THEME 3:

Cultural Diversity Read the following texts.



Text 1

Nowadays our planet is becoming more and more developed. I think that there aren't white spots on the map anymore. People made efforts to discover all places on the Earth through hard conditions and adversities. We have planes, trains, boats and cars. If we have no money, we can travel around the world by hitch-hiking. It's very easy to move from one country to other without any problems. That's why we can notice an enormous mixing of nationalities. In just one country we can meet Chinese, Vietnamese, English, French or even Lapp. In this situation we must consider about advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon.

I'll begin with pros. We can acquaint ourselves with other cultures and traditions promoted by other cultures. It's very important for example in art and music because we are searching new inspiration like mixing hip-hop with Arabian traditional songs. Also, it's useful for cooks who are also interested in searching extraordinary flavors.

In addition, studying other cultures has a wonderful influence on our minds. When we are learning about them, we focus and practice our memory. For instance, learning new language enriches our knowledge very much. We can become familiar with universal, grammar structures and similar vocabulary.

However, because of fascination in foreign countries we can forget about ours. There are many cases when somebody abandoned cultivation of his own traditions. For me, it's kind of scary, because we cannot neglect our native language, history or culture. Someone must remember and transfer them to the next generations. What is more, others can impose to us a way of thinking. Maybe it's not a sudden process. But in Europe we can observe a growth of Muslim population. When European people have mostly only one child, they could have about eight. It means that in some time Europe will be ruled by them. I think it's a very raw religion and we should be proud of our catholic religion and civilization.

All things considered, although there are big advantages of living in multicultural society, we should be cautious. We can try new things but we can't forget old ones. It's our history and background. One, who doesn't know history, might do the same mistakes as his predecessors.

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Text 2

Depending on the setting, multicultural diversity can be of great benefit for individuals in society because it allows people to get a glimpse at cultures other than their own. However, in some situations, multicultural diversity can also lead to tensions. In any given environment, there may be unique advantages and disadvantages of multicultural interaction. One way to figure out whether a situation is advantageous or disadvantageous is to make a list of pros versus cons. The expression: "two heads are better than one" has a deeper meaning than the literal and, therefore, in order to come up with an effective list, it may prove to be more effective if several people with different perspectives come together to achieve an objective. This, in turn, will lead to a better and more well-rounded outcome. Allowing people with varying opinions to come together works well in a wide range of settings, which include work environments, education settings, social situations, entertainment, sports, and so forth.

On the flip side, a few conceivable disadvantages of multicultural situations may lead to racial tensions among different ethnicities or other strained relations amongst different groups. These negative outcomes generally are the result of people who are ill-informed and allow them to maintain a stance that comes across as ignorance, bias, and "other-ism" from one or more parties, rather from the actual mixing of cultures. Some may argue against globalism and multicultural diversity because they think it results in blending and thus the loss of distinct cultures because the thought is that once people begin blending, the original cultures get lost in the shuffle. However, an

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easy argument against that is that it is up to people within a particular culture to maintain traditions or not. Multiculturalism is a complex subject that should be approached carefully.

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Exercise 8: Answer the following exercises about the previous readings.

1. What do the underlined words refer to in the texts?

Text 1 - a) them: _____ b) them: _____ c) they: _____

Text 2 - d) it: _____ e) which: _____ f) they: _____

a wide range of settings / multicultural diversity / Muslim population
native language, history or culture. / other cultures / people who are ill-informed

2. Identify, in the texts, 4 positive aspects of living in a multicultural society. Write them here.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Find evidence in the texts. Explain here.

a) The access to so many means of transport has made it possible for people from different cultures to live together. _____

c) The low birth rate in Europe is going to have negative consequences in its governments and policies. _____

d) Learning the history of our country is important to avoid the repetition of mistakes done by our forefathers. _____

e) There is an increase of racial violence in multicultural societies.

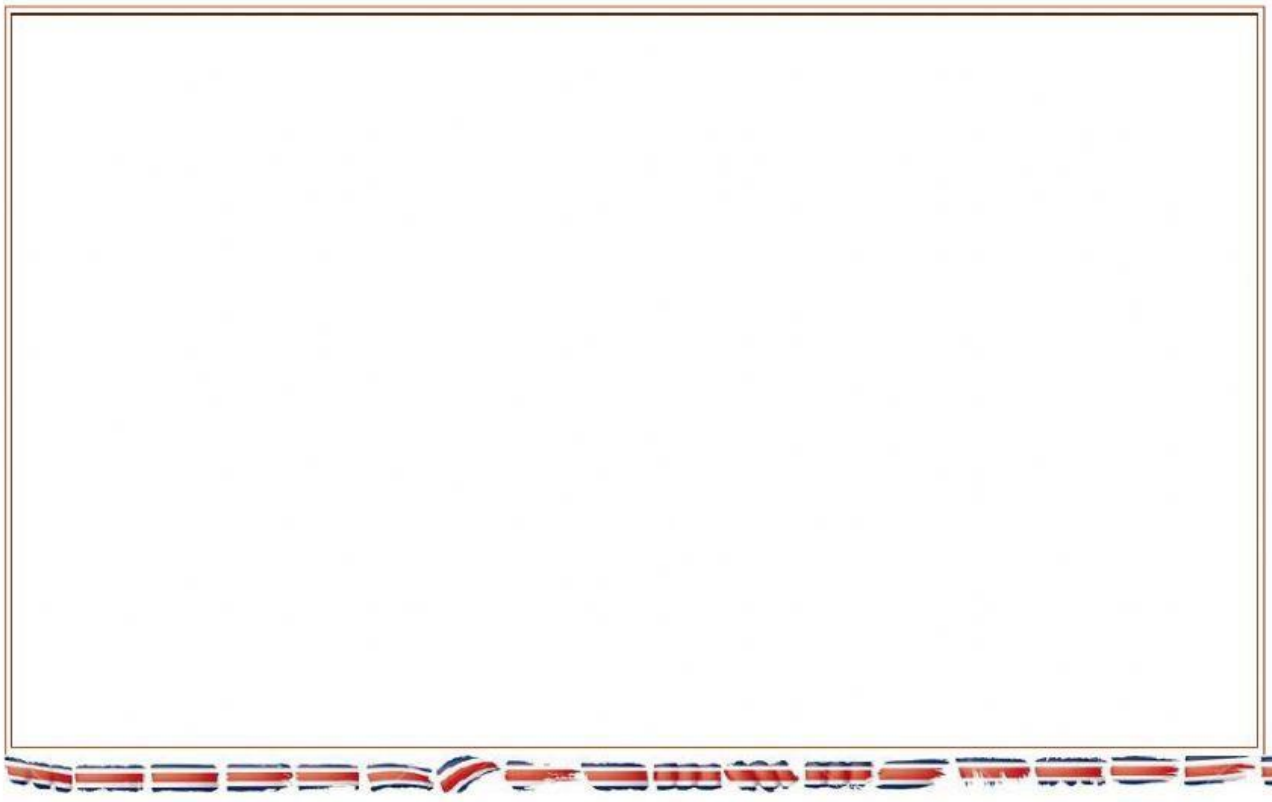
_____

4. Comment the following statement in a paragraph.

"There is a lot of pressure in today's digital age to consume the same products, sing the same songs, wear the same clothes and speak the same language. We are forgetting the value of diversity."

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Your comment:



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