **The word** "encompassing" **in the first paragraph is closest in meaning to:**
   a. Include
   b. Combine
   c. Encircle
   d. Specifically

2. **The word** "far-flung" **in the seventh paragraph is closest in meaning to:**
   a. Developing
   b. Remote
   c. Poor
   d. Unprivileged.

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