



Tasks to be completed through self-directed learning

Tasks are optional. Ideally, you should choose up to 3 tasks and complete them before the second workshop. You can complete the tasks in any order.

Task 1 – Peer Observation

You should arrange to observe the teaching at least one colleague (from any discipline), concentrating on their intercultural skills and those of their students and anyone else in the room to see what you can learn from them. Please discuss the task with your mentor if this is new to you and you need guidance.

There is a Peer Observation sheet with these materials.

Task 2 – Reflective Journal

You can keep a reflective learning journal over the course of the next 6 weeks before the second workshop.

The journal and instructions for its use are with these materials.

Task 3 – Research Task

You can do a short research task. You can choose from the list of tasks below. You can choose how to present the outcomes and evidence of your research. You may wish to write it up on your reflective learning journal or perhaps to record a sound or video file.

- Write about someone who has been influential in the study of culture
- Use of simplified language in your teaching
 - Language for instructions
 - Language to check learning
 - Language used on handouts/text-based resources (such as reading texts)

- Using different resources
 - Using realia (real objects) in teaching to establish meaning
 - Presenting information using graphic organisers
 - Making use of visuals, such as pictures and videos
- Find out how different cultures turn-take in conversation
 - Find out how non-verbal communication differs between cultures
 - Compare British attitudes with different cultures towards one of the following
 - Learning
 - Men and women
 - Time
 - Space
 - emotion

The task below is aimed at participants who wish to delve deeper into the subject and perhaps consider taking a qualification.

Task 4 - Research Essay

In *Culture and Anarchy* (1869), Matthew Arnold defined 'culture' as

“a pursuit of our total perfection by means of getting to know, on all the matters which most concern us, the best which has been thought and said in the world; and, through this knowledge, turning a stream of fresh and free thought upon our stock notions and habits.”

Anthropologist Edward B. Taylor in *Primitive Culture* (1870) offered a broad definition, stating that culture is

“that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”.

Compare and contrast these two definitions of culture.

[Your essay should be no more than 1500 words typed in double spacing.]