

# Diverse Societies Face Change

All questions require at least  
THREE sentences on own paper.

## PLACES & TERMS

**immigrant** person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence

**mosaic** design created from many smaller pieces

**domestic** relating to one's own country

**assimilation** when minority people adopt the language, customs, and lifestyles of the dominant culture

## “Mosaic” or “Melting Pot”

### **What** task has diversity created?

North America is culturally diverse. **Immigrants** have come from all over the world. Asian, Eastern European, and Latin American neighborhoods are found in most large cities in the United States and Canada. In New York City alone, immigrant schoolchildren speak more than 100 different languages.

The arrival of so many peoples created the difficult task of forming unified societies. Each of these two countries has approached the task in a different way.

Canada created a cultural “**mosaic**,” composed of many different pieces. In addition to its native peoples, Canada’s early settlers were French and English. As Canada developed, its peoples kept their separate identities.

The Canadian government encouraged immigrants to come. It wanted to fill Canada’s empty lands. It also wanted to expand its workforce and **domestic** markets—the markets in the country.

Immigrants were encouraged to retain their cultural identities. As a result, Canadians have strong ethnic ties.

In 1988, the Canadian government enacted the Canadian Multiculturalism Act. This was designed to protect and promote diversity. Many people believe that this policy ensures equality for people of all origins. Others feel that this multicultural policy promotes difference at the expense of national unity. There is no sense of “Canadianess.”

The United States has often been described as a “melting pot.” For many years, people in the United States thought assimilation was the best way to create unity. **Assimilation** occurs when people from a minority culture adopt the language, customs, and lifestyles of the people from the dominant culture.

People expected immigrants to assimilate. Those who did not could face prejudice because of their differences. Immigrants who assimilated underwent “Americanization.” Most of these immigrants came from Europe. Many wanted to assimilate. They wanted to adopt the language and culture—to become Americans.

### 1. How do opinions about Canada's multicultural policy differ?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## New Immigrants Challenge Old Ways

### **How** did things change in the late 20th century?

Immigrants to the United States in the last half of the 20th century brought different attitudes. These immigrants came mainly from Latin America and Asia. They were culturally or racially unlike earlier immigrant groups. These later immigrants were less willing to give up their traditions and languages.

Some Americans felt that these people did not understand what made the United States unique. The strength of the United States comes from blending its diverse cultures to create something new—an American. They also believed that keeping different languages and customs would promote separation and not unity. Other Americans thought that American society would benefit by stressing multiculturalism, as the Canadians do.

### 2. What are the two views on diversity in the United States?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## The Concerns Are Real

### **Can** unity be maintained?

**Newspaper Article:** It appears that the idea of “One nation, indivisible” is now history. The immigrants of today are coming from still-developing nations in Asia and Latin America. Soon, no one ethnic group will be in the majority, including whites of European descent. Once, there was a yearning to be an American, to be part of the culture. Today, people want to preserve their ethnic identities.

**Political Commentary:** With the current influx of immigrants, the United States may not survive as “one nation.” We need to halt illegal immigration. We need to teach newly adopted Americans our history, traditions, and language.

### 3. Why do people think that the United States will no longer be “one nation?”

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## Diversity Is Here

### **What** evidence is there of growing multiculturalism?

**Social Commentary:** The melting pot concept spoke of all Americans being part of the United States. Many people saw the United States as being a place where historical hurts from their homelands could be erased. In contrast to the melting pot, multiculturalism encourages us to take pride in our own roots first. By appreciating our own cultures, we develop an interest in others' origins.

**U.S. Government Document:** The 2000 census form contained detailed racial and ethnic classifications. This form showed the diverse make up of the population of the United States.

**Canadian Law:** According to the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, it is the policy of the Government of Canada to recognize and promote multiculturalism. The government sees multiculturalism as a fundamental part of Canada's heritage and identity. The law states that understanding and creativity will come from the interaction between individuals and communities of different origins.

### 4. How does the Canadian Multiculturalism Act view multiculturalism?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.