

II.1.7

The World Facing New Challenges

Contemporary History – Regional and social identity in the UK

nach einer Idee von Paul Jenkinson



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Diese Reihe gibt den Schülerinnen und Schülern einen kurzen Überblick über die regionalen und sozialen Identitäten im Vereinigten Königreich. Das übergeordnete Ziel der Einheit sind interkulturelle Kompetenzen, mit denen die Lernenden die Diskussionen infolge des Brexit besser einordnen können.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenstufe:	10–13
Dauer:	8 Unterrichtsstunden
Kompetenzen:	1. Leseverstehen: unterschiedliche Texte verstehen; 2. Hörverstehen; Hörsehverstehen: Videos und Bildmaterial verstehen, einordnen, analysieren; 3. Schreibkompetenz: Diese Reihe gibt einen kurzen Überblick über die regionalen und sozialen Identitäten im Vereinigten Königreich.
Thematische Bereiche:	Großbritannien, Monarchie, Ständedenken, Zeitgeschichte
Medien:	Texte, Bilder, Videos, interaktive Übungen, Cartoons

Auf einen Blick

1.–3. Stunde

Thema: Regionalism

M 1 Inequalities in the UK

M 2 Cartoon: Greetings from the ... er, United Kingdom

Inhalt: Die Schülerinnen und Schüler werden durch einen Guardian-Artikel in die Thematik eingeführt und recherchieren und besprechen regionale Unterschiede und Ungleichheiten. Dazu analysieren und bewerten sie einen komplexen Cartoon zur Thematik.

4./5. Stunde

Thema: Elite Education

M 3 Educational Elitism – Is Class an inescapable feature of the UK?

Inhalt: Mit einem längeren Textausschnitt und einem kürzeren Video wird der britische Elitarismus behandelt, der sich auch im Bereich der Bildung niederschlägt. Die Schülerinnen und Schüler befassen sich mit dem Thema der Bildungsdiskriminierung in der Textarbeit, Videoanalyse und verschiedenen kreativen Aufgabenformaten.

6.–8. Stunde

Thema: Regional identity through cultural roots

M 3 Regional identity through cultural roots – Cornish National Identity: 2021

Inhalt: Die Schülerinnen und Schüler lesen und bewerten Auszüge einer Parlamentsdebatte. Dabei arbeiten sie in Gruppen, analysieren kurze Videosequenzen und präsentieren Ihre Ergebnisse im Plenum.

Inequalities in the UK

M 1



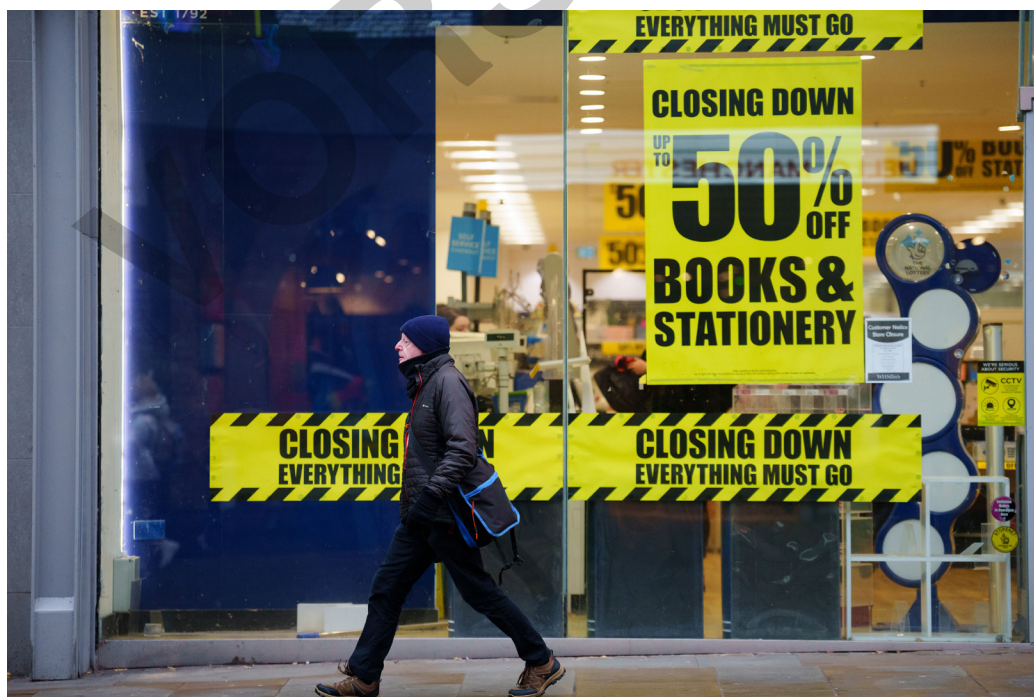
“If the regions are to rise, London must take a hit”

I recall one word that dominated a business seminar in Manchester some time ago. The seminar was on the north-south divide, and the word was London. It was obsessive. Why does London keep taking our best people, everyone asked? Why do our children all want to get to London?

This week’s report by Lord Kerslake¹ on the north-south divide presents the problem in graphic terms. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) shows Britain with the widest regional inequality of any advanced nation. London’s economy is growing at between two and four times the rate of the north. It is blessed with better health, better trains, better skills. The south-east has largely escaped austerity², its public spending rising £2bn in a decade. The north’s has fallen by £6bn. Fixing this gap will require action “on a level with Germany post-unification”, the report says, when trillions were spent over decades on the former east.

Some of this gloom is misleading. Surveys claim London is the least happy region in the land, the north far more content. The OECD and the Institute for Fiscal Studies have also shown that inequality in Britain is less between north and south than between particular places. Leeds contrasts with Rotherham. East London is poorer than Harrogate.

In addition, low house prices are starting to draw people out of town, followed by companies such as Goldman Sachs, PricewaterhouseCoopers and JP Morgan. Just over 10 years ago only 1% of emigrants from London went northwards. That is now 13%. Big cities are critical to any revival, and some of these are clearly on the turn. They are developing “Latin quarters”, seen as crucial in keeping “young creatives” locally engaged, such as Birmingham’s Jewellery Quarter and Manchester’s Northern Quarter. The worst problems are the smaller places: the Barnsleys, Blackburns and Oldhams.



A man passes a closing down shop in Manchester, Britain, Nov. 22, 2023.

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M 2

Working with a Cartoon – Greetings from the ... er, United Kingdom



Source: How to be British Collection Two/Published by Lee Gone Publishers, GB 2005.
Copyright: LGP, Brighton, UK www.lgpcards.com

Tasks

1. Make notes explaining how the following topics are depicted in the cartoon:

devolution – Northern Ireland's problem – frictions – class – language – wealth – regional identities and clichés

2. Using your notes, write about regionalism in the UK as portrayed in the cartoon.



Regional identity through cultural roots

M 4



Cornish National Identity: 2021 Census (an extract from a parliamentary debate)

Steve Double (MP, St. Austell and Newquay): I am deeply honoured to be able to make the case tonight for celebrating Cornish identity and to call for the inclusion of Cornish identity to be recognised in the next census¹ in 2021. I am very grateful for the support of many of my Cornish colleagues here in the House this evening.

5 There is no doubt or debate over the fact that the Cornish are a proud people who share an extraordinary history that can be traced back thousands of years. In calling for this debate to make the case for a Cornish tick box for national identity in the next census, there is a risk that some may see this as some sort of gimmick² designed simply to boost our tourist industry or play into a stereotype of Cornish country folk. Nothing could be further from the truth.

10 Although it is true to say that many of us Cornish can be guilty of having a playful jibe³ at the English, especially those from Devon – after all they do put their jam and cream on the wrong way round on their scones – this is not a whim⁴ or some notion based on a romantic view of the past.

15 The Cornish have, along with our Welsh cousins, the longest history of any people in Britain, dating back 12,000 years. It is believed that these ancient people entered this isle after the Ice Age from the area now occupied by the Basques. Genetic codes indelibly mark the Cornish with the DNA of their ancient ancestors. It is believed that a staggering 80% of the Cornish retain this genetic marker. The Cornish language, which is seeing a revival in recent times, has a 5,000-year history. We in Cornwall have our own culture and our own ways. Cornwall even

20 has its own patron saint, St Piran, whose life is celebrated on 5 March every year. We have our own flag and even our own tartan,⁵ which I am modelling so well with my tie this evening. We are all but an island, with the sea surrounding us on three sides and the Tamar River on the fourth, which falls only four miles short of making us an island. There has been many a Cornishman who has been tempted to get his shovel out and dig those last four miles to finish

25 the job, because in so many ways we have the culture, the identity and the attitudes of an island race.

30 The 80 miles of granite protruding into the Atlantic stubbornly rebel against the great ocean and yet have been shaped by it. The beauty and the desolation defy description and yet somehow portray the spirit of the people who call it their land. It is as if the people and the land are as one. This is not just an historic or romantic notion, but a serious issue that is very much based on current, clear facts.



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