

Citizenship

# What are the debates around identity in the UK?

## Lesson 2 of 6

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# What are the debates about identity in the UK?

The UK is a multi-nation state made up of four **jurisdictions**: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

- Individuals may identify differently in relation to their UK identity.
  - For example, they may consider themselves Scottish, rather than British.
  - Some factors that may be important to a person's identity can include a **shared history, culture, traditions and language.**



# England

Debates about the English identity include how far it may be seen as interchangeable with the British identity.

Media often link English identity with **cultures and traditions** associated with politics or the monarchy. However, cultures and traditions may differ from **regions** in the north to south of England.



# Scotland

Scotland has a **history** of self-rule, and as a result Scottish identity can include a desire for independence. In 2014, there was referendum for independence where 44.7% voted to leave.

Scottish **culture** can often be linked to Scottish identity. For example, **traditional** food (haggis), music (bagpipes) and clothing (kilts), or celebrations like Burns Night and St Andrews day.



# Wales

The **historic** importance of the Welsh **language** has been a central part of Welsh identity. The Welsh Language Act of 1993 put Welsh on an equal standing with English in public sectors and is taught in school.



# Northern Ireland (NI)

**Historic** factors such as the partition of Ireland when Northern Ireland became part of the UK in 1921. One of the reasons that led to this was due to the importance of **religion** in that **region**. People in Northern Ireland identified mainly as protestant and in the Republic of Ireland as Catholic.



# Task 1: Summarise identity debates in the UK.

## Instruction

Using your graphic organiser worksheet 1, complete the table summarising the key points around identity in the UK.

## Task 1: Summarise identity debates in the UK.

Jurisdiction	Factors that may be important to a person's identity.	Examples
Scotland	<b>Model:</b> A factor that may be important to a person's identity in Scotland is the shared history.	Historically independent and may want Scotland to be independent.
England		
Wales		
Northern Ireland		

**Key factors: History / Culture / Traditions / Language / Region**



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## Task 2: Apply your knowledge

### Instruction

Complete the comprehension questions.

**Q1:** Explain two factors that may be important to a person's identity.

**Q2.** Explain how and why identity in the UK can differ.

**Q3.** Explain why British values are important.

**Q4. Challenge:** How can British values be unifying?

