UNIT 5: CULTURAL IDENTITY

SKILLS

READING

Cultural identity in modern society

1. Read the passage about cultural identity. Four sentences have been removed from the passage. Choose a sentence (a-d) to complete each gap (1-4).

a. On the other hand, there are people who choose to abandon their heritage culture and assimilate into the new culture of the majority.
b. Cultural identity is usually understood as the identity or feeling of belonging to a group that has its own culture.
c. However, people often do not confine themselves to one culture.
d. The first stage, known as unexamined cultural identity, occurs during childhood, when culture is taken for granted.

2. Read the passage again and complete the sentences below with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each blank.

1. Nationality, ……..,……., history, language, gender, beliefs, customs, clothing and food are among ……..which help identify an individual.
2. There are 3 stages of developing cultural identity, named unexamined cultural identity, ……, and ……
3. In the second stage of forming cultural identity, teenagers will ……., ……. and ……... their beliefs with other cultures.
4. People reach the last stage called cultural identity achievement when they have …….. of cultural identity, recognize the …… they belong to, and are …….. with it.
5. The cultural identity of those who even live in their native country may be affected by other cultures because of their instant……..with other cultures through the Internet and ……
6. People may react in three different ways when living a new culture. First, some keep and ……their cultural identity. Second, some …… the new culture of the majority. Third, others integrate into the ……while keeping their cultural identity and flexibly …….. the different aspects of the new culture.

There are various studies on cultural identity. (1) _____. Individuals usually define themselves by cultural identifiers such as nationality, ethnicity, location, history, language, gender, beliefs, customs, clothing and food.

It is suggested that cultural identity develops in three stages. (2) _____. Cultural ideas and values provided by families, communities or the media are easily accepted without much critical thinking. In the second stage, called the *cultural identity search*, teenagers may become more curious, and willing to explore, analyse and compare their beliefs with other cultures. When people develop a clear sense of cultural identity, know which social group they belong to and feel satisfied with their cultural identity, they reach the final stage called *cultural identity achievement*.

Living in their own country, people can easily acquire and maintain their cultural identity because they are fully exposed to different aspects of their native culture. They inherit their ancestors' history, knowledge, language, beliefs, values, and customs, which have been passed from one generation to the next one. (3) _____. In the age of globalisation, access to the Internet and the media provides instant contact with many cultures. A person's cultural identity may be influenced by certain aspects of other cultures.

When people move to a new culture, they may react differently. Some people feel a strong urge to keep their cultural identity, so they continue speaking their language, cooking their food, wearing their traditional clothing, and celebrating their festivals. They also insist that their children and grandchildren maintain their cultural identity. (4) _____. Yet, there are people who integrate into the new cultural environment while keeping their own cultural identity and flexibly adjusting to the different aspects of the new culture.



LIVEWORKSHEETS