3 Cultural interaction and identity – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	**Write it 3 times** (English)		
Acculturation			
Assimilation			
Syncretism			
Multiculturalism			
Ethnic enclaves			
ghetto			
Sense of place			
Placelessness			
Sequent occupance			
Ethnicity			
cultural relativism			

Recall

Part 1 covered culture, diffusion, language and religion.

This sheet finishes Unit 3: what happens when cultures meet, and how identity attaches to place.

New ideas

1 Three outcomes when cultures meet

Acculturation : a group adopts some traits of a dominant culture while keeping its own identity – a migrant family speaks the new language at work and their own at home.

Assimilation : a group loses its original culture and becomes indistinguishable from the host – usually over generations, and usually not by choice.

Syncretism : two cultures blend into something new that belongs to neither – a musical form, a religious practice, a cuisine.

These three are graded as distinct terms. Using "assimilation" for all three is the commonest error in the unit.

2 Multiculturalism and its opposites

Multiculturalism is a policy or condition in which several cultures coexist with their differences intact. Its opposite in policy terms is assimilationist pressure; its opposite in spatial terms is segregation.

Ethnic enclaves form where a group clusters voluntarily for mutual support; a **ghetto** is a concentration produced by exclusion rather than choice. The distinction is about cause, not appearance.

3 Cultural identity and place

Sense of place is the meaning people attach to a location – the reason a neighbourhood matters to those who live there. **Placelessness** is the loss of that distinctiveness, produced by identical retail and architecture.

Sequent occupance is the idea that successive societies each leave their mark on the same place, so a landscape is a record of everyone who has held it.

4 Gender and ethnicity in space

Ethnicity is identity based on shared ancestry and cultural practice; **race** is a social construct based on perceived physical difference. They are not the same and geographers keep them apart.

Gender shapes space too: access to public space, safety, journey-to-work patterns and land rights all differ by gender, and the AP course expects you to recognise that a "neutral" spatial pattern may not be neutral in effect.

5 Globalisation of culture

Global media and trade spread popular culture rapidly, producing convergence. Against it run two counter-currents: **cultural relativism** , judging a culture by its own standards, and active revival – communities deliberately reviving a language, festival or craft that was fading.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

3.6 Distinguish between acculturation and assimilation. [2]

3.7 Define syncretism and give one example. [2]

3.8 Explain the difference between an ethnic enclave and a ghetto. [2]

3.9 Explain how popular culture can produce placelessness. [2]

3.10 Explain what the idea of sequent occupance tells a geographer about a landscape. [2]