

Exercise walk-through

Effects of Diffusion ■ 3.8

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish **cultural convergence** 文化趋同 from **cultural divergence** 文化趋异
- distinguish **acculturation** 涵化 from **assimilation** 同化
- define **syncretism** 文化融合
- explain **multiculturalism** 多元文化

Method — Convergence vs divergence

Cultural convergence: cultures grow more alike as they share traits. **Cultural divergence:** a culture resists or separates to protect its identity.

Method — Acculturation vs assimilation

Acculturation: a group adopts some traits of another while keeping its own.

Assimilation: a group fully blends in and loses its original distinct culture.

Method — Syncretism and multiculturalism

Syncretism blends two cultures into something new (a fusion cuisine or music).

Multiculturalism is many cultures coexisting within one society.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between acculturation and assimilation.

Solution 2.1

Method: Acculturation vs assimilation

Worked steps

acculturation = adopting some new traits while keeping one's own culture **B1**;

assimilation = fully blending in and losing the original culture **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Define syncretism and give one example.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

the blending of two cultures into a new form **B1**; e.g. a fusion music genre or religion combining traditions **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Two societies increasingly wear the same clothes, eat the same foods, and use the same apps.

- (a) Name this effect of diffusion.
- (b) State one reason a group might instead resist and diverge.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) cultural convergence **B1**. (b) to protect a unique identity, language, or tradition **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Two distant cultures becoming more similar through shared media and products shows

- A** cultural divergence
- B** cultural convergence
- C** relict boundaries
- D** distance decay

Solution 3.1

Method: Convergence vs divergence

- A cultural divergence
- B cultural convergence
- C relict boundaries
- D distance decay



Worked steps

B. growing similarity = cultural convergence.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

An immigrant group that fully adopts the host culture and loses its own has undergone

A acculturation

B assimilation

C syncretism

D divergence

Solution 3.2

Method: Acculturation vs assimilation

A acculturation

B assimilation 

C syncretism

D divergence

Worked steps

B. fully blending in and losing the original culture = assimilation.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A city's neighbourhoods each keep distinct languages, foods, and festivals side by side.

- (a) Name this social pattern.
- (b) Explain how it differs from assimilation.

Solution 3.3

Method: Acculturation vs assimilation

Worked steps

(a) multiculturalism **B1**. (b) groups keep their distinct cultures rather than blending into one **B1**.