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# Introduction



#### **Chapter 1: Multicultural and Intercultural Societies**

- 1- Multicultural and Intercultural Societies
- 2- Culture
- 3- Nationalism

Exercice: Comprehension Question
Inter-Cultural Studies Mind Map

The terms "Multicultural Society" and "Intercultural Society" seem to be similar but they are not synonyms. So, how do we tell the difference between the two?

#### A. 1- Multicultural and Intercultural Societies

The terms multicultural and intercultural both relate to approaches to how to build a society where there is a diversity of cultures. The key difference lies in the words themselves. Multi means 'many', so the term multicultural simply acknowledges the existence of more than one culture. Inter means 'between', so the word intercultural signifies communication and shared responsibility.

The ultimate aim of intercultural dialogue is for people 'to learn to live together peacefully and constructively in a multicultural world and to develop a sense of community

and belonging' (Council of Europe website: 'The concept of intercultural dialogue'). Intercultural dialogue can also prevent or resolve conflict and promote respect for human rights and democracy. Some of the goals of I.C and I.C.P.are:

- To share different perspectives of the world and try to understand and learn from those with different views.
- To recognise similarities as well as differences between different cultures.
- To reach agreement that disputes should be resolved peacefully.
- To ensure that all cultures participate equally.
- To reassure those who view diversity as a threat.

Summarised from Council of Europe website: 'The concept of intercultural dialogue'.

## B. 2- Culture

What is culture? We all use and hear the term regularly, but what do we mean by it? It

has been defined as 'the values, customs and acceptable modes of behaviour that characterise

a society or social groups within a society' (Marsh & Keating 2000:24). Simply put, culture involves the set of unwritten rules guiding how we live. We all live in a society and without being aware of it, we operate in a similar pattern to those about us.



## C. 3- Nationalism

Nationalism can be defined as 'a set of beliefs and symbols expressing identification with a given national community' (Giddens 2001:694).

These shared beliefs and symbols provide a sense of being part of a shared community, often giving people a sense of being connected to a larger group. Feelings of shared identity in a social group are very powerful because the need for identity is a central part of being human. However, although this sense of unity is largely a positive force, it can also create barriers to accepting other cultures (Giddens 2001:699).



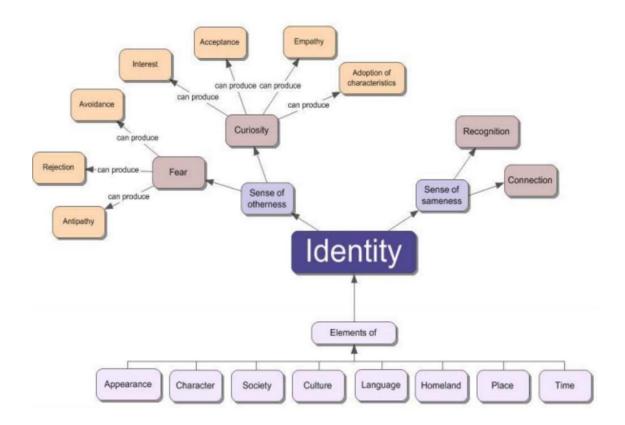
# D. Exercice: Comprehension Question

[Solution n°1 p 6]

Explain how the concept of 'race' is different from 'ethnicity'.

# E. Inter-Cultural Studies Mind Map

A Summary of the whole concepts tackled in theis course



#### **Solution des exercices**

#### > Solution n°1 (exercice p. 5)

The traditional definition of race and ethnicity is related to biological and sociological factors respectively. Race refers to a person's physical characteristics, such as bone structure and skin, hair, or eye color. Ethnicity, however, refers to cultural factors, including nationality, regional culture, ancestry, and language. (Adopted from Wikepedia)