

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

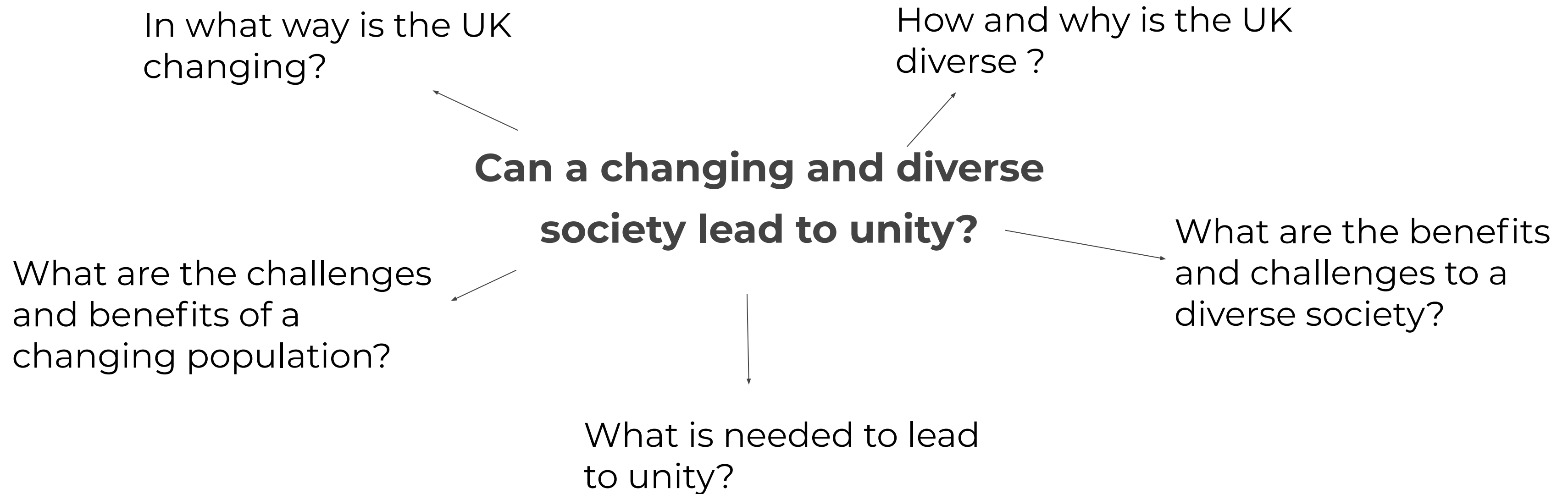
Celebration

Promoting diversity

- Celebrations of different cultures and religious beliefs.



Task 2: Bring it all together



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

