

University of Khenchela

Faculty of Letters and languages

Department of English

Intercultural communication **KEY ANSWER**

Level: Master 1

SECOND- TERM EXAM

In an essay answer this question:

High- context cultures are defined as cultures in which communication is implicit, indirect and where the meaning is embedded in the context. What's the relation of this with Hofstede's dimensions?

Introduction

- Define **high-context cultures**:
 - Communication is indirect and implicit.
 - Meaning depends on context, relationships, body language, and shared understanding.
- Mention Edward T. Hall as the creator of the concept.
- Introduce Geert Hofstede's cultural dimensions theory.
- Present the thesis:
 - Hall's concept of high-context cultures is strongly related to Hofstede's dimensions, especially collectivism, power distance, and uncertainty avoidance.

Possible thesis statement:

High-context communication is closely connected to Hofstede's cultural dimensions because societies with collectivism, high power distance, and strong social norms tend to communicate indirectly and rely heavily on context.

Body

Paragraph 1: High-Context Cultures and Collectivism

Main idea:

High-context cultures are usually collectivist cultures.

- Explain **collectivism**:
 - Group harmony and relationships are important.
 - People avoid direct confrontation.
- In collectivist societies, people already share common values and experiences.
- Because of this shared understanding, communication can remain indirect and implicit.

- Give examples:
 - Japan, China, Arab countries.

Link to Hall:

- Shared group understanding reduces the need for explicit communication.

Paragraph 2: High Power Distance and Communication

Main idea:

High-context cultures are often associated with high power distance.

- Define **power distance**:
 - Acceptance of hierarchy and unequal power distribution.
- In high power distance cultures:
 - People communicate carefully and respectfully with superiors.
 - Messages are often indirect to avoid disrespect.
- Nonverbal signals and social status become important.

Relation to Hall:

- Meaning is understood through social roles and context rather than direct words.

Paragraph 3: Uncertainty Avoidance and Shared Norms

Main idea:

High-context cultures may also relate to uncertainty avoidance.

- Define **uncertainty avoidance**:
 - Preference for stability, rules, and predictable behavior.
- Strong cultural norms guide communication.
- People rely on traditions and implicit social expectations.
- Communication depends on understanding hidden meanings and accepted behavior.

Relation to Hall:

- Context and shared cultural rules help reduce uncertainty.

Conclusion

- Restate the main relationship:
 - Hall's theory and Hofstede's dimensions complement each other.
- Summarize:
 - Collectivism encourages indirect communication.
 - High power distance reinforces implicit communication.
 - Uncertainty avoidance strengthens reliance on shared norms.