

## Education: South Asians in Britain in the 1960s and 70s

### Source Sheet

#### Source 1a



#### Source 1b

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Ghulam Haider (male, born 1933. He arrived in London in April 1957 from Pakistan.

*"[I was] selected for [a] scholarship. Pakistan Petroleum...had for the first time decided to give one scholarship to one civil engineer in the whole country and for my luck they selected me to be that one civil engineer for education here, postgraduate education here and training here [in England], which I was very lucky to have. So I went to Imperial College for my postgraduate [education]. It took 24 hours from Karachi to London and Pakistan Petroleum is a subsidiary of [a] company in this country. And [the] company had sent a representative, a retired old gentlemen, his name was Jack Wade...Jack Wade was waiting for me at Heathrow Airport and I was very lucky because he was a tremendous guide. He introduced me to London he introduced me to the food here. He was only with me for about 10 days but in that time he started with the assumption that I will know zero about the culture of this country. So he crammed everything in those 10 days to teach*

*me, how to behave, how to eat, how to walk, how to dress [...] He showed me how to ride a bus and he showed me because in those days you brought the ticket there and went to the bus and so on. He also took me to a pub and said you don't have to order beer, you don't have to order any drinks, you can order orange juice, and um it was very nice, interesting to have finished with all those inhibitions and umm zones of unknown at the end of those 10 days... my total scholarship was £400 a year. £37.10 shillings a month and that was rich, that was rich...[and] in my college there was not a single Pakistani in my class."*

Source 2a



Source 2b



Source 2c

Excerpt from an oral history interview conducted with Aga Rais Mirza (male, born 1938). Aga arrived in London in 1967 from Pakistan.

*"My first landlord when I landed at that place he was in the printing press. He guided me to do a course in printing... So then he invited me to go to Farringdon and there is a college there, a printing college. So I went to work there and I got my admission and then there was a question of how to do the course and earn my living as well, my survival. So my friend, he was working at a canteen in the evening, at Victoria Station. It was called Express Deli. He was working there. He took me one day, one evening rather, to introduce me to our employer. Her name was Miss, Mrs Gibbens! So he introduced me [to] Mrs Gibbens and she gave me a job in the evenings. So I used to go five evenings and the weekend. So that's how I used to earn, at that time, £3.50 a week. And that was good enough to look after me and to pay the rent on the flat, shared by my roommate."*