

Mexican versus American Culture Table 1

Aspect	Mexico	USA
Aesthetics	Aesthetic side of life is important even at work.	No time for "useless frills".
Competition	Avoid personal competition Favors harmony at work.	Enjoys proving self in competitive situations.
Control	Still not fully accepted. Sensitive to being "checked upon." Sensitive to giving and receiving critical feed-back.	Universally accepted and practiced. Critical feed-back expected and discussed.
Direction/Delegation	Traditional manager is autocratic. Younger managers starting to accept and delegate responsibility. Subordinates used to being assigned tasks, not authority.	Managers delegate responsibility and authority. Executive seeks responsibility and accepts accountability.
Education	Memorization. Emphasis on theoretical. Rigid, broad curriculum.	Analytical approach. Emphasis on the practical. Narrow, in-depth specialization.
Ethics	Truth is tempered by need for diplomacy. Truth is a relative concept.	Direct Yes/No answers given and expected. Truth seen as absolute value.
Etiquette	"Old world" formality. Etiquette and manners seen as measure of breeding.	Formality often sacrificed for efficiency. "Let's get to the point" approach.