**CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE**

1. Culture is learned and acquired. Not all things shared generally by a population are cultural - for it to be considered cultural it must be first learned as well as shared.
2. Culture is shared and transmitted. Culture is passed on to succeeding generations primarily through Language/ Communication.
3. Culture is social. Product develops by many people interacting in a group. No man is an island; he is always a part of a group.
4. Culture is about ideas. Culture uses ideas and symbols to give meanings to his environment and experiences. Every individual sees and approaches his world according to standpoint of his culture.
5. Culture gratifies human needs. Human has biological needs such as food, shelter, clothing, protection, love, security and sex.
6. Culture is adaptive.
7. Culture is cumulative. People are able to retain certain features of their culture that are significant.

**Functions of Culture**

1. **Trademark** or special feature that distinguishes one society from another.
2. **Brings together, contains and interprets the values of a society** in a more or less systematic manner.
3. Provides one of the most important bases for **social solidarity**. Social Solidarity inspires loyalty and devotion. When the nation has common feelings, common objectives it results to common national pride.
4. Provides a **blueprint** of, as well as the materials for **social structure**.
5. The culture of any society is the dominant factor in establishing and molding the social personality. **Social stamp** is expected despite differences of individuals.
6. Culture of a society **provides behavioral pattern**. It also provides norm to follow. This explains why student will not come in class wearing her bathing suit.
7. Culture provides individual with the **meaning and direction of his existence**.