

The Individual and Society

Ethnicity and culture

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 racism is a response born of ignorance and fear but that it has significant implications for individuals in society.
- Students should recognise the role of institutions in shaping and defining national identity.

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
- Biological determinism
- 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 2nd 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 their nationality is and how they come to define themselves as that nationality.
- Look at Websites devoted to considerations of ethnicity and racism. You may find the word 'holocaust' used in a search engine to offer up some interesting material. Look too for the site of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality.
- Talk to people about their attitudes to race and racism and make a note of their views.
- Find out more about the history of the different ethnic groups who make up the population of Britain.

Overview of the debate

- How do we define race?
- How do we define ethnicity?
- What impact does ethnicity have on life chances and expectations?
- How does racism arise?
- How do we learn to define ourselves in terms of race or culture?

Revision tips

- Return to your notes on socialisation and social identities and revise them carefully.
- Make sure that you understand the significance of culture and national identity to people.
- List the ways in which we gain a sense of national identity.
- 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.
- A list of ways in which cultural identity can be defined.
- An essay or short research exercise to the title. This work is to be assessed:

What makes me (Welsh /British /a member of another ethnic group)?

This should refer to the social theories that you have studied earlier in the course.