

Subjects of Cultural Training Into Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia

1. Political History 1299 – 1989
 - a. The Turks and the Ottoman empire 1299 – 1922
 - b. The tribes and the Royal family 1870
 - c. Problems with the Moslem Brotherhood (Ikhwan almoslimeen)
 - d. Formation of the kingdom 1925 – 1953
 - e. Finding oil and the start of ARAMCO 1938
 - f. The Kings (Saud, Abdelaziz, Saud II, Faysal, Khalid, Fahd, Abdallah)

2. Modern Political History 1979 – 2007
 - a. The Russian invasion of Afghanistan 1979 – 1989
 - b. End of Afghani Jihad, and start of political unrest 1989 – 1994
 - c. Illness of king Fahad, and rise of terrorism 1995 – 2005
 - d. King Abdallah and the new reform 2005 – 2007
 - e. Future perspective 2007 – 2014

3. The Country
 - a. Geography and regions
 - b. Population groups and population spread
 - c. Neighbouring countries and country relations
 - d. Climate and nature
 - e. Government and the politics
 - f. Population layers and the power spread
 - g. Education
 - h. Housing

4. The Regions and their Cultures
 - a. Central Region (Najd / Riyadh)
 - b. North region (Alshamal / Qassim, Ha'il, AlJawf, Alhudud alshamaliyya)
 - c. Eastern Province (Sharqiyah / Dammam, Jubail, Hufuf, Empty Quarter)
 - d. West mountains (Hejaz / Tabouk, Medinah, Mekkah, Jeddah,
 - e. South region (Albaha, Assir, Jizan, Najran)

5. Language and Culture 1: General Overview and Behaviour
 - a. Saudi traditions and clothing (thoub, shemagh, ghutra, 'abaya)
 - b. Inter-gender behaviour and movement in traffic
 - c. Music, literature and leisure
 - d. Philosophy, architecture and technology
 - e. Interaction with foreigners in Saudi Arabia
 - f. View on foreigners and people of other regions
 - g. Concept of time
 - h. Family and privacy
 - i. Body language and general behaviour

6. Language and Culture 2: Religion in Every Day Life
 - a. The division of day
 - b. Prayer and washing up
 - c. Eating habits (food and drinks)
 - d. Birthdays and age
 - e. Health and Prophetic Medicine (altib annabawi [miswak, hejama])
 - f. Behaviour, use of language and thought related to Religion

7. Current Political and Social Changes 2006 – 2007
 - a. The parliament (Majlis Alshurah)
 - b. Political movements and political stance
 - c. Safety, Security and Terrorism
 - d. Women in professional environments, in politics, education and traffic
 - e. International affairs and relations
 - f. Reform of oil management
 - g. Structural (government) organization

Islam

1. History of Islam 570 (622) – 1299
 - a. Life of the Prophet Mohammed (Birth, Hijra, death)
 - b. The successors (the Sahaba and Khalifas)
 - c. Division of the religion in the regions
 - d. The Moslem spread under the Caliphates and the time of crusades
 - e. The Ottoman empire

2. Basic Religion 1: The 5 Pillars
 - a. The witnessing (shahadah)
 - b. Prayer (salah)
 - c. Obligatory charity (zakah, vs. sadaqah)
 - d. Fasting the month of Ramadan (saum)
 - e. The Pilgrimage (Hadj albayt)

3. Basic Religion 2: General Concepts
 - a. God and the prophets (tawheed)
 - b. Mosques and the holy places (3 houses of God: Mekkah, Medinah and AlAqsa)
 - c. The calendar and festivals (Hijra, Eid al fitr, Eid al adha)
 - d. Angels, Djinn and the view on magic
 - e. Friends of the prophet (Sahaba)
 - f. Sayings and customs of the prophet (fiqh, sunnah and hadith)
 - g. Interpretation and pronunciation of the Quran (tafseer and tarteel)
 - h. The holy effort / struggle (jihad in deeds, words or heart)

4. Islamic Law and the Quran
 - a. Jurisprudence and legal hierarchy (quoran, tafseer, hadith, sunnah)
 - b. Theft (seriqa) and killing (Qatl)
 - c. Women's status, the veil (hejab) and adultery (zinah)
 - d. Moslems and non-moslems in the legal system (ahl alkitab, koffar)
 - e. Abandoning the belief, and committing treason (hukm al mortad)

5. Fragmentation of Islam with respect to Saudi Arabia
 - a. Sunni (Wahhabi, Hanbali,...etc)
 - b. Shi'a
 - c. Souffi
 - d. Other strands (Ahmadi,... etc.)

Travel and Life in Saudi Arabia

1. Civil Status and Documents
 - a. Visa (ta'shira) types and who receives them
 - b. The visa sponsorship (kafala)
 - c. The financial guarantee or sponsorship (kafala)
 - d. Residence permit (iqama) and its replacement
 - e. Roles of identification, fingerprinting, signatures and stamps

2. Dealing with the Religious Police
 - a. Background and development religious police
 - b. Authorities and obligations
 - c. Limitations
 - d. Sphere of influence
 - e. How to react to religious police raids and imprisonment

3. Commuting in Saudi Arabia
 - a. Male-female situation
 - b. Driving and traffic
 - c. Role of check-points
 - d. Inside the cities and public transportation
 - e. Between cities and local flights

4. Tourism and Travel
 - a. Lodging and hotel provisions
 - b. Tourism sites
 - c. Recreation and leisure
 - d. Safety and photography
 - e. Transportation types and the international airports
 - f. Leaving the country and passport affairs (jawazat)

Working and Business in Saudi Arabia

1. Personal Documents; Permits, Licenses and Contracts
 - a. Working license (rokhsat ‘amal)
 - b. Working classes and social divisions in labour treatment
 - c. Calculating the basic salary and other contractual clauses
 - d. Employment contracts and labour law
 - e. Language related issues in the contracts
 - f. Termination of contract

2. Company Business License and Documents
 - a. Business forms and regulations per business form
 - b. Chamber of Commerce registration (number)
 - c. Commercial Registration (number)
 - d. Company licences with individual ministries
 - e. The ‘print’, and employment of foreign staff
 - f. Acquiring visas for foreign workers

3. Labour Issues
 - a. Finding and employing appropriate staff
 - b. “Saudization” in labour (Sa’wada)
 - c. Employing foreign staff
 - d. Dealing with insurances (ta’min)
 - e. Issues relating to health, labour conditions, housing and transportation
 - f. Problems and risks involving sponsorship (kafala)

4. Language and Culture 3: Professional and Business Interaction
 - a. Greeting (salaam) and making acquaintance
 - b. Method of approaching
 - c. Hierarchy and use of titles (addressing others)
 - d. Realization of appointments and time
 - e. Invitation and receiving of guests
 - f. Contracts and agreements’ validity
 - g. Requirements of contract to become valid