The face of the UK

The UK is a multicultural society with people from almost every country in the world. In fact, 9% of people originate from other countries. This multiculturalism isn’t new to the UK, but the 1950s, in particular, saw a period of mass immigration from countries that were once part of the British Empire: India, Pakistan and parts of Africa and the Caribbean. These people created their own communities, especially in the larger cities. Today, a lot of the UK’s most famous citizens are their children and grandchildren. For example, Formula 1 Champion Lewis Hamilton’s father is from the Caribbean.

With the expansion of the European Union, more people are moving around Europe, and many are coming to the UK, especially from newer member countries such as Romania, Poland and the Czech Republic. Some want to work and save money, others want to improve their English, and others come for the experience of living in a different country.

London is the heart of multicultural Britain. There are communities from more than 90 countries in London, and they speak over 300 languages – more than in any other city in the world. Every year, the city has festivals which celebrate different cultures. In August the Notting Hill Carnival celebrates Caribbean culture. It’s the biggest street festival in Europe, and up to 2.000.000 people attend. In January or February the Chinese celebrate their new year, and in April the Bangladeshis celebrate Bengali New Year. Finally, if you’re adventurous with food, London is great as you can find every kind of cuisine there. The most popular restaurants are Indian, Chinese and Italian, but there are lots of others, including Thai, Vietnamese, Greek, Moroccan, French… and of course, traditional British!

**Which heading fits to each paragraph?**

The UK’s multicultural capital 3

Immigration from the Empire 1

Today’s immigrants 2

**Write True or False and correct the false sentences in your notebook**

A lot of people moved from the UK to India in the 1950s F

Romania and Poland are in the European Union T

These days, many immigrants come from Eastern Europe F

You can find people from over 300 countries in London F

Chinese New Year is in the autumn F

People in London don’t like Indian food F

**Answer questions based on your opinion**

Is Spain multicultural?

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Why do people come to Spain from other countries? How long do they stay?

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Do you like food from other countries? Which types of food?

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Are there any foreign restaurants where you live? Are they popular?

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Do you think that people in your country are generally tolerant of people from other countries? Why?

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**Match the words in the text writing them down right next to their meaning**

Sociedad (1st paragraph) Society

Casi (1st paragraph) Almost

Grandes (1st paragraph) Larger

Ciudadanos (1st paragraph) Citizens

Ahorrar (2nd paragraph) Save money

Mejorar (2nd paragraph) Improve

Acudir (3rd paragraph) Attend

Aventurero (3rd paragraph) Adventurous

Genial (3rd paragraph) Great

Cocina (3rd paragraph) Cuisine

Por supuesto (3rd paragraph) Of course

**Write a text (150-200 words) about multiculturalism in Spain**