

Migration and Identity

GCSE History

About

This resource is for anyone with an interest in the history of migration to Britain or the use of primary sources to learn about the past.

It has been designed to complement the following AQA GCSE History themed study:

- AC Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day

This resource can be used by teachers in the classroom or by students at home. For any questions or to arrange a hands-on workshop on this subject please contact:

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Source Analysis

Use this template to judge the usefulness of a source

Describe

Title -

Date -

Type of source -

Provenance -

Analyse

Why was the source created?

Is the source reliable?

Yes

No

Evaluate

What do I already know about this topic?

What evidence does the source provide?

What evidence does the source **not** provide?

Identity

Whether it's interests, likes and dislikes, ethnicity, faith and beliefs, gender, language, sexuality, or individual characteristics identity is very important.

Self-identification can take many forms, and it covers a range of things that makes a person who they are.

Activity

In groups, discuss what we mean by 'identity':

- What kind of things would you include if you were describing your own identity?
- Do you and the others in your group consider the same things to be as important to your identity?
- Why might different aspects of identity be more or less important to different people in society?



A 'British' Identity

Identity can be understood in many different ways by different people.

It can create a sense of belonging but can also create a sense of exclusion.

For example, what makes British people 'British'? Is it the old stereotypes like a love of tea, politeness, and queueing? Or is it more complicated than that?

- What traits do you think make up a 'British identity'? Have these changed through the years?
- Do you think these traits are unique to British people?
- How many British people *actually have* all of these traits?
- What might this suggest about how identities are created?



History of Immigration

Some believe that immigration only began after World War II, but people have been arriving in Britain for thousands of years. There's even evidence that black soldiers from Africa were stationed on Hadrian's Wall in the 3rd century - that's *before* the Anglo-Saxons arrived and became known as the 'English'!

Source Analysis

Look at the photograph opposite

1. What do you notice about the different people in this crowd?
2. Use the Source Analysis template to consider how useful this source is for an historian studying the history of immigration



Photograph of a multi-ethnic group of sailors, Research and Publicity Department of the National Union of Seamen, early 20th century. 7

British Empire and the World Wars

In both World Wars, millions of people around the world volunteered to fight and make sacrifices for Britain – a country they felt part of.

However despite contributing to the British war effort, people from its colonies and Commonwealth countries were often not welcomed in Britain. Prejudiced ideas that some races were better than others meant many people wanted Britain to be a so-called 'white man's country'.

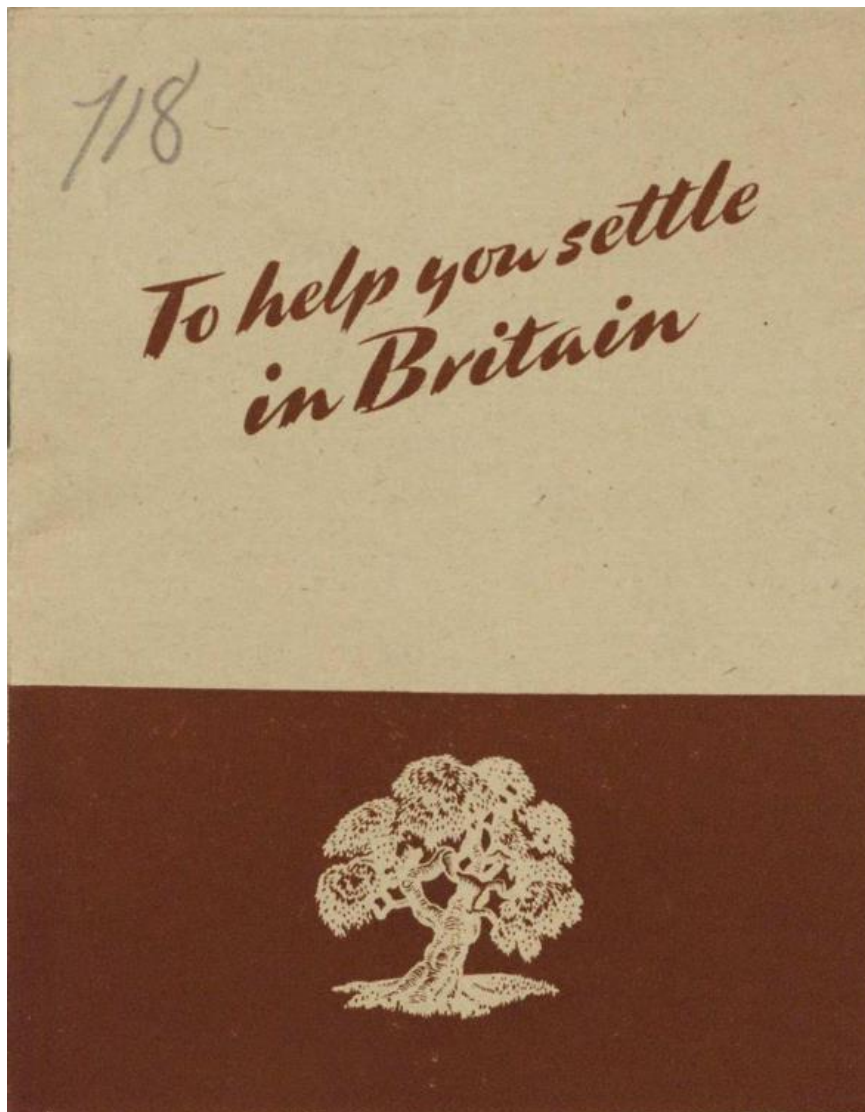




The Postwar Years

After World War II, Britain faced a shortage of workers and asked people from overseas to come and help to rebuild the country. The population of Britain grew by over a million people in the years 1945-1961, as people arrived from Europe and Ireland, as well as British colonial or Commonwealth countries (such as the West Indies, India, and Pakistan).

To help new arrivals from European countries fit in to British society, the government produced documents such as this one called *To Help You Settle in Britain*.



Source Analysis

The extract below tries to explain some of the complexities of the British 'Tipping System':

1. How helpful would a document like this be for new arrivals?
2. Would everyone in Britain agree with the advice this gives?
3. What kinds of issues might people arriving from European countries have with using or reading this document?

Activity

- Imagine you are writing a handbook for people moving to Britain now. What would you include? What do you think are the most important things to know about living in Britain?

THE TIPPING SYSTEM

Meals and Hotels. Except in some hotels and restaurants where it will be specified in the instructions to patrons, there is no system of a fixed 10 per cent added to the bill for service. In teashops it is usual to leave on the table or give to the waitress a few pence for a small bill, and to give up to, say, 6d. for a bill of about 5s. or 6s., or more for a larger amount (a waiter would expect, say, 6d. for a bill of about 5s., and probably 2s. for one of £1).

Attitudes to Immigration

The questionnaire on the next page was carried out by the 'Sussex Racial Preservation Society', an organisation formed in the 1960s that believed immigration was having a negative impact on Britain.

These kinds of groups played on the fears of British society, using racist language and xenophobic stereotypes to spread hostility towards people they believed did not belong in Britain.

Note: the word 'coloured' used in the questionnaire is no longer an appropriate way to describe people who are of Black or Asian heritage.

Source Analysis

1. How do you think the 'Sussex Racial Preservation Society' found people to answer their questionnaire?
2. What do you think about the questions being asked – and how they are being asked?
3. Use the Source Analysis template to consider how useful this source would be to an historian studying attitudes to immigration.

SUMMARY OF THE OPINION

THE RESULTS of the public opinion poll conducted by the 'Sussex Racial Preservation Society' are most interesting. The analysis of results was conducted by a volunteer who most generously gave his services free of charge. The questionnaire was so phrased that people agreeing with the results would be inclined to answer 'Yes' to each question.

The total number of questionnaires circulated was 12,000, of which 6,000 were returned through the post, the remainder being circulated from door to door. We received back no less than 1,563 completed forms. We consider this to be an exceptionally high return, illustrating the concern that the general public feels about coloured immigration.

It might be inclined to say that it is for a group of people to conduct a survey which they have a particular point of view, but one must bear in mind that

even if our questionnaire was construed as 'loaded', the choice of answering 'yes' or 'no' was at all. All 4 all 'no' replies. The number of 'yes's' to question No. 5 was 1,274 (96.14%). The number of 'yes's' to question No. 11 on racial hatred was less than 809 replies. The number of 'yes's' was 522 (33.40%) of the rest of the results.

Question	Yes	No
Do you care about the race problem?	1,500	
Do you think it wrong to encourage coloured people to come to Britain as a source of cheap labour?	930	
Do you think that the presence of 1½ million coloured people in Britain today with a birth rate 8 times that of white people is harmful to all concerned?	930	
Do you agree that mutual respect and harmony between the races is more likely to be achieved by relations to their homelands?	920	
Would you prefer Britain's police force to stay white?	1,270	
Does the British Medical Association say that coloured immigrants pose a serious health problem. Does this concern you?	990	
Scientists say that there are fundamental differences other than skin colour between blacks and whites. Do you feel they are right?	900	
Do you think the housing problem has been aggravated by coloured immigration?	1,120	
Were you consulted in 1950 and told that by 1965 there would be 1½ million coloured people in Britain, would you have thought it unlikely and would you be disappointed?	1,010	
It is estimated that in a few years' time there will be more coloured than white people in Britain. Do you consider this undesirable?	870	
Would you support a scheme to return all coloured people to their homelands if it was done to their advantage in a humane and financially generous manner?	800	
Did the Nazis create the races separate and distinct. Do you consider it wrong that the Divine order should be changed by the mixing of races?	720	
Do you agree that all men are equal in the eyes of God?	520	
Please state in as few words as possible your views.		

RESULT OF THE OPINION POLL

	Yes Answers	No Answers	Other Answers
1. Do you care about the race problem?	1,506	47	10
2. Do you think it wrong to encourage coloured people here as a source of cheap labour?	930	267	366
3. Do you think that the presence of 1½ million coloured people in Britain today with a birth rate 8 times that of white people is harmful to all concerned?	936	251	376
4. Do you agree that mutual respect and harmony between the races is more likely to be achieved by repatriation to their homelands?	921	238	404
5. Would you prefer Britain's police force to stay white?	1,274	84	205
6. The British Medical Association say that coloured immigrants pose a serious health problem. Does this concern you?	991	173	399
7. Scientists say that there are fundamental differences other than skin colour between blacks and whites. Do you feel they are right?	905	170	488
8. Do you think the housing problem has been aggravated by coloured immigration?	1,126	185	252
9. Had you been consulted in 1950 and told that by 1965 there would be 1½ million coloured people in Britain, would you have thought it unlikely and would you have disapproved?	1st part 974 2nd part 1,017	1st part 275 2nd part 149	1st part 314 2nd part 397
10. It is estimated that in a few years' time there will be more coloured than white people in Britain. Do you consider this undesirable?	879	222	462
11. Would you support a scheme to return all coloured people to their homelands if it was done to their advantage in a humane and financially generous manner?	809	253	501
12. God created the races separate and distinct. Do you consider it wrong that the Divine order should be changed by the mixing of races?	727	203	633
13. Do you agree that all men are equal in the eyes of God?	522	520	521
14. State in as few words as possible your views.			



Racial Discrimination

While white European and Irish immigrants were helped by the government to settle in Britain, others arriving in the postwar years received much less support. Although initially much fewer in number, people arriving from colonial or Commonwealth countries faced the most hostile response. This group are often called the 'Windrush Generation', because of the arrival of some onboard a ship called the *Empire Windrush* in 1948.

Although they were legally British citizens, people of the 'Windrush Generation' were viewed as visibly different because of the colour of their skin. They were often considered 'further away from being English' than white Irish or European immigrants.

They faced much racist discrimination, such as the 'colour bar' – unfair systems that stopped people from getting jobs, houses, or even using certain shops or pubs, just because of the colour of their skin.

Activity

Imagine that you arrived in Britain in the years after World War II as a member of the 'Windrush Generation'. Write a letter to a family member in the West Indies – what might you tell them about your life in Britain? How have other people treated you?

THEY TRIED PUTTING A COLOUR BAN ON HARVESTS

This is Amelia King.

She was refused work
on the land because of her
colour.

Colour doesn't prevent
her father and brother
fighting in the Merchant
Navy.

Press and public clamour
exposed this shameful
treatment of a Stepney-
born girl.



THAT IS ONE CASE, HERE IS ANOTHER.

Leary Constantine, well-known broadcaster and sportsman,
was turned out of the Imperial Hotel.

Why? *Because of his colour.*

Coloured folk can die fighting for us, can help destroy
Fascism, can help preserve our freedom, but they are not
allowed to gather in the harvest or stay at certain hotels.

The Race Relations Act

The Labour Government introduced the first 'Race Relations Act' in 1965, a new law which made racial discrimination illegal ('racial discrimination' means to discriminate against somebody because of the colour of their skin, race, or ethnic or national background).

However, this law was quite narrow – it didn't cover jobs, housing, or public places like shops – and so it needed to be strengthened in 1968, 1976, and again in 2000.

While making racial discrimination illegal, these laws unfortunately have not eliminated racism from Britain.

The Race Relations Act 1968

Price 6d net

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY

'A Home of our own'

step by step – the conciliation procedure
which follows one housing complaint

1



Dr Chaudhury studying an advertisement

Dr Chaudhury came to England with his parents in 1947 and qualified as a doctor in 1962. He is working as a physician at the County Hospital, is married with two children and has saved enough money to buy a house. The houses advertised are close to the hospital and in the right price-range. They decide to enquire.

2



Dr Chaudhury with the developer

The developer tells Dr Chaudhury that there are difficulties in selling to immigrants. Dr Chaudhury points out that he has the cash and is prepared to put down a deposit, but the developer insists that the estate is an exclusive one and that he has to think of the other residents. Although he is not prejudiced, he cannot afford to sell to immigrants.

3



Dr Chaudhury and wife

After discussing the matter with his wife and friends Dr Chaudhury decides to take action. He feels that he has been discriminated against on racial grounds and decides on a formal complaint to the Race Relations Board. He obtains and fills in a complaint form.

4



The conciliation office: conciliation officer and assistant studying complaint form

The conciliation officer for the regional conciliation committee receives the complaint, which he discusses with his assistant. The Board's conciliation committees cover all areas of Britain and have a statutory duty to receive and investigate complaints. On the face of it, this complaint may be a case of discrimination. It will be investigated. Each complaint is allocated to a sub-committee of the conciliation committee.

5



Enquiries begin

A file is opened for each complaint. The conciliation officer telephones a member of the sub-committee to which the complaint has been allocated and advises him that his assistant conciliation officer will investigate.

6



Dr Chaudhury interviewed at his home

The investigation is to ascertain the facts. This is necessary so that the sub-committee can form a provisional opinion whether or not unlawful discrimination has occurred. She discusses the complaint with Dr Chaudhury and takes a written statement from him.

A Home of our own

step by step – the

which follows

Source Analysis

Read through the first 6 steps of 'A Home of our Own' (1969), from the Race Relations Board on how to make a complaint against racial discrimination according to the 1968 Race Relations Act.

1. How would you react if somebody refused to sell you something, based purely on your race or ethnicity?
2. Would you be happy having to use this complaint system if someone had been racist to you?
3. Use the Source Analysis template to consider how useful this source would be to an historian studying racial discrimination.



Dr Chaudhury studying an advertisement

Dr Chaudhury came to England with his wife and two children in 1947 and qualified as a doctor in 1962. He is working as a doctor at the County Hospital. He has enough money to buy a house. He has seen houses advertised in the local paper which are close to the hospital and in the right area. They decide to enquire.



Dr Chaudhury with the developer

The developer tells Dr Chaudhury that there are difficulties in selling the house to immigrants. Dr Chaudhury points out that he has the cash and is prepared to pay a deposit, but the developer insists that the estate is an expensive one and that he has to think of the other residents. Although he is prejudiced, he cannot afford to lose the immigrants.

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Dr Chaudhury and wife

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The conciliation officer: Dr Chaudhury and his wife studying complaint form

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1. BAN FASCIST AND RACEMONGERING ORGANISATIONS AND PUT THEIR LEADERS BEHIND BARS. Feeling between the two communities is already strained enough. Say "No!" to those who by words and deeds would worsen it.
2. MAKE RACE DISCRIMINATION AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE. Those who bar their doors or deny employment to members of a different race must bear a heavy share of the responsibility for recent events.
3. MAKE A REAL DRIVE TO EASE THE HOUSING SITUATION. Take over partially empty property; build on the bomb-sites; drive down racketeering rents. The exploiting landlord, and those politicians who protect him, is the real enemy of both white and coloured workers.
4. LET THE TRADE-UNION AND LABOUR MOVEMENT ACT TO PROTECT ALL CITIZENS. In their organisations, workers in the affected area should discuss and take the necessary steps to counter the provocations of the racist gangs.
5. LET IN THE LIGHT OF NEIGHBOURLINESS. White people who work on the railways and the buses should make sure that coloured fellow-workers are not left to walk home alone in the early morning hours. Take a tip from the children, who know no hatred till they learn it from their elders.

LET BLACK AND WHITE UNITE TO FIGHT THE RACEMONGERS!
FOREVER DRIVE AWAY THIS EVIL FROM OUR STREETS!

Anti-Racism

For as long as immigration into Britain has existed, there have been people and groups fighting against racism and discrimination. They acknowledge the diverse nature of the British population and appreciate the benefits of this diversity, as well as the need for mutual respect and understanding.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people hold prejudiced views of others?
2. How can these views be questioned or changed?
3. How successful do you think the above suggestions, from the 'Afro-Asian West Indian Union' in 1959, would have been?



Source Analysis

Read the extract below from 1983 about teaching in schools:

1. Why were children in British schools during the 1980s described as being 'West Indian', despite having never actually been to the West Indies?
2. Can a person have more than one identity – such as being both 'British' and 'West Indian' or 'Asian'?
3. Use the Source Analysis template to consider how useful this source is to an historian studying attitudes to identity.

"... In talking of 'West Indian' children in our schools we are now talking almost totally about a group who were born in this country and know no other. The cultural differences between natives of Devon and Darjeeling [India] may be little greater than those we can find between regional and social class groups within the native white population of the British Isles. We must be very much on our guard against the facile use of such blanket terms as 'West Indian' or 'Asian' lest they blind us to the immense diversity which they embrace."

CANTEEN



Get you're fed up with this rotten old climate, eh Jeanie?

CANTEEN



Always raining - damp - cold



Get you wish you were back in Jamaica, eh?

CANTEEN



Plenty of sunshine - all that rum - beaches - warm sea - palm trees....

CANTEEN



Listen ducks, I'm from Brixton and there's no palm trees THERE!

CANTEEN



All the same these southerners - no bloody imagination!

Source Analysis

One of the many ways that people have tried to tackle racism in Britain, is through using comics to get their message across.

This one from 1979 addresses the opinion that, if you are black, you must have been born somewhere other than Britain.

Such opinions are based on racist ideas that British people are only white and that someone cannot be both black *and* British.

Activity

Design your own anti-racist comic. Think about:

- What particular issue do you want to address?
- Have you personally experienced someone being racist? Or perhaps something on television or in the news?
- Is racism always obvious, or might it be something people are doing that they are not aware is racist?
- What would you want to tell them or help them to understand – and how can you use your comic for this?

Summary

- Identity can be understood in different ways by different people.
- Identity can create a sense of belonging but can also create a sense of exclusion.
- Britain is culturally diverse.
- Immigration is not new; people have been arriving in Britain for thousands of years.
- After World War II, Britain faced a shortage of workers and asked people from overseas to come and help to rebuild the country.
- Not everyone welcomed these immigrants, known as the Windrush Generation, and they faced racist abuse and discrimination.
- The 1965 Race Relations Act made racial discrimination illegal.
- Many people and groups have fought against racism.
- These groups promote mutual respect and understanding.