

3.1 Introduction to Identity – The diversity of identity in your country

Objectives

- To facilitate an informal discussion on different types of identity and how they manifest themselves in the society of your country, thus getting students to think about the broad issues.

Previous Preparation

- There is no need for computers or connectivity for this module.
- You may wish to provide the students with statistics of the diversity of their school compared with that of the country

Introduction (25%)

Whole group *Discussion led by teacher*

Ask the group what the following types of identity mean. Clarify if necessary.

- National identity
- Regional identity
- Ethnic identity
- Religious identity

See how many examples the group can list on the board of each type within your country.

Development (50%)

Pairwork *Discussion*

Students should take time to discuss as many of these questions that they can and exchange their opinions on the issues with their partner and note down their answers. The teacher can split the class into groups and get each group to look at a separate set of questions:

- Do you feel that your identity comes from a majority group in your country?
- Are you, your parents and grandparents all of the same nationality?
- Do you all come from the same region of the country?
- Do you all come from the same ethnic group?
- Are you all at least nominally believers in the majority or official religion of your country?
- Are all of your friends from a similar background to you?
- Do you eventually expect to marry or spend your life with someone very similar to you?
- Do you expect any of this to change as you get older? What are the advantages of being in this majority situation?
- In which ways are you missing out? Does this situation limit your life experience?
- Is the life of your family influenced by more than one identity?
- Do you have friends or relatives who are in this position?
- Which facet of their identity is most important to them?
- What are the challenges that they face with their own combination of identities?
- Do they experience any problems within the majority societies they live in?
- Do they live within a smaller community that reflects the cultural or religious identity or do they live in a community that provides them with the majority

way of life?

- What are the ways in which people reaffirm their attachment to different aspects of their national, regional, ethnic and religious identities?

Conclusion (25%)

Whole group *Feedback to whole group*

Students volunteer any of their answers that they found most relevant or interesting. If the class was split into groups each group can report back on their main points.

Thinking ahead

If you are doing the module on 'many people, many cultures' collect some magazines which the students can use to find pictures of multiculturalism and cultural symbols for their photo montage. If you can, make sure they have access to computers in the next lesson so they can search for images using the Internet.

Teacher Evaluation:

Comments on the class:

Pupil specific comments:

Observation and evaluation of the class:
