

JAC & ELIAS – SHOWING YOUR JEWISH IDENTITY

Before you watch

1

Think about your own identity. How would you define it in a few words?

Consider cultural background, nationality, religious beliefs, ethnicity, etc. Discuss in pairs.

I speak Spanish and Catalan, but I feel much more Catalan, that's my culture and first language...

2

How can you identify yourself to others visually?

If you identify as gay, you could put a rainbow pin on your backpack...

JAC



While you watch

3

Circle the correct answer.

1 What symbol of her identity does Jac refer to?

- a a necklace
- b a t-shirt
- c a tattoo

2 What did people say about her identifying herself in this way?

- a It was dangerous to wear it.
- b Not many people wear it these days.
- c She should be careful about wearing it.

3 What did she decide to do about this on her visit to Amsterdam?

- a She decided not to wear it because of antisemitism.
- b She chose to wear it because of its significance to her in this place.
- c She hasn't made a decision yet about wearing it yet.

4 What is her conclusion about wearing it?

- a She'll always wear it as it's part of her identity.
- b She'll only not wear it if she feels danger.
- c She'll wear it when she wants to tell people about her identity.

4

Complete the gaps with the correct word.

proud important anxious careful danger religious

1 I was told "be _____, don't tell people you're Jewish".

2 I'm in a very historically _____ place.

3 I want to be _____ of who I am and not be scared.

4 I'll maybe cover it up if I'm in a place where I feel _____.

5 I'm also not a _____ person.

6 I don't feel like I should have to hide that unless I'm in physical _____.

Which of the words describe how Jac feels? _____

5

Read this quotation:

"I want to be proud of who I am and not be scared which is difficult and it's scary sometimes."

What is the difference in meaning between **scared** and **scary**? Can you think of any other pairs of adjectives like this?

ELIAS



Note:

Elias speaks in Danish. Make sure to activate the English subtitles.

6

Circle the correct answer.

1 What does Elias say about his kippah?

- a** He is the only boy at school who wears it.
- b** It reminds him of the power of God.
- c** His family tell him to wear it.

2 What is the form of discrimination that he suffered playing football?

- a** Somebody shouted an insult at him.
- b** Somebody refused to play with him.
- c** Somebody told him to remove his kippah.

7

The two videos have some things in common. Match the names with the facts. Both can be true. Cross out what is not true.

- a** Jac / Elias describe (s) a symbol of Judaism.
- b** Jac / Elias explain (s) when they wear this symbol.
- c** People told Jac / Elias that the symbol can make people insult them.
- d** Jac / Elias describe(s) a moment when they were insulted.

After you watch

8

Choose ONE of the questions to discuss in pairs or small groups.

- a** Do you empathise with what Jac or Elias say about their identities? If so, how? If not, why not?
- b** What do you think is the difference between your personal identity and your *social identity*? Think of ways people project their social identity on to others.
I think your social identity is the one you project to others, for example on social media.
- c** Would you say that the situation that Jac and Elias describe is similar where you live? Why? Why not?
- d** What do you think can be done to allow people to express their identities as they want to?