

3.8 Effects of Diffusion

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS assimilation 同化 • acculturation 涵化 • cultural convergence 文化趋同 • syncretism 文化融合
• multiculturalism 多元文化

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **effects of diffusion** 传播的影响.

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

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Convergence vs divergence

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

■ 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.

■ Syncretism and multiculturalism

Syncretism blends two cultures into something new (a fusion cuisine or music). **Multiculturalism** is many cultures coexisting within one society.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between acculturation and assimilation. [2]

2.2 Define syncretism and give one example. [2]

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

(a) Name this effect of diffusion. [1]

(b) State one reason a group might instead resist and diverge. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Two distant cultures becoming more similar through shared media and products shows [1]

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

3.2 An immigrant group that fully adopts the host culture and loses its own has undergone [1]

- **A** acculturation
- **B** assimilation
- **C** syncretism
- **D** divergence

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

- (a) Name this social pattern. [1]
- (b) Explain how it differs from assimilation. [1]

Solutions

2.1 acculturation = adopting some new traits while keeping one's own culture; assimilation = fully blending in and losing the original culture.

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

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

3.1 B. growing similarity = cultural convergence.

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

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