Countries, nationalities and languages

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each sociolinguistic term with its definition.

1 lingua franca	____	a the languages and varieties available to an individual or community
2 heritage language	____	b official decisions about language use in institutions
3 language shift	____	c a language at risk of losing all its speakers
4 language maintenance	____	d changing between languages or varieties in interaction
5 endangered language	____	e a language linked to family or ancestry
6 linguistic minority	____	f a shared language used between speakers of different first languages
7 code-switching	____	g a group's continued use of its language across generations
8 language policy	____	h a community whose language is not dominant
9 mutual intelligibility	____	i gradual replacement of one community language by another
10 linguistic repertoire	____	j the extent to which speakers understand one another

2 Choose the term that best completes each sentence.

1 A state may recognise several *official languages / mother tongues* in its constitution.

2 The ability to function in two languages is known as *bilingualism / regionalism*.

3 When public services are available in several languages, this may improve *linguistic access / language shift*.

4 A variety associated with power and formal institutions is often described as *dominant / endangered*.

5 The loss of speakers from one generation to the next may signal *language endangerment / mutual intelligibility*.

6 A speaker's language choices may express both national and *regional identity / official status*.

7 A school programme using two languages as media of instruction is *bilingual education / translation policy*.

8 The belief that one standard variety is naturally superior reflects *linguistic prejudice / multilingual competence*.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form academic collocations.

1 preserve	____	a linguistic diversity
2 acquire	____	b minority-language rights
3 assert	____	c a language policy
4 implement	____	d a national identity
5 accommodate	____	e multilingual competence
6 revitalise	____	f an endangered language
7 promote	____	g a heritage language
8 recognise	____	h regional varieties

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4 Complete the policy analysis with the terms in the box.

bilingual education | code-switching | dominant language | heritage language | language maintenance | language shift | lingua franca | linguistic minority | public institutions | regional identity

In the coastal region of Arven, Miran has long functioned as a **1** _____ among communities with different first languages. The national language nevertheless remains the **2** _____ in higher education and employment. Members of the Miran-speaking **3** _____ report that younger people are undergoing **4** _____, although many still use Miran as a **5** _____ at family events. A new programme of **6** _____ aims to support **7** _____ by allowing both languages in schools. It also requires **8** _____ to provide key services in Miran. Everyday **9** _____ remains common and is increasingly viewed as an expression of **10** _____ rather than inadequate proficiency.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

National cohesion and linguistic pluralism

Debates about official-language policy are often framed as a choice between national cohesion and linguistic pluralism. This opposition is misleading. A common language can facilitate participation in national institutions, yet equal citizenship may also require public bodies to accommodate people whose strongest language is different. Recognition alone is insufficient if services exist only on paper or if speakers face stigma when using them. Conversely, identical provision in every language and every location may be impractical. Effective policy therefore depends on proportionality: the number and concentration of speakers, the urgency of the service, historical disadvantage and the availability of trained staff. Language rights are most sustainable when they expand real access, preserve dignity and encourage participation without turning linguistic identity into a fixed political boundary.

1 Why does the writer reject the usual either-or framing? _____

2 How can a common language support national life? _____

3 Why might formal recognition be inadequate? _____

4 Why may identical provision everywhere be unrealistic? _____

5 Which four factors should shape proportional provision? _____

6 What three outcomes make language rights sustainable? _____

6 Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation.

1 English is used as **a shared language between groups**. _____

2 The community is trying to **continue using its language across generations**. _____

3 She **moves between two languages during conversation**. _____

4 The programme seeks to **bring a threatened language back into wider use**. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **160-190 word** policy brief: Should public institutions provide services in minority and regional languages? Evaluate access, cost, identity and social cohesion before reaching a reasoned conclusion.

[ ] Use twelve target expressions. [ ] Include three academic collocations. [ ] Maintain a formal, balanced register.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Sociolinguistic terms

1 **f** 2 **e** 3 **i** 4 **g** 5 **c** 6 **h** 7 **d** 8 **b** 9 **j** 10 **a**

2 Choose the correct term

1 **official languages** 2 **bilingualism** 3 **linguistic access** 4 **dominant** 5 **language endangerment** 6 **regional identity** 7 **bilingual education** 8 **linguistic prejudice**

3 Academic collocations

1 **g** preserve a heritage language 2 **e** acquire multilingual competence 3 **d** assert a national identity 4 **c** implement a language policy 5 **h** accommodate regional varieties 6 **f** revitalise an endangered language 7 **a** promote linguistic diversity 8 **b** recognise minority-language rights

4 Policy analysis

1 **lingua franca** 2 **dominant language** 3 **linguistic minority** 4 **language shift** 5 **heritage language** 6 **bilingual education** 7 **language maintenance** 8 **public institutions** 9 **code-switching** 10 **regional identity**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A common language and linguistic accommodation can coexist.
2 It facilitates participation in national institutions.
3 Services may exist only on paper or users may face stigma.
4 Demand and resources vary by language and place.
5 Speaker numbers/concentration, urgency, historical disadvantage and trained staff.
6 Real access, dignity and participation without fixed political boundaries.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 **lingua franca** 2 **language maintenance** 3 **code-switches / engages in code-switching** 4 **revitalise an endangered language**

Over to you: Answers will vary. Look for conceptual precision, balanced evaluation and formal academic language.