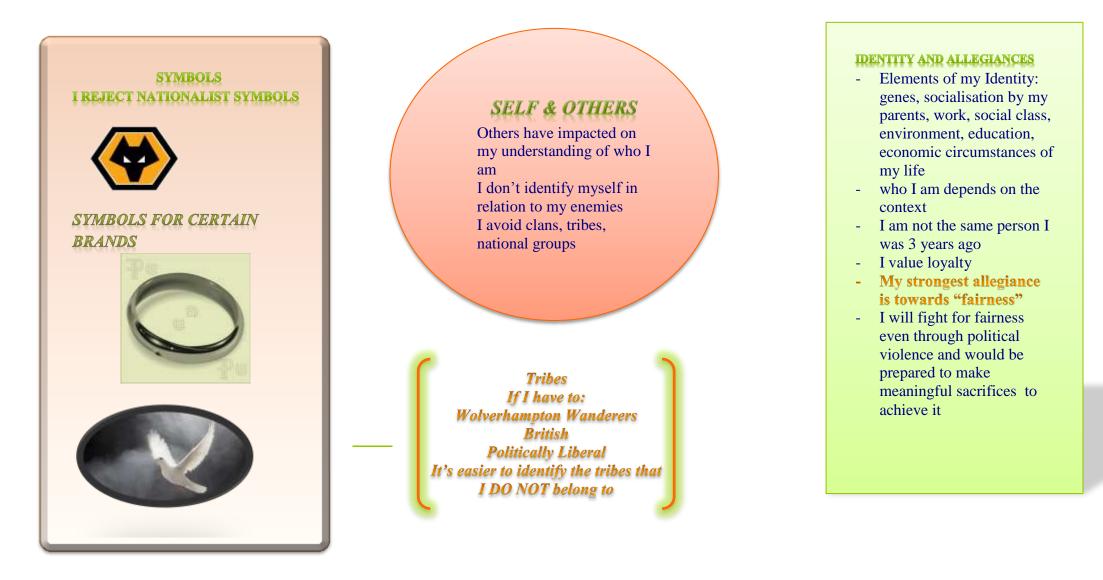
In the name of identity. Nick M.



In the Name of Identity. Nick M

Interview questions:*

- 1. Amin Maalouf maintains that "each individual's identity is made up of a number of elements, and these are clearly not restricted to the particulars set down in official records" (10). I'd like to know which "elements" make up your own identity
- 2. Could you list those "elements" of your identity to which you feel the strongest "allegiance"?
- 3. To what extent, and in what manner would you be prepared to defend these allegiances if you felt they were threatened?
- 4. Amin Maalouf claims that "the identity a person lays claim to is often based, in reverse, on that of his enemy" (14). Do you agree? Can you explain your position with some detail?
- 5. You are an English speaker. To what extent does this position you within a group?
- 6. When someone asks: "who are you?" How do you answer?
- 7. Maalouf tells us that "identity isn't given once and for all. it is built up and changes throughout a person's lifetime" (23) he explains that "what determines a person's affiliation to a given group is essentially the influence of others … who try to make him one of them; together with the influence of those on the other side, who do their best to exclude him" (25). In what ways does this quote apply to you?
- 8. What "tribes" do you feel you belong to? (local, national, global)
- 9. Maalouf argues that "everything in history is expressed in symbols ... and above all identity" (73). What symbols represent your identity?
- 10. "mistrust is one of the keywords of our age". Do you agree?

*(I offer these as an example of how to use Maalouf's text to generate questions that reveal the components of an identity. PLEASE feel free to devise your own.)