

## THEME 10 VALUES AND NORMS READING SKILL (SUNSHINE)

### **A. Read the text and match the main ideas with the paragraphs.**

a. Public benefit and united behavior shape this kind of society.

b. There are different values in different cultures.

c. Members of this type of society only consider their own profit.

(...) 1. Social values and principles are shaped and transferred to the next generations in a national culture, and this is done unconsciously. People might be unaware of their own values until they encounter someone who has different attitudes. In example, working with a colleague from another country may turn into a challenging experience as values may vary immensely. Thus, it is important to learn and embrace these differences in order to communicate effectively with people from other cultures. To do this, understanding the differences between individualistic and collectivistic societies is essential.

(...) 2. Individualistic societies are formed by people who define themselves in terms of 'I' and they are mostly focused on themselves. The mostly valued norms are not only autonomy but also independent thought in these societies. Behaviors are shaped by both the personal needs and aims. Bonds between members are not strong and nuclear families are more common than extended families. Although social relations seem more frequent, they are neither intimate nor close. Western societies are a good example. Therefore, while communicating with a person from European countries, these characteristics should be considered and understand that person without judgement.

(...) 3. Collectivistic societies are formed by people who define themselves in terms of 'we' and they are focused on the members of the society. The mostly valued norms are both social interdependence and collective benefit. Behaviors are shaped by not only interactive bonds but also responsibilities; hence, shared living is underlined. To them, many a little makes a mickle. Extended families such as close relationships with uncles, aunts, and grandparents are common so loyalty is not questioned within family. People favor group activities and relationships are intimate. Turkey is a good example. Turkish people have shared values and they lead a decent life acting accordingly. To illustrate, while hosting guests, Turkish people are not only hospitable but also generous. They serve the best to their guests to share what they possess as this is a collectivistic society regulation: shared living.

### **B. Read again and answer the questions.**

1. What is the significance of national culture?

2. Why is it important to learn the different cultural values?

3. How do you think cultural values are transferred to next generations?

4. Describe individualistic societies in your own words in terms of:

Valued norms:

Family structure:

Social interactions:

5. Describe collectivistic societies in your own words in terms of:

Valued norms:

Family structure:

Social interactions:

6. Which type of society do you appreciate more? Why?

**C. Read the text about Nasreddin Hodja and insert the sentences.**

a. This noble label was given to him in his later life.

b. His jokes were about his daily life and they have been welcomed by the public since his time.

c. Today, people from different countries learn and tell his jokes and stories which have been translated into numerous languages.

Almost all Turkish people are familiar with Nasreddin Hodja whose jokes and stories are part of the Turkish culture. Nasreddin Hodja is not only a great humorist but also a great philosopher and a man of wisdom. He lived in central Turkey, in a small town called Aksehir around 700 years ago. \_\_\_\_\_. Even these days, people in Turkey still laugh at and think about his practicality, stories and elegance.

Nasreddin Hodja created irony for the culture and habits of common people of his time. In addition, he also mocked about the human psychology and social weaknesses. He considered the human element in every aspect of the daily life and used his sarcasm to reveal the reality. This is the reason why his jokes are still in demand at present. His name, Nasreddin, derived from the term 'Victory of Faith' and Hodja means the 'Master'. \_\_\_\_\_. His father was a well-known religious figure of his time as well and served as 'Kadi', the person who distributes the religious law. Nasreddin Hodja is thought to have learned a lot from his father.

Nasreddin Hodja figure has been seen in various theater pieces, movies, cartoons and paintings. Because his stories talk about not only his personal life but also his time and the life of the Turkish people living in Anatolia, they are national and traditional. \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, they have become international. Every year, Nasreddin Hodja International Festival is held in Aksehir between 5th and 10th July and people from all around the world visit his tomb and commemorate him with respect.