

**A07** Thomas / Germany / Economics

Interaction partner(s): Polish students  
Moment of enquiry: WS 08/09  
Experience of difference: Role expectations towards students

Thomas has been studying economics for three years. There are many Polish students in his course of studies. Thomas notices during the lectures that his Polish fellow students take notes, writing down every word while he jots down just the most important points. When asked for the course contents later on, the Polish students are usually able to repeat the professor's statements almost word for word. However, when they are required to interpret matters in a larger context or make a critical assessment as part of group work, they usually hold back and do not participate in the discussion. Thomas is surprised at the Polish students' learning behaviour.

1. How does the German student interpret the Polish students' learning behaviour?
2. Why do the Polish students write down everything the professor says?