### **Intercultural Communication Scenario**

**Title:** When Four Cultures Meet: Native American, Chinese, British & American Team Dynamics

**Situation (Read Carefully):**  
You have been assigned to a four-person international research team preparing a short video on sustainable tourism:

| Team Member | Cultural Background | Observed Behavior in Meetings |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Aiyana | Native American | Listens intently, speaks only after a noticeable pause, rarely interrupts. |
| Liu Wei | Chinese | Gives detailed written feedback but tends to downplay disagreement in live discussions and uses phrases like “maybe we could consider…”. |
| Charlotte | British (England) | Uses understatement (“not bad at all”), indirect criticism (“Have you thought about…?”), and humour to soften messages. |
| Jackson | American (Mid-West) | Thinks out loud, offers quick opinions, prefers open debate and direct questions to move decisions forward. |

During your first virtual meeting, Jackson notices the agenda is running behind and openly asks Aiyana for her opinion on the script’s structure. Aiyana pauses in silence for several seconds to reflect. Jackson, interpreting silence as uncertainty, fills the gap by restating his own view. Charlotte chuckles and says, “Well, that’s one way to keep the ball rolling,” while Liu Wei types a long suggestion in the chat but says little aloud. The meeting ends with no clear decision and mild frustration all around.

**Task** :Write an essay of approximately 300 words, addressing the following requirements.

1. **Interpretation:**

a. From each teammate’s cultural perspective, what might Aiyana’s silence, Liu Wei’s minimal spoken disagreement, Charlotte’s understated humour, and Jackson’s rapid speech signify?

b. Explain how differing cultural values (e.g., attitudes toward silence, saving face, indirectness, pace of conversation) influence these interpretations.

1. **Strategy:**

a. Propose one concrete communication strategies the team could adopt in future meetings to respect each member’s style while staying productive.

b. For each strategy, describe how it would look in practice and why it would help.