



What Makes Culture Unique?

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Culture is often described as the invisible thread that binds people together. It is a dynamic system of traditions, values, beliefs, language, and customs that shapes how individuals view the world and interact with one another. Unlike material possessions, culture cannot be bought or sold; it is inherited, learned, and passed on through generations.

In Malaysia, cultural diversity is one of the nation's greatest strengths. Festivals such as Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Chinese New Year, Deepavali, and Kaamatan highlight the richness of this diversity. During these celebrations, communities showcase colourful parades, wear traditional garments, and prepare elaborate dishes that symbolise unity and gratitude. Similarly, in countries like India, Japan, and Mexico, cultural events are more than just entertainment; they are opportunities to preserve heritage and reaffirm a collective identity.

Culture also evolves over time. Globalisation, technology, and migration have transformed how traditions are expressed. For instance, digital platforms now allow people to livestream cultural performances to audiences worldwide. While this helps preserve traditions, it also raises questions about authenticity. Is culture diluted when modern elements are added, or does it simply adapt to remain relevant?

Ultimately, culture teaches individuals respect, empathy, and belonging. It reminds us of our roots while allowing us to appreciate differences in others. Without culture, societies risk losing their moral compass and a shared sense of identity. As anthropologists often argue, culture is not just a part of life—it is the essence of life itself.

1. What does the passage describe culture as?

- a) A material possession that everyone owns
- b) An invisible thread that binds people together
- c) A type of entertainment in certain countries
- d) A national celebration around the world

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as part of culture?

- a) Traditions
- b) Language
- c) Customs
- d) Wealth

3. What makes Malaysia's culture unique, according to the passage?

- a) Its cultural diversity
- b) Its natural resources
- c) Its geography
- d) Its technology

4. Which of the following is a practice during Malaysian festivals?

- a) Wearing Western clothes
- b) Buying expensive gifts
- c) Preparing elaborate dishes
- d) Avoiding public gatherings

5. Cultural events in India, Japan, and Mexico are described as opportunities to...

- a) Entertain tourists
- b) Preserve heritage and reaffirm identity
- c) Compete with other nations
- d) Replace old traditions

6. How has technology influenced culture?

- a) It has replaced all traditions
- b) It makes culture disappear
- c) It stops people from celebrating
- d) It allows livestreaming of performances worldwide

7. The passage raises a question about authenticity. What does this suggest?

- a) Culture must remain the same forever
- b) Modern elements may change cultural traditions
- c) Technology destroys authenticity completely
- d) Culture is no longer important

8. What values does culture teach individuals?

- a) Respect, empathy, and belonging
- b) Wealth and power
- c) Competition and ambition
- d) Independence and self-interest

9. According to the passage, what might happen to societies without culture?

- a) They will become more advanced
- b) They will be more united
- c) They will create new traditions quickly
- d) They may lose their sense of belonging and identity

10. Why does the passage call culture “the essence of life”?

- a) Because it provides financial stability
- b) Because it is part of entertainment
- c) Because it is central to identity and values
- d) Because it can be traded like goods