



What Is This Module About?

Have you ever heard the statements “Now, that’s a Filipino!” and “Filipinos are indeed unique” before? Have you ever asked yourself why? What do you think makes Filipinos stand out from all the other races?

In this module, we will discuss certain traits, characteristics and practices of the Filipino people which make them unique.

This module is made up of two lessons:

Lesson 1 — *The Traits and Practices of Filipinos That Aid Development*

Lesson 2 — *Filipino Traits and Practices that Need to Be Changed for the Better*



What Will You Learn From This Module?

After studying this module you should be able to:

- ◆ become aware of the Filipino culture;
- ◆ discuss certain facts and information about the traits and practices of our race;
- ◆ analyze which of the following Filipino traits and practices help in our development as a people and as a nation; and
- ◆ change certain traits and practices for the better.



Let's See What You Already Know

Before you start studying this module, take this simple test first to find out how much you already know about the topics to be discussed.

Read the situations on the next page. Decide whether each given response is appropriate to the situation or not. Check (4) the corresponding column.

Situation	Appropriate	Inappropriate
1. Luisa is from Mindanao but she works in Manila. During Christmas and Holy Week she tries to go home to her province.		
2. Mang Kardo is a farmer. After he finishes planting palay, he neglects them. He says, "God will take care of them."		
3. Jose did not finish his studies because he was wrongly influenced by friends. He does not like to work hard which is why his family is suffering.		
4. A flash flood occurred in Mt. Parker T'boli, South Cotabato. Many people died and many properties were destroyed. The neighboring towns immediately responded to help.		
5. The citizens of Surallah were very pleased with the "Clean and Green" project in their town. They all helped out in cleaning their surroundings even after the project ended.		
6. Jose often cuts trees in the mountain near his town without replacing them. One day, a storm occurred and heavy rains flooded the town.		
7. Many people from Negros migrated to a town in Neuva Valencia, a province of Guimaras, to look for work. They were accepted with open arms by the townspeople of Nueva Valencia.		

Situation	Appropriate	Inappropriate
<p>8. Mister Esparcia wanted to apply as a teacher in the town school but he did not pass the exam given by the Professional Regulation Commission. He immediately sought the help of their congressman regarding this matter.</p> <p>9. Carla is very fond of coloring her hair causing it to become damaged. She doesn't care as long as she is able to follow the latest trends.</p> <p>10. Myrna just moved to a new office. Her work habits are very different from her office mates but she tried her best to adjust to them.</p>		

Well, how was it? Do you think you fared well?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 22.

If all your answers are correct, very good! This shows that you already know much about the topics in this module. You may still study the module to review what you already know. Who knows, you might learn a few more things as well.

If you got a low score, don't feel bad. This means that this module is for you. It will help you understand some important concepts that you can apply in your daily life. If you study this module carefully, you will learn the answers to all the items in the test and a lot more! Are you ready?

You may go to the next page to begin Lesson 1.

The Characteristics and Practices of Filipinos That Aid Development

You are probably wondering why some countries are much more developed and industrialized than ours. Why do you think this is so? Do they have anything to do with our traits and characteristics?

This lesson will identify certain Filipino traits and practices of that can aid in the development of our country.

After studying this lesson, you should be able to:

- ◆ identify some of the most common Filipino characteristics and practices;
- ◆ explain how these can aid in developing our country;
- ◆ follow the steps in making the right decisions; and
- ◆ be proud of your Filipino heritage.



Let's Read

Read the short play below.

Life in the Philippines

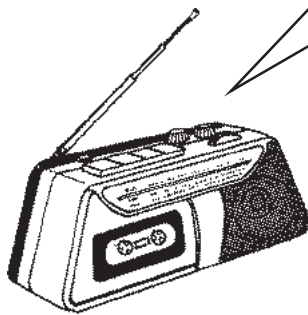
Mother: Sigh, life is so difficult nowadays. I can still remember the time when life here in our country wasn't as difficult. Why is this happening?

Dana: Was life much easier before? What was it like then?

Mother: Oh, yes. It's so hard to believe we're struggling now.

Dana: Wait, Mom, listen. The radio announcer is saying exactly the same thing.

Mother: Really? Turn on the volume.



Radio announcer: Have you ever wondered why the Philippines is always in a state of difficulty? Twenty years ago, we were one of the more-developed countries here in Asia. But look at us now, we are among the most underdeveloped.

According to economists, the reason why the Philippines is lagging behind other Asian countries is because of certain Filipino traits and practices.

Mother: Maybe he's right. Come to think of it, our country is rich in natural resources. The Filipino people are highly intelligent and creative compared to other races.

Dana: Yes, Mom. Foreigners look up to us, don't they?

Mother: Of course! Notice how Filipinos can easily adjust to people in other countries. Unfortunately, this trait becomes negative at times. Look what happened to your brother.

Dana: What do you mean, Mom?

Mother: Because of *pakikisama*, your brother was wrongly influenced by his friends. It would have been okay if their influence was good unfortunately that is not the case.

Dana: Are you saying that *pakikisama* is bad?

Mother: Not really, but too much of it is. Too much of anything is bad.

Dana: What are the other good characteristics and practices of Filipinos?

Mother: We have a lot of admirable characteristics and practices. We always help each other in times of need and calamities. Do you remember the time a really bad storm hit our place? We received help, didn't we?

Dana: Yes, I remember. I was very grateful then.

Mother: We are also innately cheerful. We don't let bad things discourage us. We are also fond of feasts and celebrations like our town fiesta. By the way, our town fiesta is fast approaching.

Dana: Do we have money to spend for the fiesta?

Mother: We have a small amount. That would be enough, I think.

Dana: Oh, goodness! It's almost midnight I was so engrossed with our conversation that I did not notice the time.

Mother: Yes, go on, sleep. You still have classes tomorrow.



Let's Review

1. According to the radio report, describe the state of the Philippines at present.

2. When was the Philippines considered one of the best countries in Asia?

3. Why are we experiencing a lot of difficulties nowadays?

4. Do you agree that anything done excessively is bad? Why/Why not?

5. What good Filipino traits and practices were mentioned in the dialog?

6. When does something good become bad?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 22. How well did you do?



Let's Study and Analyze

Look at the picture below then answer the questions that follow.



1. What kind of celebration is depicted in the picture?

2. What activities do people usually engage in during a fiesta?

3. How do the houses in a certain place look when there is a fiesta?

4. Why are Filipinos naturally cheerful?

5. What Filipino traits and practices are evident during fiestas?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 22. How well did you do?



Let's Learn

Fiestas are a part of Filipino life. We are joyous, cheerful people and are fond of gatherings and celebrations. We often invite friends and relatives to celebrate with us on special occasions.



Let's Think About This

Write **True** if you agree with the statement and **False** if you do not in the blank before each statement.

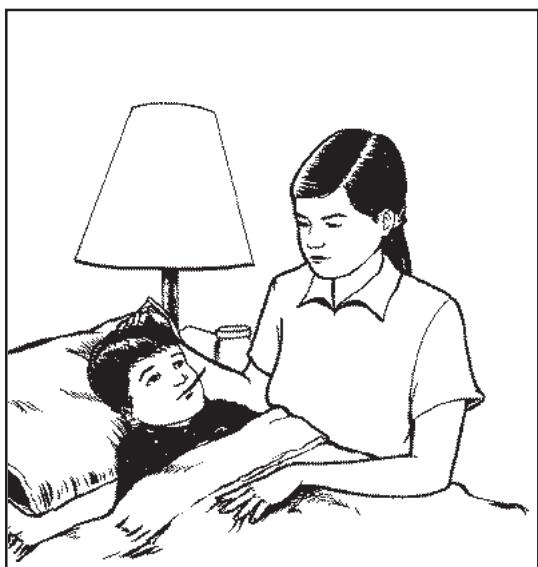
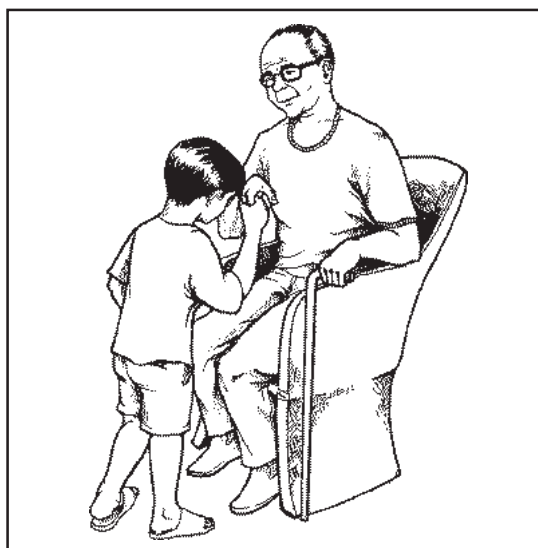
- _____ 1. We need to spend a lot during fiestas.
- _____ 2. Filipinos are generally cheerful despite the difficulties they face.
- _____ 3. We can be happy even if we do not have lavish feasts during fiestas.
- _____ 4. Families become close-knit if they gather often.
- _____ 5. We need to borrow money in order to prepare lavish feasts during fiestas.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 22. How well did you do?



Let's Try This

Analyze the following illustrations. Can you identify what Filipino trait is being conveyed by each picture?





Let's Review

1. What Filipino characteristic is conveyed by each picture on the previous page? Complete the words below by filling in the missing letters.
 - a. f a _ _ h in God
 - b. r _ s p e _ t
 - c. c _ r _ ng
 - d. i _ d _ s t _ _ o u _ n _ ss
 - e. n _ t _ _ n _ l _ sm
2. Which of the characteristics above do you exhibit? How do they affect you? the people around you?

3. Are you proud of being a Filipino? Are there times when you do not feel pride?

Situations when our fellow Filipinos achieved something are given below.

Check those you may feel proud of.

- ☐ a. EDSA Revolution
 - ☐ b. Onyok Velasco won a boxing title
 - ☐ c. Lea Salonga was chosen to play the role of Kim in *Miss Saigon*
 - ☐ d. Efren “Bata” Reyes became known as one of the greatest billiards player in the whole world
 - ☐ e. Margarita Moran won the Miss Universe pageant
 - ☐ f. A taxi driver returned a foreigner’s suitcase containing a huge sum of money
 - ☐ g. Rizal was declared a hero in Asia
4. In your opinion, how do our traits contribute in the development of our country? How?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 23. How well did you do?



Let's Try This

Certain characteristics and traits cannot be learned in just a day? They take years and constant use and application to develop.

You can use the following “moral grid” as guide to help you decide whether the things you want to do are appropriate, meaningful and useful.

MORAL GRID

1. Is the trait moral?
2. Do you exhibit the trait with good intentions?
3. Were the means you applied exhibiting the trait moral as well?

If you answered yes to all these questions, then the trait is worth applying in your daily life.



Sing This

Sing the song below with feelings.

Ako Ay Pilipino

*Ako ay Pilipino
Ang dugo'y maharlika
Likas sa aking puso
Adhikaing kay ganda
Sa Pilipinas na aking bayan
Lantay na Perlas ng Silanganan
Wari'y natipon ang kayamanan ng Maykapal*

*Bigay sa 'king talino
Sa mabuti lang laan
Sa aki'y katutubo
Ang maging mapagmahal*

*Ako ay Pilipino, Ako ay Pilipino
Isang bansa, 'sang diwa
ang minimithi ko
Sa bayan ko't bandila
Laan buhay ko't diwa*

*Ako ay Pilipino
Pilipinong totoo
Ako ay Pilipino, ako ay Pilipino
Taas noo kahit kanino
Ang Pilipino ay ako*

*Ako ay Pilipino, ako ay Pilipino
Taas noo kahit kanino
Ang Pilipino ay ako*



Let's See What You Have Learned

Identify the trait or practice being conveyed by each given situation. Choose the answers from the list below.

helpfulness	close family ties
generosity	faith in God
industriousness	love of country
perseverance	camaraderie

1. Sending your younger siblings to school after your parents die

2. Praying and going to mass regularly as well as avoiding sin

3. Giving alms to the poor and helping those who are in need

4. Working during the day and studying at night

5. Solving conflicts between different ethnic groups in the country

6. Giving donations to those affected by the crisis in Mindanao

7. Working abroad despite difficulties and sacrifices

8. Cooperating in your local government's project

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 23. Did you get a perfect score? If you did, very good! If you didn't, don't worry. Review the parts you made mistakes in before going to Lesson 2.



Let's Remember

- ◆ The Filipinos have many admirable traits that they should be proud of.

Filipino Traits and Practices That Need to Be Changed for the Better

Do you agree that Filipinos are worth looking up to? We have so many good traits and characteristics. However, these account for most of the difficulties we experience as well. You will learn about this and more in this lesson.

After studying this lesson, you should be able to:

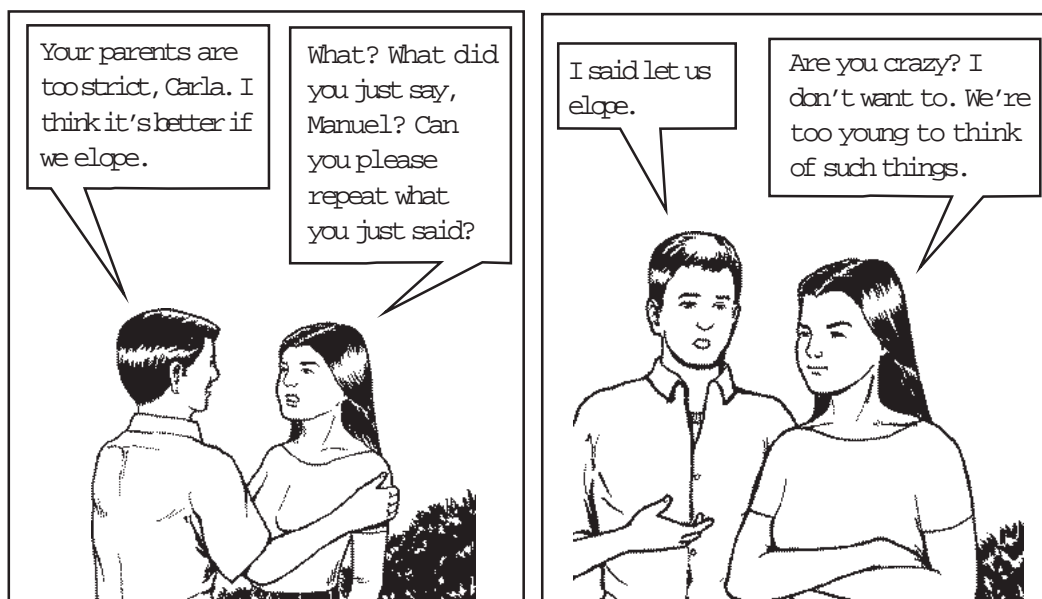
- ◆ identify the Filipino traits and practices that affect our country's growth negatively;
- ◆ tell why these need to be changed; and
- ◆ make other people aware of the changes that have to be made for our country's growth.

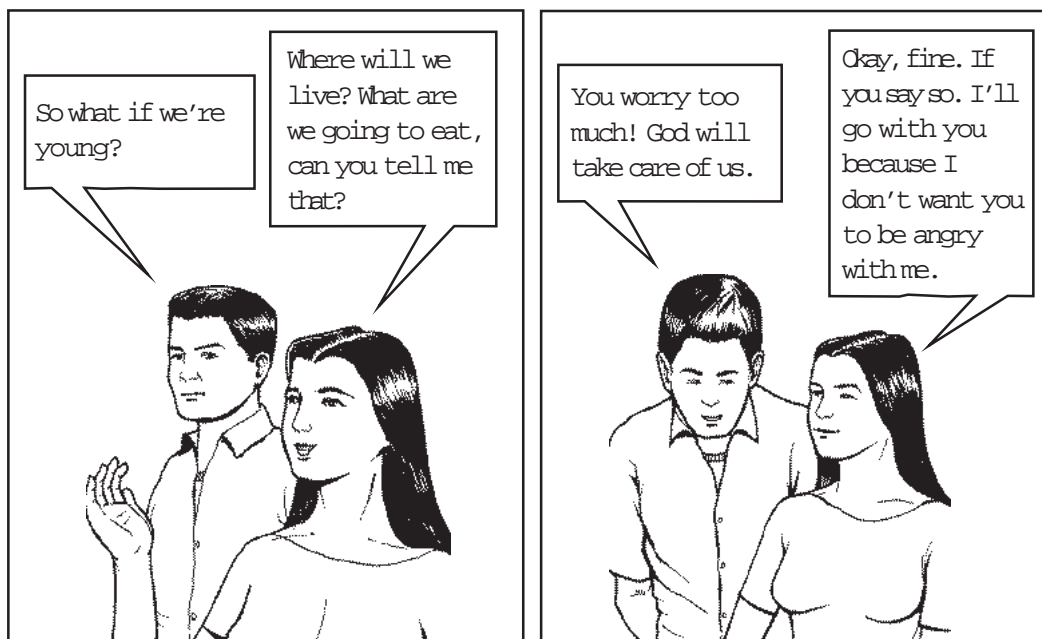


Let's Study and Analyze

Read the comic strip below.

The Lovers





Answer the questions below based on what you just read.

1. What did Manuel suggest he and Carla do?

2. Are you in favor of their decision? Why/Why not?

3. What do you think would happen if they pushed through with their plan?

4. Is relying on God the right thing to do in a situation like this? Why/Why not?

5. What Filipino habit is being conveyed in the comic strip?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 23. How well did you do?



Let's Learn

The *bahala na* attitude is a Filipino trait that shows carelessness. Oftentimes, we put ourselves in danger and difficult situations because of this.

According to F. Landa Socano, the *bahala na* attitude is only positive in that it helps make us strong in times of danger or crisis. It keeps us hopeful no matter what. However, we should not only rely on God, we should do our best as well to reach our goal.



Let's Read

Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.

Mang Bert and his wife, Nita, live in Barangay Jayobo. They have five children. Mang Bert is a farmer. One day, their barangay captain told them a big storm was on its way to their place.

All the residents of Barangay Jayobo were advised to prepare for the storm. Mang Bert did not heed this advice. He just said, They always say that but the storm never comes. We'll just cross the bridge when we get there."



That night, heavy rains and strong winds ensued. Mang Bert, Aling Nita and their children were forced to leave their home before it collapsed. Only then did Mang Bert regret not following the barangay captain's advice. Doing so may have saved his property.

1. What common Filipino attitude was manifested by Mang Bert?

2. What happened to him and his family as a consequence?

3. What lesson can be learned from this?

4. Have you ever had a similar experience?

5. How can you prevent this kind of situation from happening again?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 23. How well did you do?



Let Learn

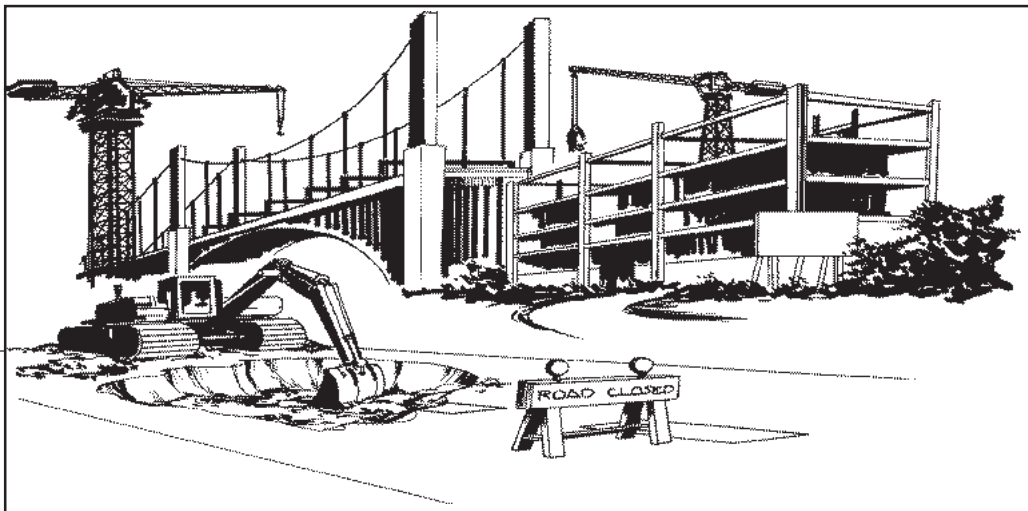
Mang Bert exhibited the *mañana* habit in the story. He delayed doing something he should have done until it was too late.

Had he heeded their barangay captain's advice, he and his family could have been spared from suffering.



Let's Study and Analyze

Look at the illustration below.



From this, you can see unfinished projects. What Filipino mentality does this picture show?

Have you seen cogon grass? Did you know that cogon grass burns very easily? It is easily extinguished as well.

Have you ever heard the term “*ningas cogon*” before? What do you think this means?

The term “ningas cogon” refers to the habit of starting a project without finishing it.



Let's Review

- A. Encircle the numbers of the statements that depict the ningas cogon mentality.
1. A person's enthusiasm for work increases as time passes
 2. A person's enthusiasm for work is only evident at the beginning of a project
 3. Never finishing what you started
 4. The effort a person exerts on a project becomes more pronounced as time passes
 5. A person's enthusiasm for work never wanes
- B. How can you avoid practicing the ningas cogon mentality?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 24. How well did you do?



Let's Learn

A person who exhibits **amor propio** is too proud to seek someone else's help even if he/she badly needs it. He/She does not want to be indebted to someone no matter what.



Let's Review

Check (4) situations that show *amor propio* and cross out (6) those that do not.

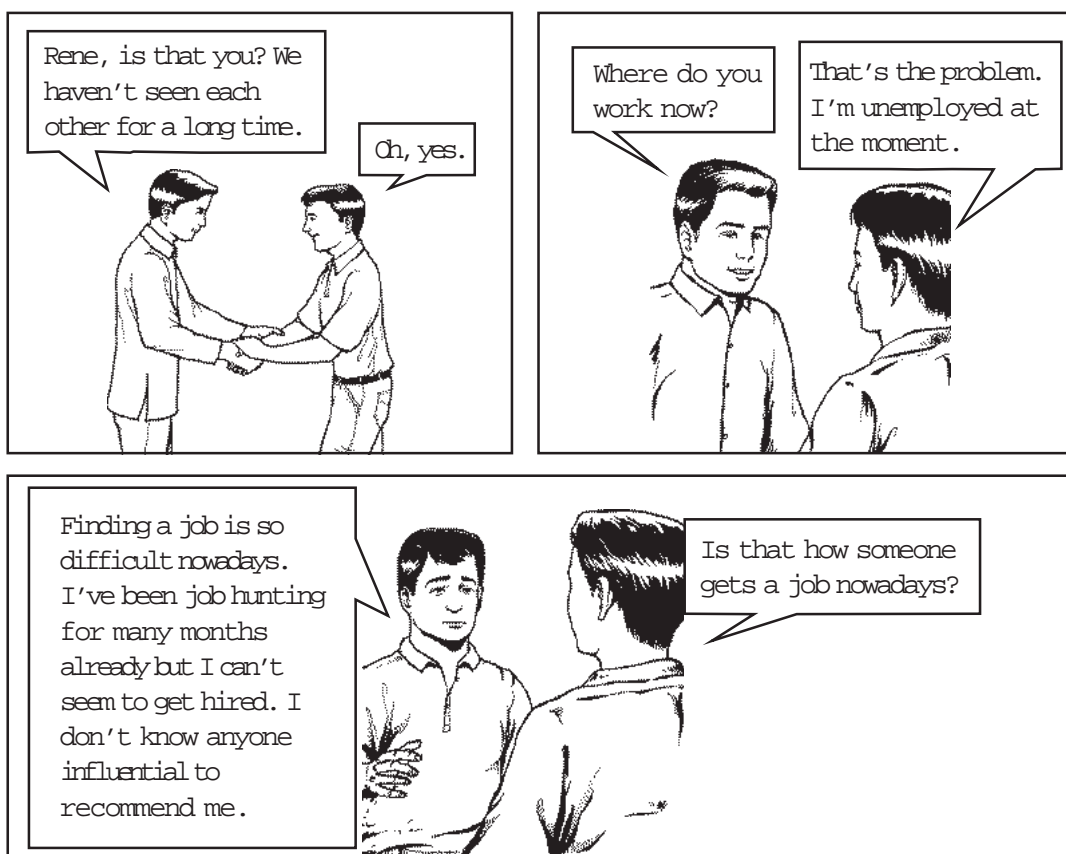
- _____ 1. I ask my peers to help me when I have a problem.
- _____ 2. I make it a point to solve problems on my own.
- _____ 3. I run to my parents when I need help.
- _____ 4. I don't need anyone to survive.
- _____ 5. I rely on both friends and family for support.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 24. How well did you do?



Let's Read

Read the following comic strip.





Let's Review

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Is this type of problem evident now in our country? Why do you think so?

2. What common Filipino practice is being shown in the dialog?

3. Have you ever had a similar experience to Rene's?

4. What do you think will this kind of practice result in?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 24. How well did you do?



Let's Learn

The practice shown in the comic strip is referred to as the “*padrino* system.” It is the practice of being accepted to a job/in a school/ in a social circle based on who you know or are related to.



Let's Read

Read the conversation between a teacher and a parent in a PTA meeting below.

Imitation

Mrs. Serrano: Ma'am, why do you think youngsters nowadays do not know what they want in life?

Teacher: There are many reasons for this.

Mrs. Serrano: All they do is follow what they see on TV or on magazines.

Teacher: Yes, it's sad, isn't it?

Mrs. Serrano: Why can't they just be themselves?



Let's Review

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. Is imitating someone bad?

2. When does this practice become bad?

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 24. How well did you do?



Let's Try This

Write **True** if the statement is correct and **False** if it is not in the blank before each number.

- _____ 1. Imitating someone is bad.
- _____ 2. Imitating others is bad only when what you are imitating is not really worth imitating.
- _____ 3. There are times when imitating someone can lead to something good.

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 24. How well did you do?



Let's Try This

Check (4) the things you can do to initiate beneficial changes in our attitudes and practices for our country's development and cross out (6) those you cannot.

- _____ 1. I will convince my younger siblings to always finish tasks they have started.
- _____ 2. I can offer help to my needy neighbors.
- _____ 3. I will report any form of *palakasan* and/or bribery to the proper authorities.
- _____ 4. I will only buy and use Philippine-made products.
- _____ 5. I will participate in worthwhile barangay projects.
- _____ 6. I will convince my neighbors to plant trees and clean their surroundings.

The answers to this are dependent on a person's capabilities.



Let's See What You Have Learned

Now that you know the different Filipino traits and characteristics that can help or hinder our growth as a people, what should you do?

Compare what you wrote with the sample answer in the *Answer Key* on page 24. How well did you do?

Well, this is the end of the module! Congratulations for finishing it. Did you like it? Did you learn anything useful from it? A summary of its main points is given below to help you remember them better.



Let's Sum Up

This module tells us that:

- ◆ The bahala na attitude refers to a person's lack of initiative and perseverance in doing a certain task.
- ◆ The mañana habit refers to the habit of putting aside for some other time things or tasks that need to be done at once.
- ◆ The “ningas cogon” mentality refers to being enthusiastic about one's tasks only in the beginning and losing interest toward the end.
- ◆ The “padrino system” is the practice of depending on someone influential to get into a certain job or institution.
- ◆ Imitating someone or something is not bad when that something or someone is worth imitating.
- ◆ The Filipinos have many admirable traits that they should be proud of.



What Have You Learned?

Write **P** if the trait or characteristic listed below needs to be practiced more and **C** if it needs to be changed.

- _____ 1. “Ningas cogon” mentality
- _____ 2. Close family ties
- _____ 3. Cheerfulness
- _____ 4. Imitating something/someone not worth imitating
- _____ 5. Industriousness
- _____ 6. *Mañana habit*
- _____ 7. Being hardworking
- _____ 8. “Bahala na” attitude
- _____ 9. Padrino system
- _____ 10. Perseverance

Compare your answers with those in the *Answer Key* on page 25. Did you get a perfect score? If you did, that’s very good! You may study another module. If you didn’t, review the parts you made mistakes in before starting a new module.



Answer Key

A. Let's See What You Already Know (*pages 1–3*)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Appropriate | 6. Inappropriate |
| 2. Inappropriate | 7. Appropriate |
| 3. Inappropriate | 8. Inappropriate |
| 4. Inappropriate | 9. Inappropriate |
| 5. Inappropriate | 10. Appropriate |

B. Lesson 1

Let's Review (page 6)

1. Life in the Philippines is difficult nowadays.
2. 20 years ago
3. Because of our traits and characteristics
4. *Possible answers:* Because of our undesirable traits and practices—yes
5. Intelligence; creativity; getting along easily with other people; helpfulness; cheerfulness; being disciplined
6. A good thing becomes bad if done in excess.

Let's Study and Analyze (pages 6–7)

1. A fiesta
2. Eating and merrymaking (playing games, etc.)
3. Houses are decorated and full of people.
4. Because they think positively at all times rather than worry themselves to death.
5. Cheerfulness, hospitality, etc.

Let's Think About This (page 7)

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False

Let's Review (page 9)

1.
 - a. faith in God
 - b. respect
 - c. caring
 - d. industriousness
 - e. nationalism
- 2–4. The answers to these may vary.

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 11)

1. close family ties; helpfulness; generosity;
2. faith in God
3. helpfulness; generosity
4. perseverance; industriousness
5. camaraderie; love of country
6. helpfulness; generosity
7. industriousness; perseverance
8. helpfulness; love of country

C. Lesson 2

Let's Study and Analyze (pages 12–13)

1. He suggested that they elope.
- 2–3. The answers to these may vary.
4. No, because God can only help those who help themselves.
5. The “bahala na” attitude.

Let's Read (pages 14–15)

1. The “manana habit”
2. His properties were destroyed.
3. Do not put off for tomorrow the things you can do today.
- 4–5. The answers to these may vary.

Let's Review (page 16)

- A. Encircle the following numbers: 2 and 3
- B. The answers to this may vary.

Let's Review (page 17)

- 1. 6
- 2. 4
- 3. 6
- 4. 4
- 5. 6

Let's Review (page 18)

- 1. The answers to this may vary.
- 2. The “padrino system”
- 3–4. The answers to these may vary.

Let's Review (page 19)

- 1. No, as long as the thing or person you are imitating is worth imitating.
- 2. When the thing or person being imitated is not worth imitating.

Let's Try This (page 19)

- 1. False
- 2. True
- 3. True

Let's Try This (page 19)

The answers to this may vary.

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 20)

The change has to start with myself. I will do this by practicing our appropriate Filipino traits and characteristics. By doing this, I help with our development as a people. I will also avoid the practices which are detrimental to our growth and development.

D. What Have You Learned? (*page 21*)

1. C
2. P
3. P
4. C
5. P
6. C
7. P
8. C
9. C
10. P



References

Andres, Tomas D. *Understanding Values*. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1980.

Andres, Tomas D. *Understanding Filipino Values*. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1981.

Gilley, Kay. *Leading From the Heart, Choosing Courage Over Fear in the Workplace*. USA: Butterworth-Heinemann, 1997.

Pedrajas, Teresita. *Values Education*. Quezon City: Phoenix Publishing House, Inc., 1988.

UNESCO. *Values Education for the Filipino*. Revised ed. UNESCO National Commission of the Philippine Education Committee, 1997.