**H.A. – ENGLISH 1: Questions for reflection - (3.a.: Documents: e-class)**

* **How familiar are we with our cultures?**
* **How important is it for us to learn about certain characteristics of another culture before we visit or host people who have a different background from our own?**
* **Consider: culture/ race/ ethnicity/ nationality/ habits/ other …**

1. **BODY LANGUAGE**

* **Why or how would someone misinterpret someone else’s body language?**

**What do we have to take into consideration?**

1. **SELF-CONFIDENCE**

* **How does self-confidence affect a person’s life/relationships/creativity?**

1. **JOB-HUNTING**

* **(a) Do you think that minorities should be given job priority?**

**Consider ‘race’ or ‘ethnicity’, other cases.**

* **(b) Do you think it is better to start looking for a job while you are still studying?**
* **Consider the sort of job one might find and the kind of studies one pursues**

**e.g. Graduate or Postgraduate studies – as well as the discipline one has chosen. In this case, how do you think one could manage to combine studies and work?**

1. **BEHAVIOUR (male sex vs. female sex)**

* **Treatment of women in the ‘Western’ society and elsewhere**

**(American continent/ Europe/ Asian continent)**

* **Treatment of men …**
* **Treatment of children …**

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# SAT / ACT Prep Online Guides and Tips

**\*Naturalized: (of a foreigner) admitted to the citizenship of a country:**

* **e.g. *"a naturalized US citizen born in Germany”*.**

## [Race vs. Ethnicity vs. Nationality: All You Need to Know](https://blog.prepscholar.com/race-vs-ethnicity-vs-nationality)

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[GENERAL EDUCATION](https://blog.prepscholar.com/topic/general-education)

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| **TERM** | **DEFINITION** | **EXAMPLES** |
| **Race** | **Physical characteristics that define a person as being a member of a specific group** | **Skin color, hair color and texture, eye color, facial features, physical build** |
| **Ethnicity** | **Cultural characteristics that define a person as being a member of a specific group** | **Language, accent, religion, styles of dress, hairstyles, social customs, food and dietary preferences or restrictions** |
| **Nationality** | **The legal sense of belonging to a specific political nation state** | **Citizenship (birthright or naturalized\*)** |

**Ethnocentrism Defined**

**Ethnocentrism happens when a person judges another culture based on the values and standards of their own culture**. The problem with this is that cultures vary widely, so the result of ethnocentrism is that a person thinks their culture is better than other people's cultures. Ethnocentrism leads to a person or a group of people thinking their way of life is natural and correct--and that cultures that don't share the same practices and values are dangerous, backwards, and uncivilized.

**Like racism, ethnocentrism leads to discriminatory practices.** For example, [take this story about students being asked to remove their hijabs at one Virginia school.](https://www.newsweek.com/teacher-placed-leave-hijab-pulling-714356) A hijab is an important part of some Muslim women's religious practice. The teacher who asked the girl to remove her hijab assumed that her cultural practices and values--in which hijabs aren't required--were superior. In this case, the teacher's actions were based on a false assumption that one ethnicity is somehow superior to all others, and that others should assimilate.

**Hijab:** a traditional scarf worn by Muslim women to cover the hair and neck and sometimes the face

**What Is Race?**

First, let's define race. To put it simply, **race is a person's physical qualities that make them fit into distinct groups.** **Groups of people who share similar physical and behavioral characteristics are grouped together in racial categories.**

Generally speaking, **people are assigned to different racial categories by their physical, unchangeable traits,** like skin color, hair texture, eye shape, and facial features. So, in the United States, a person with dark skin and very curly Black hair is going to be racially categorized as Black, and someone with pale skin and straight blonde hair is going to be assumed to be Caucasian.

It's important to understand that **while people used to think that race was biologically determined,** [**science has now proven that race is a social construct**](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/race-is-a-social-construct-scientists-argue/)**.** But what does that mean, exactly? Well, at one point people thought that when you were of a certain race, you were significantly biologically different from people of other races. This was often used as a means to oppress people. For instance, one of the justifications for American slavery was that Black people were inherently genetically inferior to white people, making the latter the superior race.

Recent science has shown that race is actually something developed and assigned by society. **That is, scientists have discovered that a person's race doesn't make them significantly genetically different from anyone else.** That means that race is a way for societies to differentiate people based on common physically expressed traits.

**Racism Defined**

Like we just mentioned, race is based on a person's physical traits. That means **racism is the act of discriminating against (or being prejudiced against) a person or group of people based on race.** Racism is also the belief that a person's own race is superior or makes them superior to others.

Racism also happens when people assume that a person's race makes them predisposed to certain behaviors. Believing that all Black people are violent or that Latina women are sexually promiscuous are examples of racism that uses a person's race to assume negative things about them and their behavior.

Keep in mind that while individuals can have racist opinions or beliefs, racism can also exist on a larger level. **When social and political systems operate on racist assumptions, it's called institutionalized racism** (θεσμικός ρατσισμός). This type of racism is often harder to detect because we believe it's normal or acceptable. For example, [the fact that Black and Hispanic people with a college degree will make less money than a white or Asian person with the same degree](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/17/business/racial-wealth-gap-persists-despite-degree-study-says.html) from similar universities is an example of institutionalized racism.

**What Is Ethnicity?**

If race is based on a person's physical appearance, then what is *ethnicity*? **Ethnicity, put simply, is someone's regional cultural heritage**. This includes a person's native language, their religion, the holidays they celebrate, and their cultural practices. In this case, ethnicity is tied much more closely to geographical region and culture than physical appearance.

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**Race vs Ethnicity Examples**

We've already talked about some examples above, but it's probably helpful to see a race vs ethnicity list, too. In the table below, you'll see a race in the left column, then some associated ethnicities in the next two columns.

**Keep in mind that this is a *very small sample* of the different race and ethnic combinations that exist.**You can be more than one race and more than one ethnicity! These definitions also differ significantly between countries, too.

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| **RACE** | **BROAD ETHNIC CATEGORIES** | **ETHNICITY** |
| **Black** | North African African American | Bahamian (a person from the Bahamas) Yoruba (a member of an African people of south-western Nigeria and Benin) Hausa (a member of a people of northern Nigeria and adjacent regions) |
| **Asian** | South Asian East Asian | Bangladeshi (a person from Bangladesh) Tibetan (a person from Tibet) Han Chinese (East Asian ethnic group native to China) |
| **Caucasian** | European | Scot (a native of Scotland, or a person of Scottish descent) Breton (person from Brittany, N.W. France)  Magyar (Hungarian) |

Again,**these are not all the ethnicities that exist**. ([There are hundreds, if not thousands, of ethnicities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_contemporary_ethnic_groups).) And there are even *more* combinations of ethnicity and race! For instance, you can be ethnically Latino, but racially black, Asian, *or*Caucasian.

The big takeaway is that **race and ethnicity are separate categories, and a person's ethnicity often depends on both cultural and national contexts.**

**The truth is that people have both a race and at least one ethnicity**...and these usually aren't the same things! Additionally, many people identify with multiple races and ethnicity depending on their heritage. For example, someone who is biracial and lives in Haiti might identify as racially Black and Asian, while considering themselves ethnically South Asian and Latino.

**Race vs Ethnicity and National Context**

Fascinatingly, **race and ethnicity exist within the cultural context of a specific national environment**. In other words, races and ethnicities differ between countries, and they even differ*within*countries!

So, for instance, someone with an Algerian background who lives in France occupies a specific ethnic role that depends completely on the history of occupation and colonization between France and Algeria. In France, the ethnic distinction of "Algerian" carries specific connotations.

But that ethnic role disappears once they move to the United States.

**Once in the U.S., this person would gain a new and/or different ethnicity, since their national context changes when they move.** Now, they fit into American racial and ethnic categories. So, while this person might be Algerian in France, they may be categorized as Muslim in the United States. While this person would personally continue to personally identify as ethnically Algerian, they would be perceived and treated as a Saudi or Iraqi might be treated based on American national perceptions of ethnicity. They would perhaps even be called "Middle Eastern," even though they are actually North African.

**What Is Nationality?**

While race and ethnicity are a tangled mess that becomes more difficult to understand the harder you try, nationality is fairly simple. **Nationality is defined as the legal citizenship of a nation state**, pure and simple (= απλά και ξάστερα / και τίποτε άλλο). It's pretty straightforward, too: you either are or are not a citizen of a nation state! In the United States, you can attain citizenship either by being born here (birthright citizenship) or by being granted legal citizenship by the United States government (naturalized citizenship). When you obtain your citizenship, your nationality becomes American.

So, that's simple, right? **You belong to a nation once you have legal citizenship, and your citizenship defines your nationality**. Oh, but hold on! Here's where it gets tricky. Once you are a citizen, do you then automatically receive all the privileges and protections of citizenship? Legally, yes, but culturally...it's complicated. While you may be a legal citizen, how you are actually received and the treatment you are afforded can be affected by your race and ethnicity. This leads us to the phenomenon of nationalism.

**What Is Nationalism?**

**Nationalism is the belief that one's one nation state is to be prioritized**, and the well-being of that collective is more important than, well, anything else really. Nationalism emphasizes the setting aside of individual differences or interests for the good of one's own state. That sounds okay, right? Well, it can be. There's definitely a positive side to it. Sometimes, nationalism means that people are treated more equally. Instead of being considered Asian American or Japanese American or African American, nationalism can sometimes mean you're treated just like everyone else regardless of race and/or ethnicity.

But nationalism can also mean that one's national identity should come before *everything*else. This is particularly problematic when a person's culture comes in conflict with national identity. This shows up when questions arise such as whether or not English should be the national language of the United States. The Nationalist belief would be that once you are an American citizen, you should conform to an American identity--one that happens to be English-speaking. This would require people who speak other languages to speak English, and when they don't, they can be considered to be "less American" and become subject to prejudice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qqqVwM6bMM>

Barefoot College – Bunker Roy – Ted-x Talks (video)