

3.1 British society Britain as a social state

- What does it mean to be British?
- What kinds of people make up British society today?

1

WELFARE STATE

- NHS: free healthcare for all → level of services now varies due to costs
- financial aid for needy people, e.g. unemployment/housing benefit
- **Pros:** help for people needy through e.g. disability; prevents people turning to crime in desperation
- **Cons:** people should take individual responsibility rather than handouts from the state; high costs of the system

3

CLASS SOCIETY

- wealth no longer a clear indication of social class
- pride in working class background
- new class divisions identified: from the well-off and financially secure to those with job insecurity

2

BRITISH IDENTITY

- identity with place of birth/upbringing
- stronger sense of national identity in older generations, incl. immigrants
- pride in e.g. NHS, history, cultural heritage creates shared sense of identity

4

IMMIGRATION

- many immigrants from Commonwealth countries/former colonies
- fewer from EU due to Brexit
- refugees & asylum seekers from Syria/Africa/Ukraine

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MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

- **Pros:** diversity enriches society; contact with people from different backgrounds = more tolerance
- **Cons:** loss of national identity and traditions when mixed with too many different cultures; migrants may not share the same values as host country → danger of isolation

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

care facility
compensation
council housing
culture clash
to deport
diversity

Pflegeeinrichtung
Entschädigung
Sozialwohnungen
Aufeinanderprallen zweier Kulturen
abschieben
Vielfalt

needy	bedürftig
pension fund	Rentenkasse
poverty line	Existenzminimum
social security	Sozialversicherung
state pension	staatliche Rente
welfare state	Sozialstaat
well-off	wohlhabend