Conflicts can occur between political structures and cultural groups. Discuss.

The existence of different cultural groups within state borders can lead to conflict. Discuss.
(80 marks)

Marking Scheme:

Number of aspects discussed:	3 @ 20 marks each	4 @ 15 marks each
For each aspect:		
Identifying aspect	4 marks	3 marks
Discussion	8 x SRPs	6 x SRPs

Overall Coherence 20 marks graded* 20 marks graded*

In this answer, I choose 3 aspects to discuss (1. Catholics in Northern Ireland, 2. Islamic extremism and European political bodies and, 3. Jewish community in Nazi Germany). Overall coherence means how well your answer is structured (Introduction, main section, conclusion – well-structured and coherent) and do you keep to the point/ answer the question directly.

Culture is a total way of life that characterises a group of people. Every culture has its own cultural values and beliefs and sometimes people struggle to respect the values of another culture.

This can be seen in Northern Ireland where the existence of two cultural groups has resulted in conflict between Unionists and Nationalists who differ in religion and politics. Unionists (Protestants) make up the majority in this region, with strong cultural links with the United Kingdom and are loyal to the British monarch. They want to maintain the political union between Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom. Nationalists are Catholic and want to break the political link with the United Kingdom. Conflict between these two cultural groups dates back to the Ulster Plantations in 1609. Beginning with the defeat of James II by William of Orange at the battle of the Boyne in 1690, The Irish Protestant class enforced 'Penal laws' which limited Catholic property ownership, education and the right to bear arms. The laws also forbad the use of the Irish language or the practice of Catholicism and this resulted in conflict, which lasted for centuries. In 1920 the Irish Free State was established but the six counties of the North remained part of the United Kingdom. In Northern Ireland, the IRA (Catholic) had begun a campaign of violence even before partition became a reality in 1921. In response, the Ulster Volunteer Force (Protestant) was revived and thus the new nation of "Northern Ireland" experienced sectarian bloodshed and conflict from its very inception based on cultural divisions. The conflict was exacerbated in the late 1960's and onwards when Northern Catholics justifiably campaigned for equal civil rights for all, regardless of religion. N. Ireland's Protestant had drawn up local government electoral boundaries to favour unionist (Gerrymandering), even in predominantly Catholic areas like Derry. The right to vote in local government elections was also restricted to ratepayers - this also favored Protestants. This meant that the Unionist ruled Northern Ireland for decade after decade to the advantage of the Protestant community. Then as a result of the 'Bloody Sunday' killings (30th January 1972), when the Royal Parachute regiment killed 14 civil right

demonstrators, new recruits swelled the ranks of the IRA exacerbating the cultural conflict. The British government as a result introduced 'direct rule' - government of N. Ireland from Westminster. Which led the province into an abyss of sectarian bloodshed. Over the following years the cultural groups continued to be separated along sectarian lines and its legacy can be seen today, no more apparently than in Belfast where the communities have been physically separated by 4 mile continuous wall known as "the peace wall" separating the loyalist area of "the Shankill" and the republican areas on "the Springfield rd." and "the Falls", where kerbstones are painted green white and gold.

For my second aspect I will discuss the conflict between Islamic culture and European political structure of democracy, specifically in France. Due to the influx of migrant worker who arrived in France from donor countries such as Morocco and Algeria during the economic boom of the 1960s, conflict has arisen in France due to a range of cultural groups co-existing in a single state. While these cultural groups from North Africa continued to speak their Arabic language and practice their Muslim faith and traditions. Migrants also arrive from countries who's governments are heavily influenced by religion, their country of origin tended to have a theocracy form of government. Here Sharia law regulates all aspects of life and therefore cultural traditions such as marriage, dress, politics, family law and the criminal justice system, which conflicted with the democracy form of government found in France. When these migrants had settled and their families had followed them to France, the French government were surprised that they did not want to return to their countries of origin when recession hit in the 1970s. Growing unease was prevalent within the African migrant communities however, as unemployment and marginalization set the seeds for unrest in Paris, Marseille and Lyon for example. Without any integration policies, the political slogan of *'black, blanc, beur'* (Black, white, arab) meant little. In 2004 for example, the French government under Chirac, proposed banning the wearing of the hijab in schools because it was felt that its wearing promoted segregation and gender inequality among young people (against the *equality* aspect of the French Constitution). These resentments boiled over when in November 2005 riots in several French cities led to President Jacques Chirac's declaration of a state of emergency on 8th November, which lasted for three weeks. With rising tensions about youth unemployment and police harassment in the poorer housing estates amongst predominantly migrant muslim communities, three weeks of rioting took place throughout France. These riots, beginning in Clichy-sous-Bois, resulted in more than 8,000 vehicles being burned by the rioters and more than 2,760 individuals arrested. Today within Seine Saint Denis, also known as the 93rd District in Paris, 70% of the students of the district's private Catholic schools are Muslim. This area has 10% of all of Frances' Mosques (230). The rise and impact of Islamic fundamentalism within France has also been attributed within some media, to migration policies enacted across Europe during the Syrian crisis combined with ease of movement throughout Europe because of the Schengen Agreement. On 7th January 2015 Islamic fundamentalists managed to get into the offices of Charlie Hebdo in Paris, killing a total of 12 people (related to the Islamic principle of aniconism – you cannot visually depict mohammed). Another serious incident occurred on the 15th November 2015, when 129 people were killed by ISIS in the coordinated terrorist attacks across Paris. In response President Hollande announced that France was at war *'at home and abroad'.* In the aftermath of the attacks the French police carried out 168 raids in two days across the country. One raid in Saint-Denis culminated in a woman blowing herself up with a suicide vest. With the increasing polls of political parties such as the National Front who received 18% of the country's vote in 2015, this issue is not yet resolved

My third and final aspect looks at the persecution of the Jewish community in Europe, focusing on the German Nazi political regime. The worst ever persecution of the Jew took place in World War 2 in the Holocaust, where 6 million Jews from around Europe were rounded up and murdered in Nazi concentration camps. The persecution of Jews reached its most destructive form in the policies of Nazi Germany, which made the destruction of the Jews a priority based on the supposed ideals of the 'Aryan' race. In September 1935 the "Nuremberg Laws" were passed, stripping the Jews of their citizenship and forbidding intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews. It also forced divorce in 'mixed marriages'. Jews had to wear the star of David for identification, separating through their cultural distinctiveness. The first of the Nuremberg Laws was called the "Reich Citizenship Law," which declared that only Aryans could be citizens of the Reich. This stripped the Jews of their political rights. Jews were forbidden to work in government, schools and universities. 'Kristallnacht' (night of broken glass) was another Nazi program, representing the official political structure of the time, were an organized and unofficial *'pogrom'* against Jewish shops, homes, synagogues took place, where 91 Jews were murdered and 30,000 arrested and sent to concentration camps. This system spread through Europe when in 1941 the Nazi invasion of Poland lead the SS (division of the German army) rounding up all suspected Jews in areas, with the help of the local community, to face a firing squad. This political system led to, for example Basi-Yar where 30,000 were shot in 2 days. By 1942, the Nazi leadership (political structure) decided to implement the Final Solution, the genocide of the Jews of Europe, and to increase the pace of the Holocaust by establishing extermination camps specifically to kill Jews as well as other undesirables such as people who openly opposed Hitler. This culminated in the killing of approximately 6,000,000 Jews during the Holocaust from 1941 to 1945.

Therefore, in conclusion it is evident that as a result of the cultural groups they were members of, Catholic republicans within Northern Ireland have been oppressed historically by the political system which led to what became known as 'the troubles'. Also, due to fundamentalism within the Islamic cultural group conflict continues to be a serious issue within France. Finally, the Jewish community suffered terrible atrocities under the Nazi political party system in Germany.