



MULTICULTURALISM

“We can love what we are, without hating what – and who – we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings.”

Kofi Annan (1938 – 2018), former Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. Multiculturalism Discussion

1. What is multiculturalism? What are the main benefits of multiculturalism to a society? Are multicultural societies more successful than less diverse societies?
2. Which countries or cities would you describe as multicultural? Do the different cultures in these places have a good relationship with each other? Would you like to live in any of these places?
3. Would you describe where you live as multicultural? What are the different cultures that live in your country? Do they all get along?
4. How would you feel if a large number of people from a different culture, or from a different religion, moved to your city? Would it depend on the particular culture of these new arrivals?
5. Should children be taught about multiculturalism and tolerance of different cultures in school?
6. Are people who live in multicultural societies more or less tolerant than those that don't?
7. What are the benefits of multiculturalism for businesses and for the economy of a country?
8. How can different cultures learn to understand and respect each other better?

2. Multiculturalism Vocabulary

- **to assimilate** (verb), **assimilation** (noun) – *to adopt the cultural values of the wider population.*
- **to integrate** (verb), **integration** (noun) – *to retain cultural values and practices while also participating and contributing to a new society and also to be accepted by that society.*
- **to segregate** (verb), **segregation** (noun) – *to be apart from others or to separate people from others; the state of being apart from others or the policy of separating people.*
- **melting pot** (noun) – *a society in which different cultures 'melt together' towards a common, homogeneous culture, usually by assimilation.*
- **salad bowl / cultural mosaic** (noun) – *a society in which different cultures are integrated while maintaining their different cultural identities.*
- **intercultural** (adjective), **interculturalism** (noun) – *a community that promotes communication, understanding and dialogue between different cultures and challenges the self-segregation of certain members of that community.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences:

1. In an attempt to **assimilate** into British culture, Sajid put on his England football shirt and went to his local pub to cheer on the team during the World Cup.
2. In order to promote **interculturalism**, the local council held an event to bring together members of different cultures in the city to discuss their problems with each other.
3. Increased immigration from different cultures has created a **salad bowl/cultural mosaic** society in Canada; different places of worship have opened up and many cultures decide to settle in the same area.
4. One of the benefits of the **integration** of new cultures into society is the wide choice of ethnic restaurants serving food from all corners of the world.
5. **Segregation** can occur when immigrants don't learn the local language or interact with other communities.
6. The United States is often referred to as a **melting pot** as even though it is made up of many different cultures, most believe in and accept core American values.

Multiculturalism vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Should people from different cultures always assimilate into the majority culture of a country?
2. What are some ways immigrant communities can integrate into society?
3. What are some causes of segregation of immigrant communities? Is it their choice, or is it due to rejection from wider society?
4. Is it more desirable to promote a melting pot or a salad bowl form of multiculturalism?
5. If you moved to a different country with a different culture, would you prefer to live in a melting pot or a salad bowl multicultural society?
6. What could governments do to promote an intercultural society?

3. Video: The Multiculturalism Debate

You are going to watch a video by TRT World which asks whether multiculturalism has failed.

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishtpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-multiculturalism/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What policy has the UK never had?
a) how to segregate immigrants **b) how to integrate immigrants** *c) how to deport immigrants*
2. What did immigrants establish in the UK?
a) their own communities *b) their own religion* *c) their own laws*
3. Some people have criticised immigration to the UK saying it could result in what?
a) integration **b) segregation** *c) better food*
4. What did David Cameron and Angela Merkel call for?
a) more mixing *b) more deportations* *c) more segregation*

Sentence completion

5. Many people interpreted David Cameron's speech as targeting **Muslim** communities.
6. Kimberly McIntosh accused David Cameron of confusing multiculturalism with **extremism**.
7. British Bangladeshis make up the largest **ethnic group** in Tower Hamlets.
8. There is resentment in the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets because of immigration from **Eastern Europe**.

Short answer

9. Immigration has caused a rise in which kind of movements across Europe? **Far right**
10. How many gold medals did Mo Farah win at the Olympics? **4**
11. Which areas of British society have immigrants and their children become integral to? **Health, media, politics, business**
12. What exposed deep rooted frustrations with the idea of multiculturalism? **The EU Referendum**

4. Multiculturalism Conversation Questions

1. Why are some people so opposed to multiculturalism?
2. Do you agree with David Cameron, the former Prime Minister of the UK, and Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, that multiculturalism has failed? Why or why not?
3. Do you think multiculturalism can lead to a country, city or neighbourhood losing its identity? If so, how would this happen? Can you think of any examples of this?
4. Does multiculturalism tend to lead to integrated or segregated societies?
5. British journalist Leo McKinstry said that multiculturalism encourages minorities to cling to customs that might be considered unacceptable by the majority culture. Do you agree or disagree with this? What customs might he be referring to?
6. Should the majority culture of a country accept the cultural practices of minority cultures that they disagree with? Does it depend on the particular cultural practices? Can you think of any practices from other cultures you disagree with? Which different customs from other cultures would you be happy to accept?
7. Is multiculturalism to blame for the rise of the far right around the world, or is multiculturalism the answer to combating racism and fascism?
8. As the world becomes more globalised, will more parts of the world become more multicultural? Will this be a good thing or a bad thing? Would you like your city to become more multicultural?

5. Multiculturalism Writing Task

Write about your opinion of multiculturalism. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What multiculturalism means in your opinion.
- Whether or not multiculturalism has failed.
- How cultures can learn to understand and respect each other.

Alternative exam practice question:

In many countries around the world, different cultures live side by side in society. Some people say this benefits and enriches those societies, while other people say that this has resulted in numerous problems for society. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.