



# VGCAT VIRTUAL CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINER



## Introduction to Pakistan

### COUNTRY FACTS

- **Population:** 1.4 million.
- **Languages:** National languages are Urdu and English. Other languages include Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto.
- **Religion:** 97% Muslim, with the majority being Sunni.



### GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

- **Location:** Bordered by the Arabian Sea to the south, Iran to the west, Afghanistan to the northwest, China to the northeast, and India to the east.
- **Geography:** Four provinces include Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Punjab. Other regions include Islamabad, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and parts of Kashmir.
- **Climate:** Highly varied between regions. The north has mild summers and freezing winters. The south has mild winters and summers that reach above 120 °F.
- **Major Cities:** Islamabad (capital), Karachi, Lahore, and Faisalabad.

### POLITICS & ECONOMY

- **Government:** Federal republic, with a president and prime minister.
- **Currency:** Pakistani rupee.
- **Economy:** Based on agriculture, with the chief export being textiles. Resources include natural gas and minerals.
- **Standard of Living:** Highly stratified. Elites are extremely wealthy. One-quarter of the population live below the poverty line and the majority live just above it.

### SOCIETY & CULTURE

- **Social Organization:** Family-based and hierarchical, with eldest male as the head of household.
- **Education:** 50% of adults are literate. Education is compulsory, but many children remain unschooled.
- **Cuisine:** Curry dishes, yogurt, bread, rice, vegetables, lentils, and meat. Hot tea is served milky and sweet.
- **Dress:** "Shalwar kameez," or loose trousers and a knee-length shirt, is worn by men and women. Western dress is becoming increasingly common.
- **Sports:** Cricket. Makes an excellent conversation topic.



### KEY TERMS

English	Punjabi
katchi	Makeshift houses made of mud and bamboo.
biraderi	Kinship, patrilineage, or caste.
syeds	Highest of the ranked castes.
hafez	Someone who has memorized the Quran.
purdah	The practice of keeping women secluded from men.