

IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY IN THE UK

What are the cultural traditions that contribute to being British?

The UK is a **multi-cultural society** made up of people from all over the world who have come to settle here. They have brought some traditions with them. E.g.: people from the Caribbean brought the Notting Hill Carnival and curries have come from India.

Another part of our identity is made up of the sports that are popular here like football, rugby and cricket. The UK is also known for its excellent education, music and TV.

What are the main values that contribute to being British?

Values are beliefs that we hold to be important. Our official values can be seen in the rules that govern our country. We usually see these **values** in the following places:

RULE OF LAW

The rule of law is applied to everyone- even politicians, judges and the extremely rich.

PERSONAL FREEDOM

People in the UK are free to benefit from their hard work, travel freely and say what they like as long as it doesn't harm anyone. People can criticise the government.

TOLERANCE AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

This is linked to personal freedom. The UK has a reputation for accepting people from different religious faiths and cultures. In the last 300 years people have escaped mistreatment in their own countries and come to the UK to be safe.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone has the same chance to achieve their ambitions. It doesn't matter about your gender, race, culture, religion or age.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

One of our main values is that we have a right to say how our country is run. Elections are fair and all our votes are secret.

What are the different regions of England and Wales?

Although England and Wales are small, there is a lot of difference in their landscape. Each country is divided into counties and these usually act as areas for local government. Many people are very proud of which bit of England or Wales they come from. They celebrate regional and county differences e.g. food, drink and support for sports teams.

What are the main ethnic groups in England and Wales?

An ethnic group is a group of people who identify with one another through a shared history often based on their upbringing, country of origin or religion. **16% of the population of England and Wales belongs to an ethnic minority group.** Most of these were born in the UK, but their parents or grandparents may have been born elsewhere. E.g.:

- White British 84%
- Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi 5%
- White Irish or other white background 4.5%
- Black Caribbean 1.2%

What are the main religious groups in England and Wales?

The *2001 National Census* collected information about all the people living in England and Wales at that time. This information showed a great diversity, but white Christians remain the single biggest group by far. Some important points are below:

- 7 out of 10 described themselves as white and Christian
- The majority of black people also described themselves as Christian
- Among other faiths the largest groups were Pakistani Muslims and Indian Hindus
- 15% said they had no religion

Why do people migrate from one place to another?

The movement of people from one place to another has always happened. Reasons for people to migrate include:

PUSH- reasons to leave your home	PULL- reasons another country might attract you
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fear for their lives - war or terrorism• Discrimination• Famine• Disease or pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peaceful place• Good human rights• Lots of jobs• Good health care and education

Why do people seek asylum in the UK?

What is asylum?

When people are **looking for asylum they are looking for safety** or refuge. A person seeking refuge is known as a refugee. Refugees feel unsafe to go back to their own homes. They have a realistic fear that they or their family will be killed or tortured. Asylum is given to under the *1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*.

The first refugees came from Europe. More recently they have come from South America, Asia and Africa. If people seek asylum in the UK and their reasons are not genuine- then they are returned home.

Why do people seek asylum in the UK?

- We have a good human rights record
- English is spoken around the world and so many people can speak it and so come here
- The UK is wealthy and so can support asylum seekers

In 2007, 19 out of every 100 people who wanted asylum in the UK got it. The UK Border Agency sets out the rights and responsibilities for people seeking asylum.

ASYLUM SEEKER'S RIGHTS	ASYLUM SEEKER'S RESPONSIBILITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be treated fairly• To practice own religion• To have legal representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To co-operate with the UK Border Agency and tell the truth• To obey the law• To leave the UK if you application for asylum is refused

Why does the UK have such a wide cultural diversity?

LONDON- an international city

There are 300 languages spoken a day in London- only New York is as diverse as this. There are 33 ethnic communities in London- numbering more than 10,000 people.

The United Kingdom- a culturally diverse nation

The UK is increasingly diverse. Mostly they settle in the big cities such as Bristol and Manchester.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY EXPLAINED

History goes a long way to explaining this. The UK has been a great trading nation for hundreds of years.

- The slave trade led to black communities growing up in places like Bristol.
- When the UK started to develop their empire- many people in the countries that they took over like India, South Africa and Australia were given the right to live in the UK if they chose.
- After WW2 when the UK needed more workers it was natural to invite them from the Empire.
- More recently, more people have asked for asylum in the UK than at any other time. Many EU citizens have moved here.

As unemployment increased in 2009, the government made it harder to get asylum in the UK.

Why do people in the UK have a complex sense of identity?

We develop our sense of community from many different sources. When we are young we learn everything from our parents and follow their cultural traditions without question. As we get older we mix with a wider group of people who influence us e.g. at school, college and work. Other things that influence us include the media, religion, British values.

People from minority ethnic groups have to balance their values of that ethnic group with expectations that people have in the UK. E.g.: some Muslim girls fall out with parents about appropriate behaviour with boyfriends.

All this makes for a **complex sense of identity**

How much do people of different ethnic origins and religious backgrounds contribute to the national economy?

People from a wide range of backgrounds contribute to the UK economy and our success as a country. Racial discrimination became illegal in 1976, but people from ethnic minority groups have still found it hard to break out of poverty. However, as the UK has become more diverse - racism has become unacceptable and it is easier for people to achieve their ambitions. Think of some people from different minority groups who are successful in the UK.

What is community cohesion?

Community cohesion means sharing values and goals and living well together.

Things you will find in a community with high levels of community cohesion:

- People of all ages out on street with no fear
- Tidy streets and parks
- Houses and flats lived in and cared for

- People mixing in shops, cafes and parks
- Successful schools
- Low levels of discrimination and racism

Things you will find in a community with low levels of community cohesion:

- People afraid to leave their homes- especially at night
- Vandalism, graffiti and litter
- Houses and flats are empty
- Failing schools
- High levels of discrimination and racism

Recently the UK government has become worried about the lack of community cohesion in the UK.

Discrimination can make people feel excluded and there are places in the country where schools and communities are divided by ethnicity and religion. *Trevor Phillips who is the chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has warned that we are 'becoming strangers to one another.'* He is worried that ethnic and religious groups are leading separate lives in their own schools and communities.

Building a more tolerant and cohesive society, based on mutual respect and a shared sense of being British will be a challenging, but vital task.

5. Evaluate the following viewpoint: 'Community cohesion is strong in all communities across the United Kingdom.' In your answer you should:
- Explain what community cohesion is and describe what a cohesive community might be like
 - Describe any communities that lack community cohesion and explain why this might be the case
 - Use evidence or examples to support the points you make
 - Evaluate how far you agree that 'community cohesion is strong in all communities across the UK' (12 marks)

IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY IN THE UK

We live in a multi-cultural society. Name 2 traditions that we have in the UK that come from other countries	
What are values?	
What does equal opportunities mean?	
Why is representative democracy such an important value?	
What % of the UK population is a member of an ethnic minority?	
Which 'thing' collects information about all the people who live in England and Wales?	
Which is the biggest religious group in England and Wales?	
Name 2 other faith groups	
Give 2 reasons why people choose to emigrate from their home country	
Give 2 reasons people choose the country to immigrate in to	
What is asylum?	
Why do people seek asylum in the UK?	
Which organisation sets out the rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers?	
Name 2 rights of asylum seekers	
Name 2 responsibilities of asylum seekers	
Why did a black population start growing in the UK?	

The British Empire led to more immigrants from which countries?	
Why did they come here?	
Why did the UK invite more immigrants after WW2?	
Why did it get harder to get asylum in the UK in 2009?	
Name 3 things that influence our sense of identity	
Name 2 people from different minority groups who are successful in the UK	
What does community cohesion mean?	
Name 3 things that show high level community cohesion	
Name 3 things that show low level community cohesion	
What is Trevor Phillips's job?	
What did he say?	
What does this mean?	