

KULTUSMINISTERIUM DES LANDES SACHSEN-ANHALT



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Englisch
(Grundkurs)

Einlesezeit: 30 Minuten
Bearbeitungszeit: 210 Minuten

Thema 1

For British nonwhites,
a feeling of being left out

Thema 2

Say Yes

Thema 1: Kombinierte Aufgabe**For British nonwhites, a feeling of being left out**

by Warren Hoge

Sheffield, England

The streets with their Georgian row houses and Victorian clock towers have names that have long been thought of as typically British – Queen, Wellington, Duke, Bank, Castle. The shops and storefronts nestled among them have names that are fast
5 becoming typically British – Marcia’s Caribbean Takeaway, Imran’s Southern Fried Chicken, the Kebab House, the Somalian and Mediterranean Food Hall.

But the 40,000 nonwhite residents of this city of 530,000 in the heart of Britain, many of them born and raised here and speaking in the distinctive broad vowels of a Yorkshire accent, identify themselves as anything but British. They do not even say
10 Afro-British – it’s Afro-Caribbean; not Asian-British, simply Asian.

This self-definition strikes a nerve in Britain, where the government has made the acquisition of a common sense of British nationhood by the immigrant population a critical measure of progress in its push for racial integration and assimilation.

Experience in cities like Sheffield proves that it is one thing to transform churches
15 into mosques, tea rooms into curry houses and old depots into ethnic community centers, and something else again to turn people who feel foreign into self-proclaiming Britons.

“The only times I call myself British are when I go to get a passport and when someone asks me where my accent comes from,” said Jenni l’Anson, 33, a mental
20 health aide of Jamaican parentage who was born in Sheffield. “Otherwise I would never class myself as British. There is no sense of belonging here. I would only say that I am African-Caribbean.”

Her nephew, Theo Hamilton, 15, a third-generation Sheffielder, said, “British to me means white, and I don’t get treated like a white person, so I don’t think of myself as
25 British.”

European countries are experiencing profound changes in their population mixes, and Britain’s reputation as one of the region’s more stable multi-ethnic societies was shaken during the summer of 2001 by a series of riots in cities with substantial immigrant populations. In the aftermath of September 11, the country also found that

30 it had been a breeding ground for young Islamic radicals linked to terror groups and committed to jihad against the West. [...]

A government report on the summer outbreaks concluded that whites and ethnic minorities in Britain were leading separate lives with no social or cultural contact and no sense of shared nationality. It urged immigrants to become active British citizens.

35 [...]

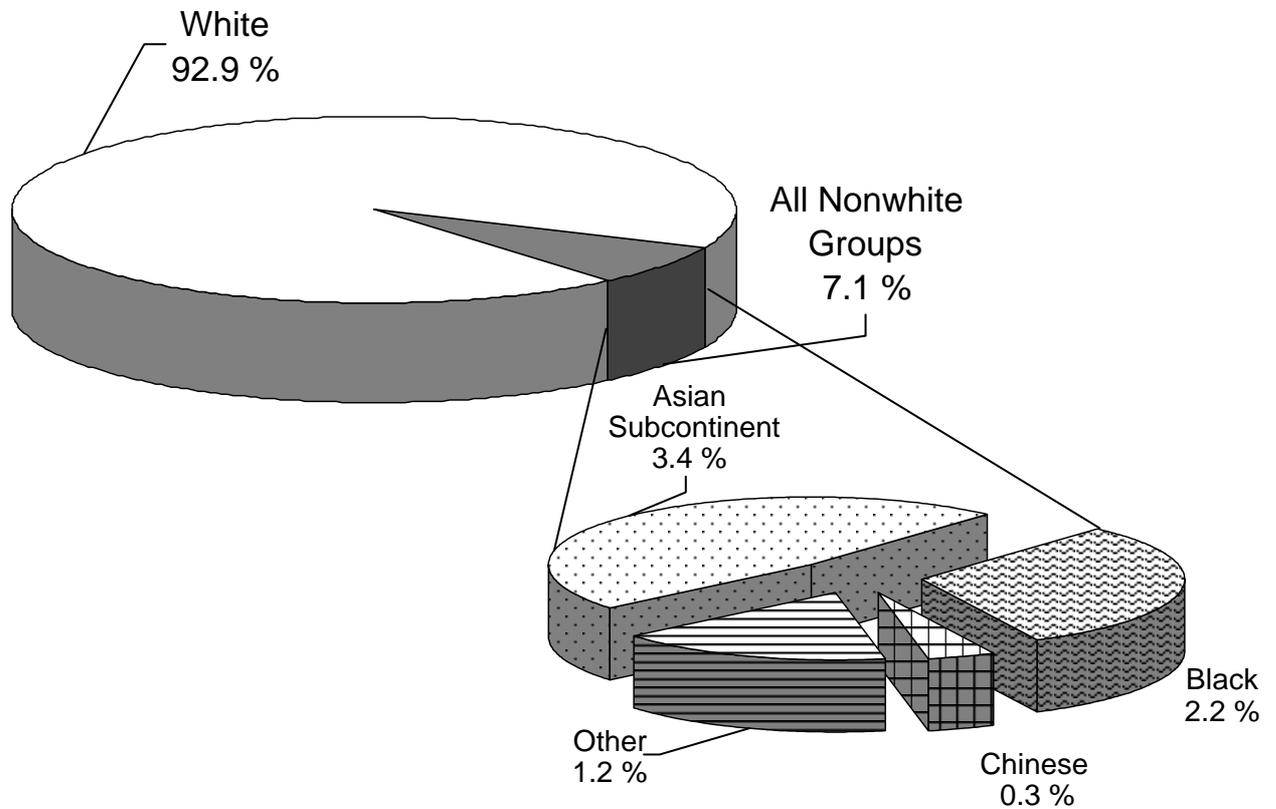
Britain's policy had been one of championing multiculturalism, an approach that seeks to guarantee equality of opportunity while respecting and even celebrating cultural differences.

40 Many nonwhites in Britain thought they witnessed a departure from that ideal with the publication of the report and the subsequent recommendations of citizenship classes and pledges. They reacted with bewilderment and anger.

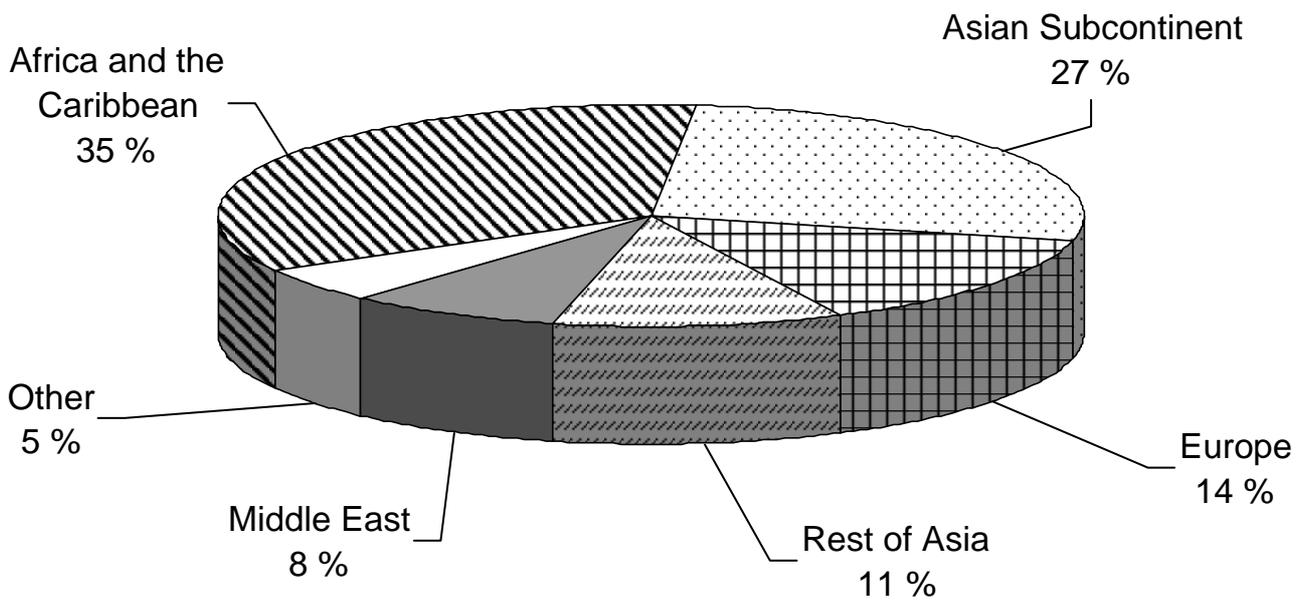
"You can't give your allegiance to a country that is trying to exclude you", said Seaton Gosling, 63, the Jamaican-born chairman of Sheffield's Black Community Forum. "Everyone wants to keep the right to preserve his culture and identity."

from: International Herald Tribune,
April 5, 2002

Resident population by ethnic group in Britain, 2000-01



Grants of British citizenship in 2000, by previous nationality



For British nonwhites, a feeling of being left out**Assignments****A Language/Form**

What sort of text is this? Give three criteria to support your decision.

B Comprehension (Use your own words as far as possible.)

1. State the contrast which is brought out in the first paragraph.
2. What is the common view held by the three people quoted in the text? Indicate their different reasons for holding this view.
3. Outline Britain's policy regarding ethnic minorities before and after the 2001 riots.

C Text Production (Choose one of the topics.)

1. Everybody wants the right to preserve their culture and identity. Give your opinion.
2. Neighbours – a mixed blessing. Discuss.
3. You are planning to apply as an au-pair in Britain. Write a letter to a prospective host family presenting your ideas about your life in this family.

D Statistics

Analyze the statistics and draw your conclusion(s).

Thema 2: Textaufgabe**Say Yes**

by Tobias Wolff

They were doing the dishes, his wife washing while he dried. [...]

They talked about different things and somehow got on the subject of whether white people should marry black people. He said that all things considered, he thought it was a bad idea.

5 “Why?” she asked.

Sometimes his wife got this look where she pinched her brows together and bit her lower lip and stared down at something. When he saw her like this he knew he should keep his mouth shut, but he never did. Actually it made him talk more. She had that look now.

10 “Why?” she asked again, and stood there with her hand inside a bowl, not washing it but just holding it above the water.

“Listen,” he said, “I went to school with blacks, and I’ve worked with blacks and lived on the same street with blacks, and we’ve always gotten along just fine. I don’t need you coming along now and implying that I’m a racist.”

15 “I didn’t imply anything,” she said, and began washing the bowl again, turning it around in her hand as though she were shaping it. “I just don’t see what’s wrong with a white person marrying a black person, that’s all.”

“They don’t come from the same culture as we do. Listen to them sometime – they even have their own language. That’s okay with me, I *like* hearing them talk” – he did; for some reason it always made him feel happy – “but it’s different. A person from their culture and a person from our culture could never really *know* each other.”

“Like you know me?” his wife asked.

“Yes. Like I know you.”

25 “But if they love each other,” she said. She was washing faster now, not looking at him.

Oh boy, he thought. He said, “Don’t take my word for it. Look at the statistics. Most of those marriages break up.”

30 “Statistics.” She was piling dishes on the drainboard [...] “All right,” she said, “what about foreigners? I suppose you think the same thing about two foreigners getting married.”

“Yes,” he said, “as a matter of fact I do. How can you understand someone who comes from a completely different background?”

“Different,” said his wife. “Not the same, like us.”

35 “Yes, different,” he snapped, angry with her for resorting to this trick of repeating his words so that they sounded crass, or hypocritical. [...]

“So,” she said, “you wouldn’t have married me if I’d been black.”

“For Christ’s sake, Ann!”

“Well, that’s what you said, didn’t you?”

40 “No, I did not. The whole question is ridiculous. If you had been black we probably wouldn’t even have met. You would have had your friends and I would have had mine. The only black girl I ever really knew was my partner in the debating club, and I was already going out with you by then.”

“But if we had met, and I’d been black?”

45 “Then you probably would have been going out with a black guy.” He picked up the rinsing nozzle and sprayed the silverware. The water was so hot that the metal darkened to pale blue, then turned silver again.

“Let’s say I wasn’t,” she said. “Let’s say I am black and unattached and we meet and fall in love.”

50 He glanced over at her. She was watching him and her eyes were bright. “Look,” he said, taking a reasonable tone, “this is stupid. If you were black you wouldn’t be you.” As he said this he realized it was absolutely true. There was no possible way of arguing with the fact that she would not be herself if she were black. So he said it again: “If you were black you wouldn’t be you.”

“I know”, she said, “but let’s just say.”

55 He took a deep breath. He had won the argument but he still felt cornered. “Say what?” he asked.

“That I’m black, but still me, and we fall in love. Will you marry me?”

He thought about it.

60 “Well?” she said, and stepped close to him. Her eyes were even brighter. “Will you marry me?”

Say Yes**Assignments****A Language/Form**

1. Define the type of narrator used here and explain its effect on the reader.
2. Explain the following sentence in its context:
"He had won the argument but he still felt cornered." (line 55)
3. This text contains some conditional sentences.
 - a) Give two examples of different types.
 - b) Define these types and explain why they are used here.

B Comprehension (Use your own words as far as possible.)

1. Formulate the essence of the couple's argument in about twenty words.
2. Describe the reactions of the protagonists within the argument.

C Text Production (Choose one of the topics.)

1. Continue the story. You may include dialogue.
2. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of intercultural relationships.
3. Speech is silver, but silence is golden.
Comment on this proverb.