

## RESOURCE 1.7

# Jewish practice and identity

The FRA survey asked: 'People identify as Jewish in different ways. On what basis would you say you are Jewish?' They were given the following six terms.

Some of these are simpler than others. For example, parentage and upbringing have clear boundaries; the term religion is complex, and people argue about what it means.

Some terms overlap. For example, some people would say that religion might be part of culture, ethnicity and heritage.

<b>Parentage</b>	<b>Heritage</b>	<b>Religion</b>
<b>Culture</b>	<b>Upbringing</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>

**Match each term to a definition below:**

This is a broad term that includes the way in which people live and express themselves, such as customs, beliefs, ideas, values, knowledge, habits, symbols, arts, institutions, etc.	This refers to who your parents are. Jewish identity has traditionally been seen as passing through the mother's line.	This term often refers to a social group with a shared culture and way of life, which might include common religion, language, nation, ancestry or traditions, for example.
This is a complex term. It can be used to apply to systems of meaning, beliefs and practices (e.g. Judaism, Islam), as lived out in communities, often including ideas of the sacred and/or the divine.	This is how you are brought up, from childhood to adulthood.	This is something that is handed down from the past, including history, traditions, practices, for example.

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## Jewish practice and identity

You can see from the data on Resource 1.3 (page 5) that Jewish people in the UK base their identity on a mix of ideas (see below and the previous sheet of definitions).

Reflect for yourself: what influences *your* identity? Fill out the 'Identity pie' below.

## Identity pie

Look at the six factors that influence the identity of Jewish people in the FRA survey.

Parentage

Heritage

Religion

Culture

Upbringing

Ethnicity

Think about the influences on your own identity. Select from the above list, or add others of your own. Divide up the pie below, shading in slices of the pie according to how much the ideas influence your identity. For example, if you think your upbringing is the main influence, give upbringing, say, 40% of the pie; if you think religion has little influence, give it a smaller slice.

Label each slice and explain your thinking

The form consists of a central circle with a small black dot at its center. Surrounding the circle are six empty rectangular boxes, arranged in three rows and two columns. The top row has two boxes, the middle row has two boxes, and the bottom row has two boxes. These boxes are intended for students to label slices of the pie and provide explanations for their choices.