

Cultural-Context Inventory

Developed by Claire B. Halverson, PhD

For each of the following twenty statements circle 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) to indicate your tendencies and preferences in a work situation.

	Disagree					Agree				
1. When communicating, I tend to use a lot of facial expressions, hand gestures, and body movements rather than to rely mostly on words.	1	2	3	4	5					
2. I pay more attention to the context of a conversation—who said what and under what circumstances—than I do to the words.	1	2	3	4	5					
3. When communicating, I tend to spell things out quickly and directly rather than talk around and add to the point.	1	2	3	4	5					
4. In an interpersonal disagreement, I tend to be more emotional than logical and rational.	1	2	3	4	5					
5. I tend to have a small, close circle of friends rather than a large, but less close, circle of friends.	1	2	3	4	5					
6. When working with others, I prefer to get the job done first and socialize afterward rather than socialize first and then tackle the job.	1	2	3	4	5					
7. I would rather work in a group than by myself.	1	2	3	4	5					
8. I believe rewards should be given for individual accomplishments rather than for group accomplishments.	1	2	3	4	5					
9. I describe myself in terms of my accomplishments rather than in terms of my family and relationships.	1	2	3	4	5					
10. I prefer sharing space with others to having my own private space.	1	2	3	4	5					
11. I would rather work for someone who maintains authority and functions for the good of the group than work for someone who allows a lot of autonomy and individual decision making.	1	2	3	4	5					
12. I believe it is more important to be on time, than to let other concerns take priority.	1	2	3	4	5					
13. I prefer working on one thing at a time to working on a variety of things at once.	1	2	3	4	5					
14. I generally set a time schedule and keep to it rather than leave things unscheduled and go with the flow.	1	2	3	4	5					
15. I find it easier to work with someone who is fast and wants to see immediate results than to work with someone who is slow and wants to consider all the facts.	1	2	3	4	5					
16. In order to learn about something, I tend to consult many sources of information rather than go to the one best authority.	1	2	3	4	5					
17. In figuring out problems, I prefer focusing on the whole situation to focusing on specific parts or taking one step at a time.	1	2	3	4	5					
18. When tackling a new task, I would rather figure it out on my own by experimentation than follow someone else's example or demonstration.	1	2	3	4	5					
19. When making decisions, I consider my likes and dislikes, not just the facts.	1	2	3	4	5					
20. I prefer having tasks and procedures explicitly defined to having a general idea of what has to be done.	1	2	3	4	5					

Cultural Context Inventory

Scoring Sheet:

The purpose of this inventory is to assess your tendencies toward being high- or low-context oriented. Transfer the circled numbers for each statement to the appropriate blank provided below. Then, add the numbers in each column to obtain your scores

High Context (HC)	Low Context (LC)
1. _____	3. _____
2. _____	6. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	9. _____
7. _____	12. _____
10. _____	13. _____
11. _____	14. _____
16. _____	15. _____
17. _____	18. _____
19. _____	20. _____

TOTALS _____

Put a check mark in the appropriate blank below to indicate which score is larger:

_____ High Context _____ Low Context

Subtract your high context score from your low context score. Record the difference in the blank below:

_____ Low Context

- _____ High Context

_____ **Difference**

A plus number means higher context.

A minus number means lower context.

For more information about cultural context, please see the book *Effective Multicultural Teams: Theory and Practice (Advances in Group Decision and Negotiation)*, Claire B. Halverson (Editor), S. Aqeel Tirmizi (Editor) ©2008 Springer, or the website: http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/pub/Context_Cultures_High_and_Lo.htm brought to you by Dr. Bruce LaBrack, at the University of the Pacific School of International Studies.