

Social Identity: On the most basic level, this amounts to your sense of 'self'. However, sociologists tend to highlight the interdependence between the ideas of individual and society – the notion of 'social identity' formed by interaction with those around you.

Cultural Identity: Culture is expressed by 'material production and consumption', in other words, by creating and interacting with leisure pursuits, food, fashion, language, beliefs, ideas, customs, arts, literature, and music et cetera. This is NOT FIXED, but constantly evolving.

Intro to 'Identity'

Ways of understanding who we are?

To which Key Thinkers does this term apply?

Benedict Anderson – Nationalism

Kwame Anthony Appiah – Cosmopolitanism

Thomas Hylland Eriksen – Globalization & Localization

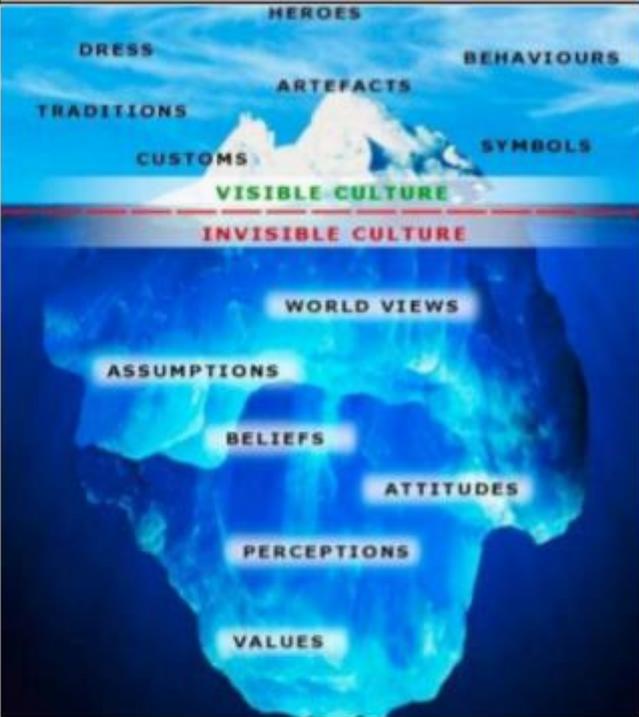
While there is clearly no ONE specific way of understanding our sense of Identity, the first three key thinkers that we will examine offer us three very different sets of insights into the ways in which the contemporary world thinks about the construction of identity. As a starting point, you might consider that the most familiar (if narrow) forms of identity that we examine is "Nationalism", and that the broadest reciprocal form is "Globalization". We might also profitably consider "Cosmopolitanism" to be one way of 'bridging' the vast gulf between those two opposing positions.

Edward Said – Orientalism & Othering

Samuel Huntington – "Clash of Civilizations"

One of the issues with this part of the course is that it throws up LOTS of controversial issues. In particular, the final two key thinkers present contrasting, even irreconcilable views of the world. Within your class groups and within any essay you attempt in this topic, you'll need to demonstrate an understanding of the kinds of tensions that are thrown up by the sensitive nature of the topics of discussion, while still maintaining an engaged and critical tone. The disagreement between Said and Huntington became very, very heated at times, but that doesn't mean that you have to follow suit. In the last generation, Ireland has changed dramatically. We must acknowledge, but respect these changes.

Thinking about culture: How much of what we think of as culture is conscious and how much is sub-conscious?



In 1976, sociologist David Hall developed the 'Cultural Iceberg Model'. He argued that, like the iceberg which is 90% under water, the external tip of the iceberg is the conscious surface of a culture. The vast majority of culture is hidden, or at least not actively thought about most of the time. These are the subconscious, or unquestioned aspects of culture. Take the categories above and see where they would fit in terms of your own views of your 'culture'.

American Values



- **Salad Bowl Theory** - immigrants keep their own basic beliefs and ways of life while adapting to the general characteristics of the culture
- **Melting Pot Theory** - immigrants groups blend into the culture adding items to the culture but not keeping strong ties to their cultural ties and background

Which of the two approaches above, the 'Melting Pot' or the 'Salad Bowl', would Kwame Anthony Appiah most approve of? Which is more 'Cosmopolitan' in its approach?

How should Ireland be dealing with new arrivals to our country? Should we be looking to 'integrate or assimilate' them?

What role should the voice of migrants play in this decision?

Investigate the Irish Asylum and **Direct Provision** system. What would Appiah say about those systems?

Look at Ireland's "**Migration Integration Strategy**". Do you think it provides enough support to new arrivals? What possible objections to the system might emerge?

http://www.justice.ie/en/IELR/Migrant_Integration_Strategy_English.pdf/Files/Migrant_Integration_Strategy_English.pdf

Possible Essay Questions on "Identity" (as drawn from the Subject Specifications)
With each title decide which 'Key Thinkers', concepts, and Institutions are most relevant.

Possible Data-Based Question (f)s

1. "Evaluate the idea that education has played a crucial role in shaping a sense of national identity on the island of Ireland." (North & South)

2. "Identity is a product of a process of mixing and adaptation and it does not stay static across time."
Discuss this statement using contemporary evidence and relevant key thinkers."

3. "Describe patterns of ethnic and cultural diversity which exist within the European Union including."

(1) Ethnic diversity within states and within the European Union (2) Language diversity (3) Religious diversity

Possible Essay Titles

1. "National groups and ethnic groups are 'imagined communities': social constructs which involves the imagining of an 'us' and a 'them', something which can have significant consequences for how people understand and interact with those seen to be in the 'other' group." State whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Justify your position. [Your answer should include examples and evidence from a local or global context to support your argument. You should also refer to the views of two or more named theorists you have studied]

Anderson Appiah Eriksen CSO

Said Huntington GCI Eurostat

2. "**Identify the positive and negative effects of developing a sense of ethnic identity, including: - the benefits associated with achieving a secure and confident sense of one's own ethnic identity. - the risks of inter-ethnic violence and genocide related to an insecure or threatened sense of ethnic identity.**" Justify your observations with reference to one or more international events and in the light of the ideas of two or more named theorists from your course.

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3. "The west has historically constructed itself ('us') in opposition to the non-western world ('them') and, in doing so, has imagined itself to be rational, civilised and mature and has imagined the non-western world as irrational, depraved and child-like." State whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Justify your position. [Your answer should include examples and evidence from a local or global context to support your argument. You should also refer to the views of two or more named theorists you have studied]

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4. "Processes of globalisation such as travel, commerce and ICT are breaking down national cultures and identities and creating a cosmopolitan culture and a cosmopolitan identity." State whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Justify your position. [Your answer should include examples and evidence from a local or global context to support your argument. You should also refer to the views of two or more named theorists you have studied]

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5. "There are a number of major civilisations in the modern world that are culturally fundamentally different and are in competition with each other." State whether you agree or disagree with this statement. Justify your position. [Your answer should include examples and evidence from a local or global context to support your argument. You should also refer to the views of two or more named theorists you have studied]

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6. Critically Evaluate the argument: "If the West does not protect its culture of human rights and rational thought from other world civilisations, then Western culture will be wiped out". Your answer should draw on at least Two Theorists and any relevant evidence/data you can use.

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7. Evaluate the argument that power is moving from national governments to supranational bodies.