

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

G102 Theme 1 - Conflict and Coexistence

DECOLONISATION

The action of gaining independent status, having previously been colonised and ruled by an external power

DEVOLUTION

The moving of power and/or responsibility from a main organization to a lower hierarchical level, eg from a central government to a regional/local government

DIVERSITY

Denotes difference and variety, often in terms of human characteristics like culture, race, gender, age, ethnicity and religion.

EUROPEAN UNION (FORMERLY COMMUNITY)

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 independent member states which are located primarily in Europe

MONARCHY

A state or government in which the supreme power is held by a monarch. In constitutional monarchies (like the UK) the role of the monarch is largely legal/ceremonial, lacking real political power

MULTI-CULTURALISM

The practice of giving equal attention to many different cultures in a particular setting

NATION STATE

A political unit consisting of an autonomous state often inhabited predominantly by people sharing a common culture, history, and language

NATIONALISM

The belief that nations will benefit from acting independently rather than collectively, emphasizing national rather than international goals.

REPUBLIC

A country without a monarch (eg king or queen), usually governed by elected representatives of the people and a president

SECESSION

The act of seceding; withdrawing from association with others, as in a religious or political context;

SECULARISM

Describes a philosophy which forms its ethics without reliance on traditional religious principles. Commonly used in political terms to denote a division between the church and state in which the state holds legislative and policy making power

SELF-DETERMINATION

The ability or power to make decisions for oneself, especially the power of a nation to decide how it will be governed

SOVEREIGNTY

The authority of a state to govern itself, a colonised / annexed / occupied area or another state

SUPRA-NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Bodies which act beyond or across established national borders or spheres of influence held by separate nations. Their intention is often to harmonise policy across nations in different types of activity.

UNIFICATION

To bring together; combine in a political context.

UNITED NATIONS

An international organisation in which most of the countries of the world are represented. It was founded in 1945 to promote peace, security, and economic development.