

## Establishing Communities: South Asians Muslims in London from the 1950s

### Task Sheet

#### Learning Objectives:

1. To **understand** the complexity of migrant life.
2. To **analyse** how British Muslim migrants established themselves into a community and how this experience fits into Britain's wider past.
3. To **examine** the challenges faced by British Muslim migrants in building institutions and establishments.

#### Keywords:

- **Migrants**
- **Social networks**
- **Cultural networks**
- **Amenities**

#### Introduction

As newly arrived **migrants** in a foreign country, South Asian Muslims initially settled in areas where there was an availability of affordable housing as well as some form of **social and cultural network**. Many new arrivals had no intention of remaining in Britain but slowly they began to see it as their new home. With this came the establishment of **amenities** and spaces that catered to their religious and cultural needs.

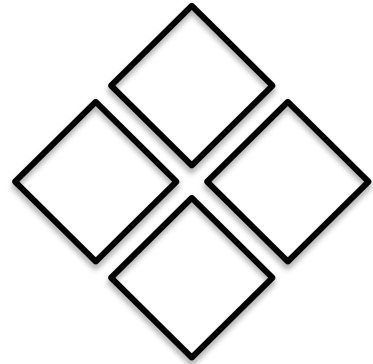


## Task 2

Imagine you are part of a new migrant community. As a group, discuss which of the following would be *most* important and which would be *least* important - number the points in order of importance in the diamond below:

1. Having a space in which to practice your faith
2. Having a community space in which to maintain your cultural traditions
3. Establishing shops that cater to your traditional cuisine and your dietary requirements
4. Having access to friends and different social networks

*Most* Important



*Least* Important

Now *explain* which would be the most important for you and *why* - give at least 3 reasons:

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### Task 3

1) *Examine source 2a*

**Think about how the area shown in the photograph might have been used for religious worship.**

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2) *Carefully read source 2b*

**How does this change or add to what you thought about source 2a?**

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## Task 4

*Examine source 3a*

### **Who are these girls?**

Think about the following:

What do you notice first?

What people and objects are shown?

Where is this photograph taken?

What other details do you see?

Why do you think the photograph was taken?

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## Plenary

*Read sources 3b and 3c*

**Imagine you are setting up a centre to maintain the culture and traditions of your community. You need funding from local businesses.**

**Write a persuasive letter to them explaining your plans. Mention why it's important to preserve and maintain culture and tradition and what you will offer to the community.**

Dear sir/madam,

A large rectangular box containing horizontal dashed lines for writing a letter.

## Extension Task

Imagine you are a South Asian migrant in the 1960s or 1970s. Write a diary entry about your day and your visits to your local shop, mosque and cultural centre. Think about the smells, sounds, interactions and feelings you would experience.

You may use the sentence starters below:

### Diary Writing

#### **Adverbs to start a diary sentence with:**

- Hopefully
- Fortunately
- Unfortunately
- Fortuitously
- Luckily
- Unluckily
- Thankfully
- Lately
- Recently
- Incidentally
- Curiously
- Eventually
- Anyway

#### **Conversational manner with 'speech like phrases'**

By the way ...

- To tell you the truth ...
- I must tell you about ...
- Right now I'm ...
- You will never believe it but ...

- I hope that ...
- To be honest ...
- I imagine that ...
- I should have told you that ...
- I have been looking forward to ...
- I am looking forward to ... (I am not looking forward to ...)
- I am worried about ... (I am not worried about ...)
- I was looking forward to ...
- I expect that ...
- I think that ...
- As it happened ...
- I didn't expect ...
- I don't expect ...
- In truth ...
- The best bit is ... (The best bit was ...)
- The worst part is ... (The worst part was ...)
- Worst of all ...

- Best of all ...

#### **Rhetorical questions**

- You'll never guess what happened?
- You know what?
- Do you know what?
- Can you imagine it?
- Have you ever ...?

#### **Speculative sentence starters**

- Perhaps
- I wonder if ...
- I wonder whether ...
- Maybe ...

#### **Other sentence starters**

- Even though ...
- For once ...
- At least ...
- At times ...
- Sometimes ...
- I felt so ...

#### **No matter what ...**



## **Teacher's notes**

Further information on this topic can be found in our e-book ['We Weren't Expecting To Stay'](#).

Lessons can be expanded using sources and videos in our e-book to discuss immigrant communities creating support systems for each other and explore collaboration within and across communities. This can help discussions that breakaway and dispel notions of migrant histories via the "host/guest" dynamic. This can also help discussions that dispel and break way from the framing of migrant communities as insular.