

Citizenship

**Can a changing and diverse society lead to unity?**

**Lesson 6 of 6**

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# What does it mean to live in a multicultural society?

A **multicultural society** is a society with a multitude of different communities. This will include ethnic and **cultural diversity**.

A multicultural society, complete with ethnic and cultural diversity, is not the same as multiculturalism. It is quite normal to have a multicultural society without having multiculturalism.

**Multiculturalism** is the **state** response to the cultural diversity that exist within society making it a **political ideology**. For example, the Welsh language.



# What does it mean to live in a multicultural society?

- Recognition of identity
- Mutual understanding
- Respect and tolerance
- Celebration and promotion of diversity
- Community cohesion
- Protection of rights



# Why is recognition of identity important in a multicultural society?

- Our identity is partly shaped by recognition
- Recognition is “a vital human need”
- Failures of recognition can cause real harms
- Misrecognition can lead to a lack of respect
- Important to ensure a community can develop



# Integration vs Assimilation

**Integration** - Is the process where separate people or things are brought together while still maintaining their own identity.

**Assimilation** - Cultural assimilation is the process in which a minority group or culture comes to resemble a dominant group or assume the values, behaviors, and beliefs of another group.



# Integration Vs Assimilation

- In the UK there is a policy of **integration**, where there is a recognition of people's identities that is also protected by law. For example, the **Human Rights Act 1998 - Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion**. This allows for full religious expression.
- Whereas, France operate a policy of **assimilation**. This is demonstrated when France became the first European country to ban the full-face Islamic veil in public places.



# Can diversity achieve unity?

## Some argue yes

- Some argue that multiculturalism offers the best platform to create a shared community out of diversity.
- Diversity can bring about unity if a society commits to recognising individual and group identity.

## Some argue no

- Diversity can not achieve unity if individuals or groups view and values conflict with the majority.
- Unity can only be achieved with cultural uniformity (assimilation not integration).



# Can diversity achieve unity?

## Laws

Recognition of identity

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998

## Education

Respect and tolerance

- Building mutual understanding
- British values

## Celebration

Promoting diversity

- Celebrations of different cultures and religious beliefs.



# Task 2: Bring it all together

In what way is the UK changing?

How and why is the UK diverse ?

**Can a changing and diverse society lead to unity?**

What are the challenges and benefits of a changing population?

What are the benefits and challenges to a diverse society?

What is needed to lead to unity?



# Task 2: Apply your knowledge- Bring it all together

## Instruction

Answer this question.

**Q1.** Can a changing and diverse society lead to unity?

*Firstly, one way the UK has changed and become diverse is... for example...this has led to... This can lead to unity because...*

*However a changing and diverse society cannot lead to a unity. This is because... for example... this shows... Therefore...*

*Overall...*

For

Against

## Key terms

Identity  
Diversity  
Mutual respect  
Tolerance  
Mutual understanding  
Integration  
Assimilation  
Community Cohesion  
Discrimination  
Prejudice  
Inequality

## Key laws

Equality Act 2010  
Human Rights Act 1998

