

Outline and explain **TWO** ways in which society can be seen to have moved into a post-modern age (10)

One way in which society can be seen to have moved into a post-modern age is through the process of globalisation. Globalisation is the greater inter-connection of nations into a global village. This process has been helped by technological innovations, such as easier travel and the development of telecommunications networks. Globalisation is a key feature of the post-modern age as it promotes massive cultural changes in society and influences the identity of individuals who draw ideas from other cultures and develop hybrid identities. An example of this could be British Asian music or fusion cuisine. Furthermore, the process of globalisation allows for more movement of people on a global scale and the transmission of ideas, norms and values from one part of the world to another. Post-modernists would argue, however that the process of globalisation can lead to the displacement of traditional national identities and that this in turn can lead to global conflicts, an example of this being the war on terror.

A further way in which society can be seen to have moved into a post-modern age is through the increase in diversity. Post-modernists would suggest that the grand-narratives of structural theories such as Marxism and Functionalism are no longer relevant as individuals have more choice and free will over their lives than in the modern era. Evidence of this can be found in the greater diversity of family life, with gender roles and sexuality particularly being more flexible than in the past, leading families away from the traditional view of a nuclear family that was typical of the modern era. The range of family types in the post-modern era is broad and diverse, with the recognition of same sex marriage, less stigma on divorce and cohabitation and the option for people to construct their own familial units from friends, colleagues and pets. This greater diversity would act as a sign that society has moved into a post-modern age