

Topic 2 ETHNIC MINORITIES AND SOCIAL CLASSES

1 Complete the text using vocabulary from topic 2.

Ethnic minorities and social classes

As the world becomes more globalized and borders between different countries and cultures more blurred, the definition of what an ethnic minority is becomes more complex. Generally it is a group within a community which has different beliefs and traditions from the main population. In truth though, the level of diversity in some countries and cities causes other divides and segregation, based on everything from religion to occupation.

Minority groups are a major part of most large cities, with some being more visible and successful than others. Whilst some live in difficult circumstances, often unemployed and living in run-down housing projects on the city's outskirts, others prosper, particularly in well-known and densely populated areas such as Little Italy or Chinatown in New York.

The USA is a country of many different ethnic minorities, all of which have had different levels of success and integration. Due to its land border with Mexico, the USA has always had a problem with unaccompanied or illegal immigrants, often known as aliens, coming across the border. Under President Trump the USA has tightened its customs and migration controls to stop the surge of people entering the country.

Of course, there has always been a divide between the rich and the poor. For example, although the social class system in Britain is not as easy to define as it used to be, society is still divided. Your class is no longer simply determined by how much money you have, but also your job, and where you live. Add to that the all-pervasive issue of gender division and it is clear society is split into a very complex hierarchy.

Multiculturalism and diversity are predominantly a positive thing for modern societies. Different people bring their own cultures and traditions to another country, such as food, fashion and art. Nevertheless, the mix of cultures and beliefs often poses problems when locals become suspicious of minority groups and prejudices appear. Arguably the greatest weapon against these problems is awareness and a willingness to understand and accept one another's beliefs and values.

2 Match the words on the left (1-8) with their synonyms on the right (A-H).

H	1	to boast	A	to withdraw
D	2	to whine	B	district
A	3	to retreat	C	intentionally
F	4	vacant	D	to complain
B	5	borough	E	exhausted
C	6	deliberately	F	empty
E	7	weary	G	variety
G	8	diversity	H	to show off

3 Match the words on the left (1-8) with their definitions on the right (A-H).

F	1	offshore	A	without thinking of the consequences
G	2	to spring up	B	the process of taking legal action
A	3	reckless	C	to provide for
H	4	to apprehend	D	negative stereotype
B	5	litigation	E	to have a different opinion
D	6	prejudice	F	abroad
C	7	to cater for	G	to suddenly appear
E	8	to be at odds with something	H	to take into custody

4 Fill in the gaps.

- The loan you take out to buy a house is called a mortgage.
- If something is obsolete it is no longer needed.
- The divide between men and women is known as the gender division.
- The job you do is your occupation.
- An ethnic minority is a group within a community which has different national or cultural traditions from the main population.
- Oxygen is the air we breathe.
- A monoculture is a system with little or no diversity.
- Minor is the opposite of adult.

5 What is it in German?

- awareness Bewusstsein
- suspicious of somebody misstrauisch gegenüber jdm.
- all-pervasive alles durchdringend
- densely populated dicht bevölkert
- housing project sozialer Wohnungsbau
- circumstance Umstand
- misleading täuschend