

# We are the best!

## Student Information Sheet



### **How Do Nations Express Their Nationalism?**

Nationalism may be expressed in many different ways, depending on what creates a sense of belonging in the people of the nation and how an individual or group chooses to express their nationalism.

Geography, language, history, spirituality and religion, ethnicity, culture, and citizenship can work together or separately to create a sense of belonging in the people of a nation.

People can choose to express their nationalism in a variety of ways, including through: celebrations of identity; political actions; the writing and telling of history; artwork (painting, sculpture, illustration, and graphic design); literature (novels, plays, and poetry); multimedia (television, websites, movies, animation, and video games); magazines and newspapers; and songs, music, and speeches. Nationalism can also be expressed in how people live as a nation, in their daily lives and ways of life.

### **Why Express Your Nationalism?**

Why do individuals and groups express their nationalism? People express their nationalism both consciously, meaning that they are aware of what they are doing and why, and subconsciously, meaning that they are not fully aware. Expressions of nationalism can be motivated by a variety of things, but are often motivated by the desire to reinforce feelings of belonging in the people of a nation.

The reinforcement of these feelings can lead to the unification of the individuals of the nation, to the confirmation of a nation's identity, and to reflections on one's own personal identity. Individuals and nations also express their nationalism to communicate their collective understandings of geography, culture, language, ethnicity, the land, religion and spirituality, and citizenship.

## Questions and Hypothesis

### *Descriptive questions (what is ...).*

These questions are about **describing** facts, either at one point in time or over time. Once the concept you want to use is not directly observable (like 'management style' 'political participation') and/or the units of analysis are sets (like 'consumers', 'firms' or 'politicians') description also involves 'inference'.

### *Explanatory questions (why is...).*

These questions are about **explaining** the causes for something. This requires that the relationship between different variables is studied. However, it is not enough to simply find correlations between variables; answering explanatory questions also requires that the cause precedes the consequence and that there is no third variable responsible for the correlation. In a 'theory' causes and consequences are connected by referring to a 'causal mechanism'.

### *Normative questions*

These questions are about what is **allowed or what is good**. In most cases normative questions implies philosophical (not empirical) research.

### *Hypothesis*

A hypothesis is an assumption, an idea that is proposed for the sake of argument so that it can be tested to see if it might be true.