Egypt**

COUNTRY OVERVIEW
CAPITAL: Cairo
POPULATION: 68,359,979
ETHNIC GROUPS: Hamitic and Semitic Arabs
LOCATION: Northeastern part of Africa, bordered by Libya, Sudan, the Gaza Strip and Israel; Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the east
CLIMATE: Mild winters (November-April), hot summers (May-October); rainfall minimal except along Mediterranean coast
RELIGIONS: Sunni Muslim (90%), Coptic Christian (8.5%) other Christian (1.5%)
LANGUAGES: Arabic (official language)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND
TEACHING STYLES - Teachers are characteristically friendly but reserved and strict. If a teacher is too friendly towards students, the students might expect that they won't fail the class regardless of their academic performance. Memorization is important to pass the end of year exams. Therefore, the students take notes and memorize everything said by the teacher. On the other hand, the students are discouraged to share personal opinions in the class. In addition, research and library skills are not introduced.

LEARNING STYLES - Learning is teacher centered and individual work is common. Collaborative and learning styles are not familiar. Students may feel nervous working as a pair of groups, especially Muslim women depending on their degree of religiousness.

DISCIPLINE AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT - It's important for students to be on time for class. If they are late to class, students will knock on the door and have to apologize. Students also need permission from a teacher to use the restroom. Homework is expected to be turned in on time. Turning it in late may result in a lower grade or may not be accepted. Attendance is mandatory. When student attendance falls below 70 percent, a letter threatening dismissal may be given to the student's family.

EDUCATOR-STUDENT RELATIONSHIP - Educators are seen as authorities. Students tend to respect and worship them. As a result, students will not disagree with educators. Disagreement may result in failing the course. On the other hand, Egyptian educators are fatherly and motherly figures in school. They work closely with families. Monthly reports and educator-parent conferences are commonly held.

POLITE/IMPOLITE TOPICS & BEHAVIORS - Family issues are not discussed outside of one's family. However, a student may approach an educator to discuss personal of family issues, because educators are considered as parental figures in school. Discussing controversial issues is avoided.

**All information from the "CIA World Factbook" and "Understanding Your International Students: An Educational, Cultural, and Linguistic Guide" (October, 2010)