

# The Individual and Society

## The changing nature of ethnicity and culture

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Name and date begun:

**Time allocation:**

4 lessons

**Learning objectives:**

- Students should understand that ethnicity is significant in defining social identity.
- Students should appreciate that cultural identity is a social construct.
- Students should develop a degree of reflection to understand the significance of ethnicity in their own and other people's lives.
- Students should appreciate that notions of culture and nationality are changing.

**Key Concepts and vocabulary**

See your lesson notes for a list of relevant vocabulary. Also you should be aware of the following concepts and ideas

- Race and racism
- Culture
- Ethnicity
- Globalisation
- Social identity
- Stereotyping
- Resistance theory
- The notion of 'other'
- National institutions
- National Assembly for Wales

**Additional reading and references**

*Collect photocopy and print out of detailed data that breaks down behaviour and economic activity on the basis of ethnicity. Use **Social Trends** and other books of statistical data. Look at Government Websites.*

*Write to the Equal Opportunities Commission for information about ethnic minority patterns in the economy.*

*Write to the National Assembly for Wales to obtain any information packs that they are willing to provide.*

Ken Browne (1998) *An Introduction to Sociology 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* Chapter 7

Jorgensen *et al* (1997) *Sociology: An Interactive Approach* p 39 - 51

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus* Chapter 3

Haralambos and Holborn (1995) *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives* Chap. 11, especially p. 711 – 16

### **Personal Development ideas**

- Ask men and women what differences they can note between their own culture and American culture.
- Talk to people about their attitudes towards people of different ethnicities such as Americans. Do you detect envy or prejudice in their responses?
- Find out more about the history of the different ethnic groups who make up the population of Britain.
- Look at television programmes and films to identify stereotypes of different ethnic groups.

### **Overview of the debate**

- How do we define ethnicity?
- How is British national identity changing?
- Why do we need to maintain or retain a sense of ethnic identity?
- Is there a world global culture developing?

### **Revision tips**

- Make sure that you understand the significance of culture and national identity to people.
- Make sure that you understand the globalisation debate and understand the significance of both separatist and nationalist movements in the light of globalisation.
- List the ways in which some institutions in society help to define us in terms of cultural identity.

### **What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:**

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Evidence that you have looked at least two textbooks and made good notes.
- Notes made in lessons.
- Evidence that you can identify the ways in which separate cultural identities are promoted by the mass media with reference to television and film stereotypes.
- Evidence that you can list some of the ways in which British culture has become Americanised since World War 2.
- Evidence that you understand that British culture has become multi-cultural through absorption of ideas from other cultures and nationalities.