

"If people did not dare to be different, the world would be a much more boring place," says author David McKie. (...)

Britain has produced more than its fair share of eccentric characters throughout history. Some of the greatest have helped shape the very essence of Britishness, contributing to what we now embrace as our national identity. In every field, from politics to physics and fashion to food, true talent is often synonymous with more than a touch of madness. While inventing the telephone for example, Scotland-born inventor Alexander Graham Bell tried to teach his dog to talk, and renowned genius Sir Isaac Newton is said to have stuck a large darning needle into his eye socket and twiddled it around – just to see what would happen, presumably. (...)

Perhaps the British are particularly prone to and proud of eccentricity because, as an island nation, we like to feel a little cut off from the mainstream, "Like so much else in our traditions and culture, we take special pleasure and pride in diversity, " agrees McKie.

Jessica Tooze, "Great British Eccentrics", **the Official Magazine** (2013)

Read the text and answer the questions.

NAME	JOB
David McKie	author
Alexander Graham Bell	inventor
Isaac newton	genius

Alexander Graham and Isaac Newton are similar because

they are both eccentrics who tried to be themselves, they tried unoonventional things. They didn't conform to society.

Pick out sentences to show eccentricity is appreciated by the British

- « **produced more than its fair share of eccentric people** »
- « **the British are particularly prone to and proud of eccentricity** »

Bonus : Britain = 'an island nation', why ?

The author mentions the fact that Britain is an island nation because this must explain why they tend to be eccentric as they are cut off from other countries .