The UK Citizenship Process: Exploring Immigrants' Experiences

End of project stakeholder workshops
London, 17 September 2016
Leicester, 24 September 2016

Project team: Leah Bassel (PI), David Bartram, Barbara Misztal, Pierre Monforte, Kamran Khan
Introductions & Aims
Background to the Citizenship Test and Ceremonies

• Retreat from multiculturalism in Europe
• Tests have been used for a long time in other contexts: Canada, US, Australia
Current requirements

Life in the UK test
18/24 questions to pass—multiple choice—by computer
Test can be taken as many times as necessary (50 pounds)
Based on the Life in the UK test handbook

Plus Speaking and Listening
English Level B1
Various tests satisfy the requirement
Life in the UK Test: Sample Questions

The UK is part of the United Nations (UN)
  Yes, this is correct
  No, the UK is not part of UN anymore

On Christmas Day families traditionally sit down to a dinner of roast turkey and Christmas pudding, a rich steamed pudding made from suet, dried fruit and spices
  True
  False

James I and his son Charles I believed in the 'Divine Right of Kings', the idea that the king was directly appointed to rule by ______
  the Queen
  the Prime Minister
  the Church
  God

It is illegal to sell tobacco products to people under 18 years of age
  True
  False

There is no place in British society for extremism or intolerance
  True
  False

King Richard III of the House of York was killed in the Battle of Bosworth Field in
  1485
  1490
  1495
  1498
# Test Pass Rates by Nationality

## Highest:
- Finland: **98.7%**

## Lowest:
- Bangladesh: **44.3%**

### Some of the Groups in our study:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>72.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All nationalities:** **71.2% (average)**

Source: Ryan 2010, figures are for 2005-2010
Citizenship Ceremonies

Book a British Citizenship Ceremony

Please indicate your preference by taking the appropriate box. Please see overleaf for explanation.

I will swear (religious)_ (non-religious)

I will affirm (religious) _ (non-religious)

The Superintendent Registrar and the local dignitary will shake hands with each new citizen when they present the certificate and the gift. Do you have any objection to this?

- I have no objection
- I would prefer not to shake hands (with opposite sex)

Welcome to Your Citizenship Ceremony

Registration Desk
Your views on the LUK Test

• Why do you think the citizenship test was introduced?
• To achieve what purpose?
• How do you think it affects those who go through it?
• What is your opinion of the content of the test?
• What do you think of citizenship ceremonies?
Why do we need research on this topic?

- What do you think it is important to know about people’s experiences of the citizenship test process?
- And its long term effects?
- Why? What purpose can this information serve?
What we want to find out

• Migrants’ experiences of the new citizenship requirements

• Migrants’ sense of belonging

• Relation to politics

• Well-being and citizenship
Who participated?

• Migrants at different stages in the process
  – Considering
  – Refusing
  – Preparing
  – Taking/taken the test (Indefinite Leave to Remain or citizenship)
  – Ceremony
  – Passport interview...

• Working with migrant organisations
### Participant Countries of Origin and Legal Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
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<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar Chart](chart.png)
Our Findings: The Journey to Citizenship

- Beginning the process
- The administrative steps
- Evaluation of the process
Why begin the process?

• Ability to travel
• Easier travel
• Securing legal status
• Fear of rising cost
• Fear of change to immigration law – Brexit…
• Access to services
• Access to jobs
• Investment in the future
The administrative steps

- Preparing for the test
- Day of the test
- Ceremony
- Passport and Interview
Evaluation of the process

- Too costly (at least £1000 per adult)
- Too long
- Fair/unfair
- Useful or not
- Purpose of the test?
  - Immigration control or knowledge of Life in the UK?
- More difficult for some groups
  - Non-Anglophone
  - Non-EU
• Are these results surprising?
• Did you expect something else?
• What issues are you facing in your work/your experience for which this information might be useful?
• What issues do you expect to face (e.g. because of Brexit) where this research might be helpful?
Break
What does it mean to engage with politics in this process?

• Context:
  – Make active citizens
  – Community cohesion

• We asked participants:
  – Did you think the process was useful in learning about politics in this country? Is this information you can use in your daily life?
  – Is it possible for migrants to make a difference or to influence politics? E.g. voting, meeting councillors/MPs, running for office
Citizenship & Well-being

- What is well-being in our study?
- What do you think are the impacts of the citizenship test process on well-being?
- Why does this matter for your work? In your experience?
Evaluation

• What did you find most interesting?
• Most surprising?
• Agree most with?
• Disagree most with?
• What other issues do you think should be covered?
• How will this contribute to your work?
Next Steps

• Summary of workshops in London and Leicester to be circulated for your input
• Public Knowledge Exchange event June 9, 2017 in Leicester
• Final non-specialist report, summer 2017
• Other strategies?
Contact Details

• Leah Bassel, University of Leicester
  LB235@le.ac.uk

• Pierre Monforte, University of Leicester
  pm260@le.ac.uk