

Sample Hofstede Exercise: short version for Power and Individualism/Collective

1. The local politician has just purchased a new Mercedes: funding for the local ambulance is limited so only one of the two ambulances will be operable until funds are secured. You feel:
 - Surprised and angry, and are organizing a protest against government corruption
 - Feel strongly that the politician should be voted out next election
 - Are disappointed in the behavior of the politician
 - Disappointed but not surprise: this is what people in power do
2. You have an idea of a way to improved a process at work that would reduce costs and improve customer service, you:
 - E-mail the boss to ask for an appointment to share your idea
 - Approach your supervisor to inquire how to provide feedback
 - Ask your co-workers how to handle the process, and inquire who would approach the supervisor
 - Keep the idea to yourself: you do not want to draw attention by implying you have an idea that better than your superiors
3. You are going to university and want to study psychology. Your parents have advised you that they have registered you in engineering, and that you may pursue your own interests after you graduate. You:
 - Tell your parents you are switching the major to psychology
 - Chat with your parents to explain your interests, and switch as soon as you get to university in the fall
 - Try to persuade your parents that psychology would be a better fit for you, but agree to try engineering for one year
 - Agree that it is probably a better career opportunity
4. Your parents are worried that you are still single: they advise you that they and another family have selected a spouse for you and the wedding has been arranged. You:
 - Surprised and tell them that you are happy as you are
 - Tell them not to worry, you are selecting your own significant other
 - Tell them you would prefer to meet with your intended prior to the wedding, and consider marriage at some point
 - Start shopping for a wedding outfit
5. Your parents and extended family have called to say that you are to quit school this year and go to take care of your grandmother who lives in a distant rural community. You:
 - Indicate that regrettably it is not feasible for you to help at this time
 - Indicate you can help for a week but must get back before midterms
 - Indicate that you will leave for this term but reserve the right to return at some point
 - Express your hope that you will be able to return as you pack your bags.