

Culture quiz essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

George Taylor works as a supervisor for an engineering company in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In the UK he had a reputation for speaking his mind and by doing so getting the best out of his staff.

At the current project in Riyadh he supervises 12 British staff and nearly 50 Saudi staff. After a few months George has become increasingly frustrated by what he sees as a less than effective Saudi team. Their lack of competence and slow work pace is worrying George. What should he do to try and bring the Saudi staff back into line? Publicly reprimand a few of the Saudi staff to ensure the message gets across to them all.

By doing so he will also establish who is boss. Pick one member of the Saudi staff to explain his worries to. This staff member will then be used to relay George's opinions to the rest. Speak to as many members of staff individually or in small groups, explaining his viewpoint and encouraging them to better their work practice and enthusiasm.

Report them to his manager, a Saudi national, and let him deal with them

Bob de Jonge and his Thai associate, Chaiwat Soonvichai, are walking into a meeting in Bangkok. Chaiwat asks Bob casually, " Do you have the latest marketing portfolio with you? " Bob stops in his tracks and slaps his forehead. " Why on earth didn't you ask me that earlier? Now there's no time to go back and get it". The two continue on and conduct a successful meeting yet a month later Chaiwat leaves the company. What went wrong? Chaiwat saw the slapping of the forehead as an insult to his intellect. Chaiwat felt a great loss of face through Bob's reaction and felt compelled to leave the company.

Bob should have apologised to Chaiwat after the meeting as the missing portfolio had no negative effect. Bob's reaction was seen as hot-headed and Chaiwat construed that as a bad sign in terms of an employer. Jane and Diana had been working together as teachers in Istanbul, Turkey. It was coming up to the end of their contracts and had decided they wanted to see a bit more of 'real Turkey'. As they got further into the countryside and away from Istanbul they started to feel hostility towards them.

On one occasion they stopped at a small coffee house in a village for some refreshments and found themselves the centre of attention. They felt shaken by the numerous stares. Jane and Diane could not understand the difference in attitude between people in Istanbul and those in the countryside. There was no hostility – in many parts of the world people tend to stare at something new or unusual. Istanbulis are a lot more cosmopolitan and are used to Western women.

Women are not allowed to leave the house in rural Turkey. In small villages in Turkey one should always greet the village head before doing anything. Turks in general are suspicious of strangers and this is amplified in rural locations. On which day would you expect to get least business done in Muslim countries? Friday Saturday Sunday Which of these would make the best gift for a Muslim client? Silk tie Perfume Watch Which of the following is an essential part of business practice in Australia? Punctuality Good communication skills Proper protocol Australians place a high value on: Personal Achievements Personal Appearance Relationships In Arab countries, If you have a proposal to take to a company – who should you aim to speak to? A member of staff that has access to the senior ranks The owner The

relevant departmental manager Jews are forbidden from eating which of these? Duck Lobster Tuna In the Middle East which of these should you avoid when eating? Drinking anything Eating with a full mouth Using your left hand

Answer 1- Option 3 is the most appropriate. Option 1 would have caused members of staff to lose face in front of their colleagues. This would have caused a lack of respect towards George. Option 2 would have caused resentment among the rest of the staff as they would have perceived George as being guilty of favouritism.