

I. SURFACE CULTURE:

National Flag: In terms of the national flag, the flag of India features three horizontal lines: saffron represents courage and sacrifice, white represents peace and truth, and green represents faith and chivalry. Seen in the middle is the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel that represents the eternal wheel of law and dharma. The flag reflects the long struggle of the country for independence from British rule, serving as a symbol of national pride and unity for India. Meanwhile, Britain's flag, commonly known as the Union Jack, shows the combination of the three crosses: the red cross of St. George, the white saltire of St. Andrew, and the red saltire of St. Patrick. The flag symbolizes the union of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and its imperial legacy. Both flags are national symbols, reflecting each country's history and aspirations.

Food/Cuisine: The cuisines of both countries show differences, shaped by their history and practices. When it comes to cuisine, India is known for their rich flavors, especially spices and herbs such as turmeric, cumin, and coriander. Staple varies but rice is commonly consumed. In different parts of the country, the country's cuisine diversity is reflected. **North India** is known for its use of rich gravies and dairy products like ghee, yogurt, and paneer (one popular dish is called Tandoori Chicken). **South India** is known for their rice-based dishes and generally spicier compared to other regions. **East India's** specialties include fish, and sweets like Rasgulla and Sandesh. Fish is abundant in their region and they are also known for their sweets and desserts, with many festivals centered around it. And lastly, **West India's** cuisine is centered around a mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes (Dhokla from Gujarat and Vindaloo from Goa). On the other hand, Britain's cuisine reflects the country's agricultural heritage. Cuisines are often made by hearty ingredients and simple preparation methods. Staple foods are commonly potatoes, meat, fish, and vegetables. Dishes are designed to be comforting, suitable for their cool climate. Popular dishes include Fish and Chips, Sunday roast, and Shepherd's Pie.

Festivals: Both countries share practices when preparing for festivals, such as decorating and sharing gifts, but the festivals celebrated in both countries are unique to their respective cultures and histories. India is commonly known for their colorful festivals such as Diwali and Holi. British festivals are more cultural and religious such as Easter and Guy Fawkes Night.

Music and Performances: Both countries have distinct traditions when it comes to music and performance. India has a rich heritage when it comes to music— it includes classical, folk, and contemporary genres. Classical Music in India is divided into two major traditions: *Hindustani* in North India and *Carnatic* in South India. Folk music varies in their region, mostly accompanied by traditional instruments like tabla, sitar, and harmonium. Performances in this country depict stories from myths and history. They are mostly influenced by strong ties to religion and folk traditions. In terms of music and performances in Britain, they are known for producing influential genres and artists. They are heavily influenced by European classical traditions and have renowned artists in

classical music, popular music, and even in theater. Instruments commonly used are piano, violin and other woodwind instruments. Themes for performances are both historical and contemporary themes.

Literature and Language: Both countries' literary traditions offer insights into their societies, and their diversity is reflected in the number of languages and dialects present in each country. India's literary heritage existed for thousands of years. Some popular works include ancient texts like *Vedas* and epics such as *Ramayana*. In addition, India is a linguistically diverse country with 22 official languages. Some widely spoken languages are Hindi, Bangali, Telugu, and Tamil. English is also widely used in education, business, and government—greatly influenced during the British colonial rule. Meanwhile, Britain's literature has a known long history, birthing one of the most popular writers such as William Shakespeare. Additionally, the primary language in Britain is English and also home to regional languages, such as Welsh, Irish, and Scottish Gaelic—showing the cultural diversity shown by their dialects and accents.

II. COMMUNICATION STYLES AND RULES:

Personal Space: In both cultures, it is respectful to maintain an arm's length distance in interactions. However, Indians may keep a further distance from the opposite gender. In Britain, sitting too close to another person may be uncomfortable.

Eye Contact: In India, they keep minimal eye contact and may choose to avoid eye contact with the opposite gender, while some women may avoid it completely. For Britain, they maintain brief direct eye contact since prolonged eye contact can make people uncomfortable, because staring is considered impolite.

Touching: When it comes to strangers, both cultures refrain from having physical contact. In British culture, acceptable physical contact is limited to handshakes. For them, brushing against someone on the train can be offensive. However, public displays of affection among partners are common. In contrast, hugging and touching between people of opposite genders is not widely accepted in India. Additionally, the head is regarded as the holiest part of the body, and touching it is considered offensive, while the feet are regarded as the dirtiest part of the body, and showing the soles of the feet or touching others with them is rude.

Gestures: British culture is considered low-context, and they communicate explicitly, with minimal use of gestures. Indian communication culture is regarded as high-context, wherein they use body language such as head wobble to convey meaning.

III. NOTIONS OF MODESTY:

Modesty is mainly associated with moderation in clothes and behavior highlighted as a typical feature of the concept of women's lack of desire to feel sexually attractive. This is why the idea of modesty often brings to mind conservatism, particularly in how women dress.

Clothing: Historically, both British and Indian cultures emphasized covering much of the body. In the Victorian era, British women wore dresses with high necklines, long sleeves, and full skirts. Similarly, Indians typically wore long, layered garments like the shalwar-kameez. While British conservatism has relaxed over time, allowing for more individual choice in clothing, Indian culture has remained more conservative, especially in rural areas. Clothing that covers the arms and legs is still preferred, and revealing attire is uncommon. Although their clothing is usually traditional, it is common to see Western-style clothing throughout the country for men and in urban areas for women.

Behavior: Other than that, modesty also extends to behavior. Both cultures emphasize polite language, maintaining good manners, and showing restraint in public, particularly when interacting with strangers or elders. In India, modest behavior may include avoiding direct eye contact with elders or superiors. They also tend to avoid physical contact with someone of the opposite gender. In Britain, modesty is more often displayed through controlled body language, like maintaining personal space and being reserved in physical gestures, without the religious or hierarchical undertones. Communication also tends to be direct yet modest when speaking with someone of equal rank or class. With close acquaintances, their communication may become more informal, though they generally remain reserved.

IV. CONCEPTS OF SELF:

Great Britain (Philosophy)

1. British Idealism

British Idealists like F.H. Bradley and T.H. Green viewed the self not as an isolated individual but as fundamentally connected to society and the universe. They believed that true self-realization comes through social development (*contributing to a common good*) and moral development (*recognizing responsibilities*). Moreover, advocated that understanding the big picture helps us comprehend ourselves and the world better.

2. Individualism

Places great value on self-reliance, on privacy, and on mutual respect. Negatively, it embraces opposition to authority and to all manner of controls over the individual, especially when exercised by the state. Prioritizes rights and responsibilities.

India (Hinduism)

1. Metaphysical Self

In the Indian worldview, a person is not limited to the physical body. Aham (ontological self)—which is equivalent to "I" of English language—is divided into three selves:

Transcendental Self (Brahman) transcends the physical world and realization of this self is the highest goal that leads to liberation or enlightenment.

Empirical Self (Atman) interacts with the world through senses and is subjected to pleasure and pain.

Psychological Self (Ahamkara) refers to all our day-to-day feelings and thoughts about ourselves.

The Ātman is the generally agreed real and metaphysical self and is seen as pure consciousness, or referred to as the “soul” or core.

CONCLUSION: There is no universally accepted definition of self and if it does, varies culturally.

V. ATTITUDES TOWARD: Death

Attitudes Towards Death in India and Great Britain

India

Reincarnation: A central belief in many Indian religions, particularly Hinduism, is reincarnation. Death is seen as a transition to a new life, rather than an end.

Karma: The concept of karma, or the law of cause and effect, influences the attitudes of the Indian community towards death. They believe that one's actions in this life will determine their fate in the next.

Great Britain

Mortality and the Afterlife: Death is the finality of the British people. But the concept of an afterlife, often associated with heaven or hell, is prevalent in some religious traditions.

Secularism: Britain is a relatively secular country, meaning that religious beliefs are not as dominant in public life as in some other nations. The beliefs and practices lose their social significance in the British community..

Similarities

Both cultures, the Indian and British have specific cultural practices associated with death, such as funerals, mourning rituals, burial or cremation, and religious beliefs. These practices can help people cope with loss and transition through the grieving process. This

is because the British were once the colonizers of India, and there is no doubt that there is a tradition, culture and practices that were passed down to the Indian people.

VI. APPROACHES TO:

A. Marriage

India

- Marriages in India have cultural and religious significance.
- Currently, more than 90% of Indians have arranged marriages (<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/06/1188366128/india-arranged-marriage-love-com-mandos>). Families play a crucial role in selecting partners for their children based on religion, caste (social stratification), culture, and professional status. Marriages based on love, however, are growing, especially in urban areas.
- Same-sex marriage is illegal in India due to arguments on equality, privacy, and the impact of same-sex marriages on children, highlighting conservative beliefs affecting views on the inclusivity of marriage in the country (<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/sc-verdict-on-same-sex-marriages-explained-live-8986361/>).

Britain

- Historically, marriages in Britain are rooted in strategic alliances and property and have evolved to the modern perspective of personal relationships based on love for mutual support (<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-17351133>).
- Britain legalizes same-sex marriage in civil marriages. However, certain religions like the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church prohibit religious marriages for non-heterosexuals.

- Civil marriage, the union of couples without religious ceremonies, is legal in both countries but governed by different marriage acts instituted more than 100 years apart (India - Special Marriage Act, 1954; Britain - Marriage Act of 1836). This further supports that the progression of inclusivity in marriage in India is slower.

- Divorce is also legal in both countries.