

1. Outline and explain two ways socialisation has impacted on the formation of ethnic identities. [10]

One way in which socialisation has impacted on the formations of ethnic identities is through primary socialisation. Ethnic subcultures are more likely to be socialised into the norms and values of their ethnic culture at home, through the food they eat, language they speak and the way they are expected to dress. Hides researched various ethnic groups in the UK and found that at home there were many artefacts that acted as cues to the individual's ethnic identity, such as ornaments, pictures, idols and icons. As the role of socialisation often falls to the mother in families, Hides also found that conformity to the norms and values of ethnic cultures was primarily the mother's role in the family, and that food and dress were vitally important in establishing a sense of ethnic heritage. This was particularly the case in Hides' research in South Asian families, but similar findings have been reported in Caribbean, African and Eastern European households.

A second way in which socialisation has formed ethnic identities is through agencies of secondary socialisation. Whilst these agencies often promote the values of the UK onto a wide range of ethnic groups, they help to develop hybrid identities. Gilroy examined black-Caribbean cultures and found that elements of white culture had merged with more traditional black-Caribbean cultures to develop new forms of identity. Similarly, Basit found that amongst South Asian school girls, education had led to them adopting hybrid identities. These identities retained many of the core values from the student's ethnic backgrounds, such as language, religion and dress, but also adopted western values of ambition and gender equality. Furthermore, Modood et al found that younger generations of Asians had drifted away from some traditions of the ethnic culture, but were politically and socially aware of the importance of identifying with their ethnic backgrounds, forming a British Asian hybrid identity.

Item A

Disability has a powerful impact on an individual's concept of identity. Both visible and hidden disabilities are often presented negatively, with a focus on the limitations that people with disabilities may encounter in their lives.

2. Applying material from Item A, analyse two ways in which disability is presented as a stigmatised identity. [10]

One way in which disability is seen as a stigmatised identity is how individuals are 'presented negatively' (Item A). This is most likely to be seen in media portrayals of individuals with disabilities, whose disability is often seen as being central to their character in fictional works or used as a personal story in factual representations. Cumberbatch et al found that there was little representation of disability in mainstream media, and where there was the individual's disability formed a central part of their storyline, such as how they overcame adversity or detailing the struggles that they faced. Furthermore, Barnes found that in media sources, disable people were often represented as being dependent upon others, or embittered by their disability and cast as villainous. However, in contemporary media sources, this is changing, with the normalisation of conditions, rather than the labelling of characters as disabled.

A second way in which disability is presented as a stigmatised identity is through discussion of the 'limitations' (Item A) people with impairments face. It is argued that individuals with visible impairments are often labelled as disabled and this becomes a master status for that person that overrides all other characteristics that the person possesses. Shakespeare found that many people with impairments were viewed through this negative label, and that their impairment was less of a burden to them than the label of being seen as disabled. Furthermore, Scott argues that this form of labelling of people as being disabled leads to a sense of 'learned helplessness' whereby the pity they receive from others is internalised and become a self-fulfilling prophecy, one which ultimate leads to the individual becoming dependent upon others for assistance. This results in disability been stigmatised as being dependent upon others, rather than an impairment that individuals can, and often do, overcome.