



BRITAIN IN DETAILS

Учебное пособие

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Учебное пособие по дисциплине «История и география стран первого иностранного языка» предназначено для реализации Федерального государственного образовательного стандарта высшего образования по направлению подготовки 45.03.02 Лингвистика, является единым для всех форм и сроков обучения и направлено на формирование универсальных, общепрофессиональных и профессиональных компетенций.

Учебно-методическое пособие рассматривается как дополнение к рабочей программе по дисциплине «История и география стран первого иностранного языка».

ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Целью учебно-методического пособия «BRITAIN IN DETAILS» является освоение студентами основ страноведческих знаний и выработка навыков профессионально-ориентированной устной речи по темам разделов.

Пособие состоит из 10 тематических блоков, в каждом из которых представлен теоретический материал с активным лексическим составом и практические задания, соответствующие содержанию раздела. Каждый раздел раскрывает ряд актуальных тем, характерных для страноведческого материала англоязычных стран: истории, географии, политики, культуры и т.д.

Каждый теоретический блок (Chapter) посвящен определенной тематике страноведческой информации и разбит на подразделы для лучшего усвоения теоретического материала и лексики.

Каждый практический раздел учебного пособия (Comprehension) имеет одинаковую структуру и включает в себя набор разнообразных заданий (в каждом блоке 2–3 задания) по аспекту понимания содержания текста, развития навыков устной речи, усвоения страноведческой информации.

Актуальность данного пособия обусловлена необходимостью студентов расширять свой запас профессиональной лексики и применять ее в ситуациях речевого общения с целью развития своей профессиональной деятельности.

Данное пособие выступает средством обучения и может быть использовано для самостоятельной работы студентов и преподавателей ОУ ВО «Южно-Уральский технологический университет».

Chapter I

The British landscape

Islands and sea

The British Isles are a group of islands. The largest is **Britain**, which includes the countries of England, Wales and Scotland. The island of **Ireland** is divided between Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland. There are many smaller offshore islands, e.g. Anglesey, the Orkneys and the Scilly Isles.

Being an island has affected Britain's history and the British people's attitude to the rest of Europe. The sea is a barrier which has deterred invaders and kept Britain apart from the rest of Europe. It forced the British to become a seafaring people who built up a strong navy for defence and sent merchant ships to trade goods around the world. British people still have an **island mentality**: they are used to being independent, separate and on the edge of things, and in general they like this. The seabed has also brought Britain wealth: the North Sea is a rich source of oil and natural gas.

Nowhere in Britain is far from the sea, and the seaside is a popular place for summer holidays and day trips. Britain's coasts have sandy beaches, steep cliffs and wild rocky shores. Some people go to a beach to sunbathe, while others walk along a coast path to enjoy the views and sea breezes.



cliffs in Cornwall

the Scilly Isles

the Orkney Islands

Country and climate

England has been called a ‘green and pleasant land’, and **Ireland** is known as ‘the Emerald Isle’. The rain for which the British Isles are famous helps to keep the countryside fresh and green. In fact, the popular belief that it rains all the time in Britain is simply not true. The image of a wet, foggy land was created two thousand years ago by the invading Romans and has been perpetuated in modern times by Hollywood. In reality, London gets no more rain in a year than most other major European cities, and less than some.

The Brits talk about the weather a lot. A study conducted last year showed that an average Brit spends the equivalent of four and a half months of their life talking about the weather.

Londoners swear that their weather is dreadful. London has a reputation of a rainy city, a metropolis in which you can always get wet. When you listen Londoners talk about it, you imagine people that walk around in wellies, raincoats, always holding on to an umbrella.

Is London really cursed with raindrops?

We checked how damp are other European capitals. And we were surprised.

London isn’t even near to proclaiming itself the wettest capital in Europe by the annual amount of rain. With its 557mm of rain per year, the city holds 35th place on the list.

More than in London, it rains even in Barcelona (640 mm), Istanbul (805 mm) and in Rome (799mm).

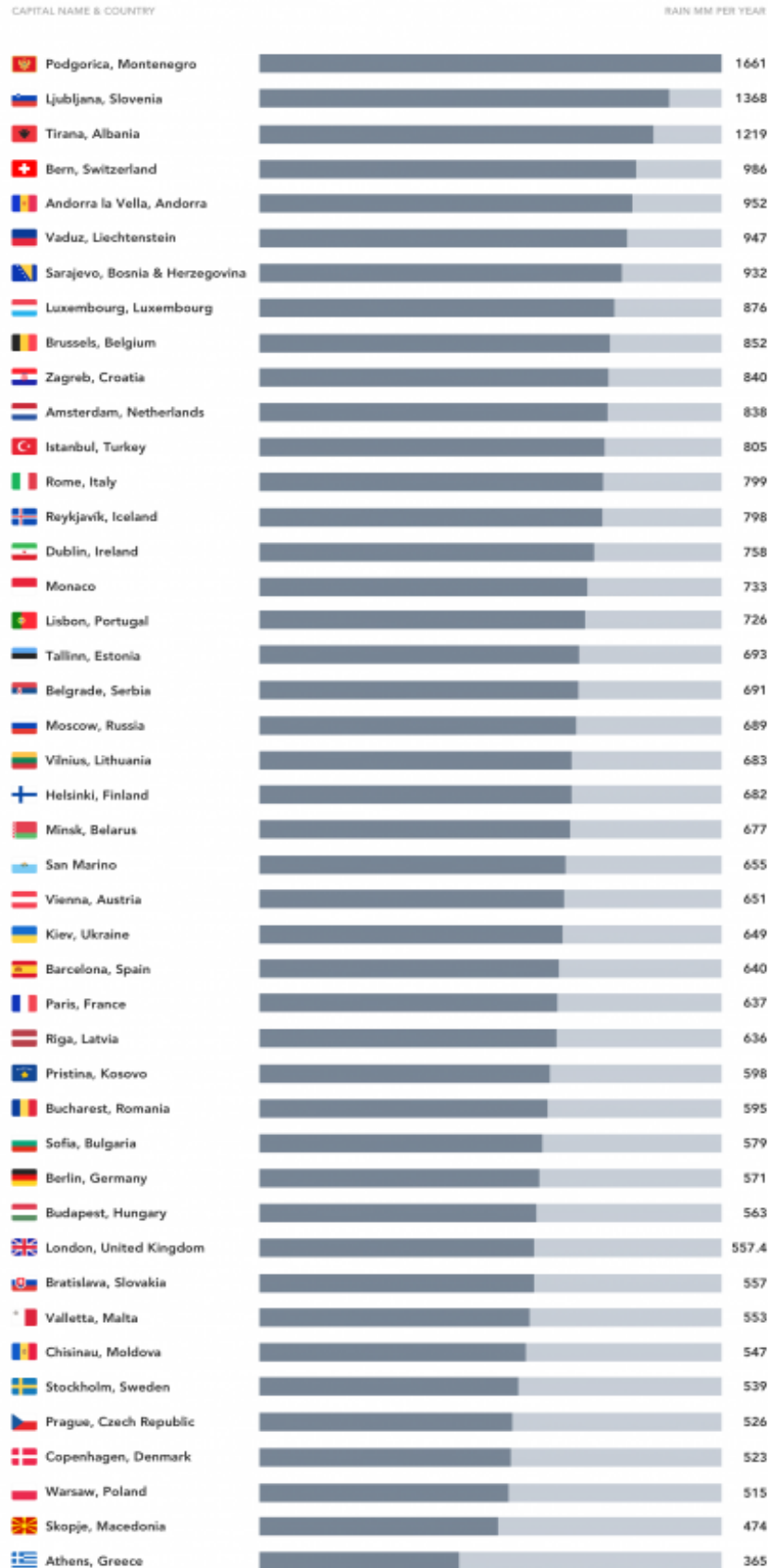
The wettest capital on the old continent isn’t even in the north. The capital of Monte Negro, Podgorica, sits on the wet throne of Europe with 1661mm of rain per year.

That’s three times the rain we have in London.

Podgorica is followed by Slovenia’s capital Ljubljana that has 1368mm of rain per year, and the third place is held by another capital close to Adriatic coast, Tirana in Albania – 1219 mm of rain.

The wettest capitals in Europe

Average yearly precipitation



Why has Britain's climate got such a bad reputation? Perhaps it is for the same reason that British people always seem to be talking about the weather. This is its changeability. There is a saying that Britain doesn't have a climate, it only has weather. It may not rain very much altogether, but you can never be sure of a dry day; there can be cool (even cold) days in July and some quite warm days in January.

The lack of extremes is the reason why, on the few occasions when it gets genuinely hot or freezing cold, the country seems to be totally unprepared for it. A bit of snow and a few days of frost and the trains stop working and the roads are blocked; if the thermometer goes above 80 °F (27 °C), people behave as if they were in the Sahara and the temperature makes front-page head-lines. These things happen so rarely that it is not worth organizing life.

Scotland has a romantic image of wild mountains, lochs (=lakes) and purple heather moors. The mainland is divided into two by the **Great Glen** (=Glen More), a series of valleys and lochs running south-west to north-east. It is one of these lochs that the famous Loch Ness monster is supposed to live. North of the Great Glen are the **Highlands**, a mountainous and thinly populated region. This is the home of many of the Scottish clans that over centuries resisted the influence of the Lowland Scots and the English. This area of spectacular natural beauty occupies the same land area as southern England but fewer than a million people live there. Tourism is important in the local economy, and so is the production of whisky. To the south are the hills of the **Lowlands** and the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Scotland's two major cities have very different reputations. Glasgow is the third largest city in Britain. It is associated with heavy industry and some of the worst housing conditions in Britain. However, this image is one-sided. Glasgow has a strong artistic heritage. A hundred years ago the work of the Glasgow School put the city at the forefront of European design and architecture.

Edinburgh, which is half the size of Glasgow, has a comparatively middle-class image. It is the capital of Scotland and is associated with scholarship, the law and administration. This reputation, together with its many fine historic buildings, and also perhaps its topography (there is a rock in the middle of the city on which stands the castle) has led to its being called 'the Athens of the north'.



Great Glen

Highlands

Lowlands

As in Scotland, most people in Wales live in one small part of it. In the Welsh case, it is the south-east of the country that is most heavily populated. Despite its industry (coal mining), no really large cities have grown up in this area. Even Cardiff, the capital of Wales, has a population of about a quarter of a million. The area around Mount Snowdon in the north-west of the country is very beautiful and is the largest National Park in Britain.

With the exception of Belfast, which is famous for the manufacture of linen (and which is still a shipbuilding city), this region is, like the rest of Ireland, largely agricultural. It has several areas of spectacular beauty. One of these is the **Giant's Causeway** on its north coast, so-called because the rocks in the area form what look like enormous stepping stones.



Giant's Causeway

Norfolk Broads

Lake District

In England there are hills, rolling countryside and farmland. In summer the flatter land in the south and east turns yellow with oilseed rape flowers or ripening corn. The hills of the **Lake District** and the moors of North Yorkshire, celebrated in the writings of William Wordsworth and the Bronte sisters, are popular with walkers. Further south, chalk downs form sheer white cliffs where they meet the English Channel. The River Thames rises in the Cotswolds and flows east through

Oxford to London and the sea. The **Norfolk Broads**, a large area of rivers and lagoons in East Anglia, are popular for boating and fishing trips.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. What is the meaning of island mentality?
2. Do British people still have an island mentality?
3. Why seabed is so important to Britain?
4. How wet is Britain?
5. Which city in Europe rains the most?
6. Which city has been called 'the Athens of the north' and why?
7. Which city has been called a 'green and pleasant land'?
8. Which city has been called as 'the Emerald Isle'?

Chapter II

The United Kingdom Great Britain and the United Kingdom

Strictly speaking, ‘Great Britain’ is a geographical expression but ‘The United Kingdom’ is a political expression. Great Britain is in fact the biggest of the group of islands which lie between the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. It is approximately two and a half times the size of Ireland, the second largest. Together they are called the British Isles. The expression originally described the islands themselves, not the political or national divisions within them.

The British Isles today are shared by two separate and independent states. The smaller of these is the Republic of Ireland, with its capital in Dublin. The larger, with London as its capital, is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This long title, (usually shortened to the United Kingdom or UK) is the result of a complicated history.

The island of Great Britain contains three ‘nations’ which were separate at earlier stages of their history: England, Scotland and Wales. Wales had become part of the English administrative system by the sixteenth century. Scotland was not completely united with England until 1707. The United Kingdom is a name which was introduced in 1801 when Great Britain became united with Ireland. When the Republic of Ireland became independent of London in 1922, the title was changed to its present form.

‘Britain’ and ‘British’ have two meanings. They sometimes refer to Great Britain alone, and sometimes refer to the UK including Northern Ireland. ‘England’ and ‘English’ are often incorrectly used to refer to the whole of Great Britain.

When we talk about the United Kingdom (UK), English is not the same as British. English is not used for Scottish or Welsh or Northern Irish people. (Great) Britain refers to the territory of England, Scotland and Wales. The United Kingdom refers to England, Scotland, Wales and the six counties of Northern Ireland. Some people from Northern Ireland refer to themselves as British in the context of the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland. However, everyone from Northern Ireland has the right to Irish nationality and can hold an Irish passport. Irish also refers to citizens of the Irish Republic.

The Scots themselves prefer the adjective Scots and it also occurs in the compounds Scotsman and Scotswoman. We use the adjective Scotch to refer only

to specific products, mostly food or drink, such as Scotch whisky, Scotch pie and Scotch broth.

Nowadays we use the noun Briton only to refer to the ancient tribes that lived in Britain:

The ancient Britons built huge earthworks to bury their kings and leaders.

The short form of British, Brit, is often used as a noun (or less commonly as an adjective) in journalistic style and in informal situations to refer to British people:

The Brits have a bad reputation in some countries.

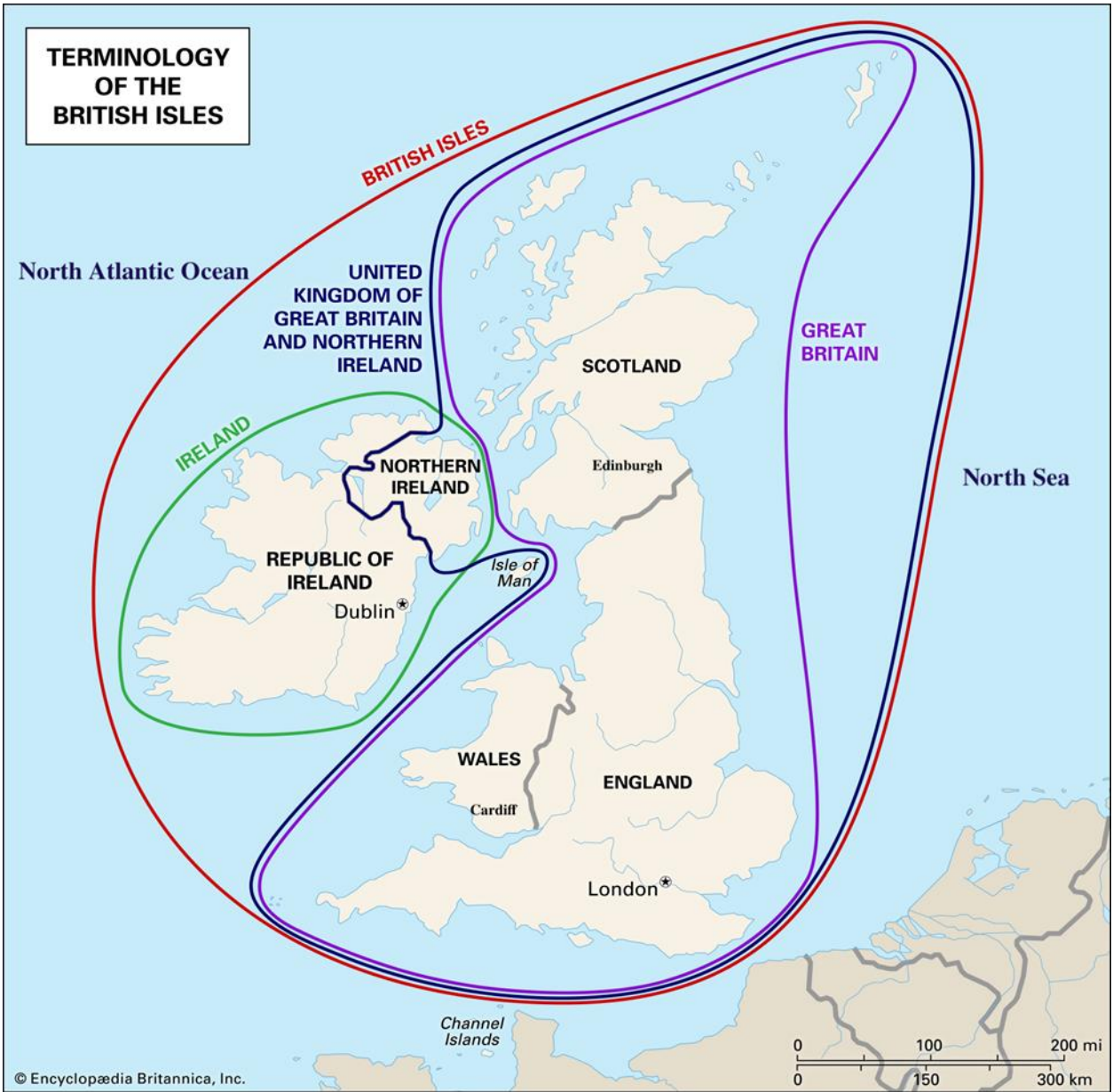
A sense of identity based on place of birth is, like family identity, not very common or strong in most parts of Britain. People are just too mobile and very few live in the same place all their lives. There is quite a lot of local pride, and people find many opportunities to express it. This pride, however, arises because people are happy to live in what they consider to be a nice place.

A sense of identity with a larger geographical area is a bit stronger. Nearly everybody has a spoken accent that identifies them as coming from a particular large city or region. In some cases, there is quite a strong sense of identification. Liverpudlians (from Liverpool), Mancunians (from Manchester), Geordies (from the Newcastle area) and Cockneys (from London) are often proud to be known by these names.

Traditionally, a true Cockney is anybody born within the sound of Bow bells (the bells of the church of St Mary-le-Bow in the East End of London). In fact, the term is commonly used to denote people who come from a wider area of the innermost eastern suburbs of London and also an adjoining area south of the Thames.

‘Cockney’ is also used to describe a strong London accent and, like any such local accent, is associated with working-class origins.

A feature of Cockney speech is rhyming slang, in which, for example, ‘wife’ is referred to as ‘trouble and strife’, and ‘stairs’ as ‘apples and pears’ (usually shortened to ‘apples’). Some rhyming slang has passed into general informal British usage; some examples are ‘use your loaf’, which means ‘think’ (from ‘loaf of bread’ = ‘head).



The British people

Regional loyalties

People often refer to Britain by another name. They call it 'England'. But this is not strictly correct, and it can make some people angry. England is only one of the four nations of the British Isles (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland). Their political unification was a gradual process that took several hundred years. It was completed in 1800 when the Irish Parliament was joined with the Parliament for England, Scotland and Wales in Westminster, so that the whole of the British Isles became a single state – the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. However, in 1922, most of Ireland became a separate state.

At one time the four nations were distinct from each other in almost every aspect of life. In the first place, they were different racially. The people in Ireland, Wales and highland Scotland belonged to the Celtic race; those in England and lowland Scotland were mainly of Germanic origin. This difference was reflected in the languages they spoke.

Most of Britain was inhabited by Celts until the fourth century. Their languages were not related to English. In the fourth century the Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain from Northern Germany and Denmark, and their language formed the basis of the English we speak today. The Anglo-Saxons drove the Celts into the mountainous west of Britain. Two Celtic languages survive there: Welsh and Gaelic. In Wales the Welsh language is used alongside English, and in Scotland over 75,000 people speak Gaelic. Gaelic is also used in the Republic of Ireland, where it is the first official language. Nearly all Welsh and Gaelic speakers are bilingual, although most would think of English as their second language. The nations also tended to have different economic, social and legal systems.



Signs in Welsh and English

Today these differences have become blurred. But they have not completely disappeared.

Names

The prefix 'Mac' or 'Mc' in surnames (such as McCall, MacCarthy, MacDonald) is always either Scottish or Irish. The prefix 'O' (as in O'Brien, O'Hara) is distinctly Irish. A very large number of surnames (for example, Davis, Evans, Jones, Lloyd, Morgan, Williams) suggest Welsh origin. The most common surname in both England and Scotland is actually 'Smith'.

Characteristics

There are certain stereotypes of national character which are well-known in Britain. For instance, the Irish are supposed to be great talkers, the Scots have a reputation for being careful with money, and the Welsh are renowned for their singing ability.

Musical instruments

The harp is an emblem of both Wales and Ireland. The bagpipes are regarded as distinctively Scottish.

Clothes

The kilt, a skirt with a tartan pattern worn by men, is a very well-known symbol of Scottishness.

Until recently, British politics tended to be dominated by England, but both Wales and Scotland now have their own political assemblies, as well as continued representation in the British parliament. In Ireland nationalism has been complicated by religious and political loyalties. Pressure for Irish independence grew during the 19th century and finally led to independence for the south of Ireland in 1921. Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom, a cause of the recent Troubles. After many years of violence a Northern Ireland Assembly was set up in 1998.

Although people move around the country to study or find work, national and regional rivalries based on traditional stereotypes can still be found. The most significant division in England is the North-South Divide. It is primarily an economic division between the richer south, particularly the area around London, and the poorer north. Some Londoners dismiss the whole of England north of London as the provinces where, they believe, there is little culture. The south likes to think that it is more sophisticated and more outward-looking. But the north can claim many positive things, such as beautiful countryside, a less pressured lifestyle

and often cheaper housing. Northerners are also said to be more cheerful and friendly than southerners. Rural north Wales tends to be more traditional than the industrial south, where English influence is stronger. In Scotland, Highland people traditionally regarded people from the Lowlands as untrustworthy and weak. Lowlanders believed Highlanders were more aggressive and less civilized. Perhaps the greatest unifying factor between the two has been a dislike of ‘Sassenachs’ (=English people).

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. Explain the difference between these expressions: Great Britain, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the British Isles. What did ‘the United Kingdom’ originally refer to?
2. Which of these people are British: an Englishman, a citizen of the Irish Republic, a Scot, a Welshman?
3. Which of these capital cities are the capitals of independent states: Edinburgh, Belfast, Dublin, Cardiff, London?
4. An Irishman might not agree that he lives in the British Isles. Why not?
5. Which country do you think is more independent of England: Scotland or Wales?

Exercise 2. Write the answers to the following questions.

1. Which is larger, Great Britain or the United Kingdom?
2. Which adjective is used to refer to the people of the United Kingdom?
3. Is the Irish Republic part of Britain?
4. Which is larger, Scotland or Wales?
5. What are the capitals of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic?
6. What island lies between England and Northern Ireland?
7. Which city do Cockneys come from?
8. What is the correct adjective to use for people from Scotland?
9. What river(s) does the city Oxford lie on?
10. Which sea lies to the east of England and Scotland?

Chapter III

Symbols

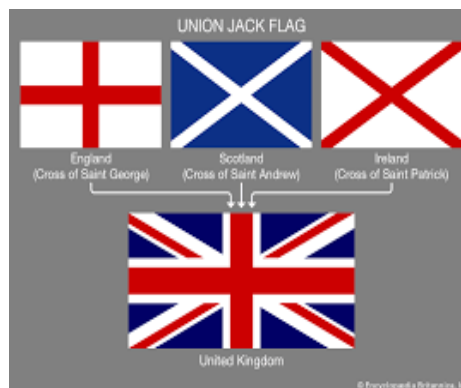
The National Flag

The Union Flag, or Union Jack, is the national flag of the United Kingdom.

It is so called because it combines the crosses of the three countries united under one Sovereign – the kingdoms of England and Wales, of Scotland and of Ireland (although since 1921 only Northern Ireland has been part of the United Kingdom).

The flag consists of three heraldic crosses.

1. The cross of St George, patron saint of England since the 1270's, is a red cross on a white ground. After James I succeeded to the throne, it was combined with the cross of St Andrew in 1606.
2. The cross saltire of St Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, is a diagonal white cross on a blue ground.
3. The oblique cross of St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, is a diagonal red cross on a white ground.



This was combined with the previous Union Flag of St George and St Andrew, after the Act of Union of Ireland with England (and Wales) and Scotland on 1 January 1801, to create the Union Flag that has been flown ever since.

The Welsh dragon does not appear on the Union Flag. This is because when the first Union Flag was created in 1606, the Principality of Wales by that time was already united with England and was no longer a separate principality.

The Union Flag was originally a Royal flag. When the present design was made official in 1801, it was ordered to be flown on all the King's forts and castles, but not elsewhere.

If the Union flag is flying on Buckingham Palace, it means that the monarch is at home



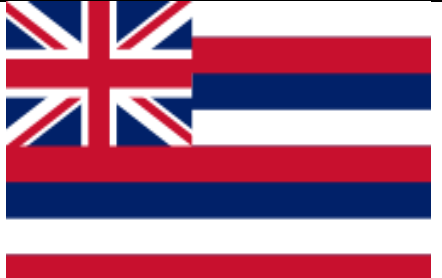
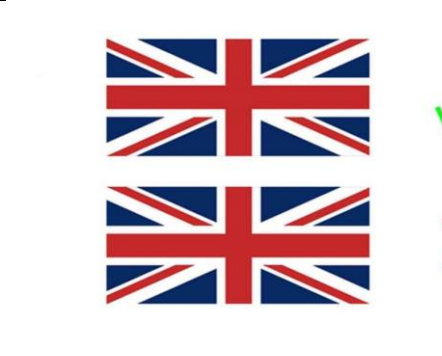
Stand outside Buckingham palace for two minutes and you're sure to hear a tourist make this claim. The reverse is true. A fluttering Union flag indicates that the monarchy is not currently in residence. A Royal Standard is the flag to look out for. This is the red, yellow and blue affair that unites the excessively stretched lions of England, a rampant lion to present Scotland, and an Irish harp of lewd profile (take a close look). This flag, technically a banner of arms, flies over any building lucky enough to accommodate the Queen, so long as it has a flagpole.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales in 1997 started this particular confusion. Before that time, the Royal Standard was the only flag commonly raised and lowered above the palace. It was a simple matter to determine whether the Queen was at home: flag=yes, no flag=no.

In the days following the tragedy, the Royal Household found itself in a bit of a quandary. Public feeling demanded that a flag be flown at half-mast in respect. The Royal Standard, by tradition and the logic of inheritance, cannot be flown at half-mast because the sovereign never dies (the new monarch immediately succeeds his or her predecessor). The Queen, who was absent from the palace at the time of Diana's death, decided to break with tradition and fly the Union flag at half-mast. This protocol now applies for any royal death or period of national mourning. The red-white-and-blue is now also flown at full mast whenever the monarch is away from Buckingham Palace, meaning that the flagpole is never bare.

The Union Flag is flown on Government buildings on days marking the birthdays of members of the Royal Family, Commonwealth Day, Coronation Day, The Queen's official birthday, Remembrance Day and on the days of the State Opening and prorogation of Parliament.

The Union Jack is the most important of all British flags and is flown by representatives of the United Kingdom all the world over. In certain authorized military, naval, royal, and other uses, it may be incorporated into another flag. For example, it forms the canton of both the British Blue Ensign and the British Red Ensign. It is part of the flags of such Commonwealth nations as Australia, New Zealand, and Tuvalu, as well as of the U.S. state of Hawaii, the Australian states (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia), and three Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario).

		<p>flag of Australia</p>
		<p>flag of New Zealand</p>
		<p>flag of the U.S. state of Hawaii</p>
<p>Mind the correct way of depicting the Union Jack</p>		
	<p>✓ ✗</p>	

The Royal Coat of Arms



The Royal Coat of Arms acts as the official coat of arms for the British monarch.

The Royal Coat of Arms features a shield divided into four quarters. The quarters represent the symbols of Ireland, England, and Scotland. Wales does not play a role in the Royal Coat of Arms as when the Act of Union came about the Kingdom of Wales was already integral to England.

The upper left and lower right quarters of the shield feature the three guardian lions of England. In the top right is the lion rampant, Scotland's royal symbol. In the lower left is a harp which represents Ireland.

Surrounding the shield is the Garter circlet. The Order of the Garter is a chivalric order first started by Edward III, an English monarch. The circlet is inscribed with the order of the motto: "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*" (shame on he who thinks evil).



Above the shield is the royal crown which is topped with a golden crowned lion.

A lion, representing England, stands on the “*Dexter*” (right-hand) side. A unicorn, representing Scotland, stands on the “*Sinister*” (left-hand) side. According to ancient legends, a free unicorn was a dangerous beast. This is why the heraldic unicorn is chained.

The lion and unicorn stand upon a small frame, commonly referred to as a compartment. It features a thistle, Tudor rose and Shamrock. They respectively represent Scotland, England and Ireland.

Also, along the compartment is the motto of English monarchs: “*Die et mon Droit*” (God and my Right). This motto has been carried to the present royal family.

The United Kingdom Coat of Arms is made up of the Arms of Scotland and England.

Wales is not represented in the Royal Arms as by the time of the Act of Union in 1707 Wales was already integral to England. However, there is a Welsh coat of arms.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. What does a fluttering Union Jack flag indicate?
2. What is represented on the Royal Standard?
3. When did Diana, Princess of Wales, die?
4. What does it mean when the Union flag is flown at half-mast?

Exercise 2. Match the words from the text with their contextual translations.

1. bare	a. приспущенный флаг
2. flagpole	b. траур
3. lewd	c. арфа
4. half-mast flag	d. грозный, свирепый
5. harp	e. пустой
6. quandary	f. противоположное
7. mourning	g. затруднительное положение
8. rampant	h. флагшток
9. reverse	i. непристойный

Chapter IV

The Constitution

The system of government

Britain is a constitutional monarchy. That means it is a country governed by a king or a queen who accepts the advice of a parliament. It is also a parliamentary democracy. That is, it is a country whose government is controlled by a parliament which has been elected by the people.

In theory, the constitution has three branches: Parliament, which makes laws, the Government, which ‘executes’ laws i.e. puts them into effect, and the law courts, which interpret laws. Although the Queen is officially head of all three branches, she has little direct power.

A constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a king or queen reigns with limits to their power along with a governing body (i.e. Parliament), giving rise to the modern saying “the Queen reigns but does not rule”.

Parliament has two parts: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Members of the House of Commons are elected by the voters of about 650 constituencies (523 for England, 38 for Wales, 72 for Scotland and 17 for Northern Ireland). They are known as MPs, or Members of Parliament. The Prime Minister, is also an MP, usually the leader of the political party with a majority in the House of Commons. Commons has a maximum term of 5 years, at the end of which a general election must be held. However, a general election can be called in the Government at any time.

The Prime Minister is advised by a Cabinet of about twenty other ministers. The Cabinet includes the ministers in charge of major government departments or ministries. Departments and ministries are run by civil servants, who are permanent officials. Even if the Government changes after an election, the same civil servants are employed.


Members of the House of Lords (peers) are not elected at present. Until 1999 they were mostly ‘hereditary peers’ because their fathers had been peers before them. Now only 91 out of about 700 peers are hereditary: the rest are ‘life peers’ who cannot pass on their titles, senior judges (Law Lords) and Church of England Archbishops and Bishops.

Britain is almost alone among modern states in that it does not have ‘a written constitution’. There are rules, regulations, principles and procedures for the running of the country – but there is no formal document that could be called the Constitution of the United Kingdom or which can be appealed to as the highest law of the land. Nobody can refer to ‘article 6’ or ‘the first amendment’ or anything like that, because nothing like that exists.

Instead, the principles and procedures by which the country is governed and from which people's rights are derived come from a number of different sources. They have been built up, bit by bit, over the centuries. Some of them are written down in laws agreed by Parliament, some of them have been spoken and then written down (judgements made in a court) and some of them have never been written at all. For example, there is no written law in Britain that says anything about who can be the Prime Minister or what the powers of the Prime Minister are, even though he or she is probably the most powerful person in the country. Similarly, there is no single written document which asserts people's rights. Some rights which are commonly accepted in modern democracies (for example, the rights not to be discriminated against on the basis of sex or race) have been formally recognized by Parliament through legislation; but others (for example, the rights not to be discriminated against on the basis of religion or political views) have not. Nevertheless, it is understood that these latter rights are also part of the constitution.

Despite recent changes such as the televising of Parliament as long as everyday coverage in social media, political life in Britain is still influenced by the traditional British respect for privacy and love of secrecy. It is also comparatively informal. In both Parliament and government there is a tendency for important decisions to be taken, not at official public meetings, or even drinks, or in chance encounters in the corridors of power. It used to be said that the House of Commons was 'the most exclusive club in London'. And indeed, there are many features of Parliament which cause its members (MPs) to feel special and to feel a special sense of belonging with each other, even among those who have radically opposed political philosophies. First, constitutional theory says that Parliament has absolute control over its own affairs and is, in fact, the highest power in the land. Second, there are the ancient traditions of procedure. Many of these serve to remind MPs of a time when the main division in politics was not between this party and that party but rather between Parliament itself and the monarch. Even the architecture of the Palace of Westminster (the home of both Houses of Parliament) contributes to this feeling. It is so confusing that only 'insiders' can possibly find their way around it.

The system of government

	<p>Sovereign</p> <p>The Queen is head of Government, She makes laws with Parliament and she is head of the courts</p>
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<p>Prime Minister</p> <p>Leader of the majority party in the House of Commons Chairman of the Cabinet</p>	<p>Chairmen</p>	
	<p>The Speaker</p> <p>An MP chosen by other MPs</p>	<p>The Lord Chancellor</p> <p>A member of the Cabinet</p>
<p>Cabinet</p> <p>MPs (and peers) chosen by the Prime Minister – including heads of these departments</p>	<p>Members</p>	
	<p>About 650 elected MPs</p>	<p>500-600 life peers, 91 hereditary peers, about 25 law lords and 25 bishops</p>
<p>Treasury</p> <p>Chancellor of the Exchequer</p>	<p>Work and Pay</p>	
	<p>Salary and expenses for 175 sittings a year, each about 8 ½ hours</p>	<p>Expenses only: many members do not attend. 150 sittings a year, each about 6 ½ hours</p>
<p>Foreign Office</p> <p>Foreign Secretary</p>	<p>Access</p>	
<p>Home Office</p> <p>Home Secretary</p> <p>Responsible for home affairs: 2 junior ministers 25 000 civil servants</p>	<p>Press, radio and TV coverage; galleries for visitors</p>	<p>Press, radio and TV coverage; galleries for visitors</p>
<p>GOVERNMENT</p>	<p>HOUSE OF COMMONS</p> <p>PARLIAMENT</p> <p>HOUSE OF LORDS</p>	

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. Which of these people are not elected: a peer, an MP, a civil servant, the Prime Minister?
2. What does it mean to reign but not rule?
3. What is the difference between a life peer and a hereditary peer?
4. What are civil servants?

5. Which areas of government do these people deal with: the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, the Lord Chancellor?
6. Find two examples of executive organizations outside central government.
7. What differences are there between Parliament and the Government?
8. Does the UK have written constitution?

Exercise 2. Match the words from the text with their contextual translations.

1. constituencies	a. находятся в ведении
2. House of Lords	b. пэр, лорд
3. civil servant	с. Министерство внутренних дел
4. law court	d. исполнять законы
5. House of Commons	e. Палата лордов
6. peer	f. пожизненный пэр
7. life peer	g. Палата общин
8. execute laws	h. избирательные округа
9. hereditary	i. должностное лицо, чиновник
10. to run by	j. судебные органы
11. home office	k. наследуемый

Parliament



Functions of Parliament:

- making laws
- providing money for government, through taxation
- examining government policy, administration and spending
 - debating political questions

Making new laws: Bills and Acts

A proposal for a new law is called a bill. Bills may be introduced in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords by any member. In practice most bills are proposed by the Government. After being discussed and perhaps changed. The bill is sent to the other House to go through the same process. When both Houses agree on a text, the bill is sent to the Queen for her signature (or ‘Royal Assent’) at which point it becomes an Act of Parliament. A bill which has been passed by the House of Commons is almost certain to become law, and about fifty bills become Acts each year. The House of Lords can revise bills but it cannot stop them from becoming Acts; it can only delay the process. The Royal Assent is a formality: no sovereign has refused a bill since 1707.

All Acts of Parliament together form **statute law**. New laws are sometimes said to **go on the statute book**. Two copies of each Act are made on vellum (=very smooth, high-quality material made from animal skin) and are kept in the House of Lords and in the Public Record Office. Copies of all the Acts passed in a particular year are issued in book form, but there is no such thing as ‘the statute book’. Parliament has the power to **repeal a statute** if it is no longer appropriate.

Most laws begin as **proposals** which are discussed widely before they start their formal progress through Parliament. Members of appropriate professional organizations and pressure groups may be asked for their advice and opinions. Sometimes the government produces a **Green paper**, a document that is circulated

to members of the public asking for their comments. Proposals may also be **set out** in a government **White Paper** to be debated in Parliament.

After the discussion period lawyers draft the proposals into a **bill**. Bills relating to the powers of particular organizations, e.g. local councils, or to the rights of individuals, are called **private bills**. The majority of bills change the general law and are called **public bills**.

Public bills may be introduced first in either the House of commons or the House of Lords. Most public bills that become Acts of Parliament are introduced by a government minister and are called **government bills**. Bills introduced by other members of Parliament (MPs) are called **private members' bills**. The bills that form part of the government's legislative (=law-making) programme are announced in the Queen's speech at the State Opening of Parliament.

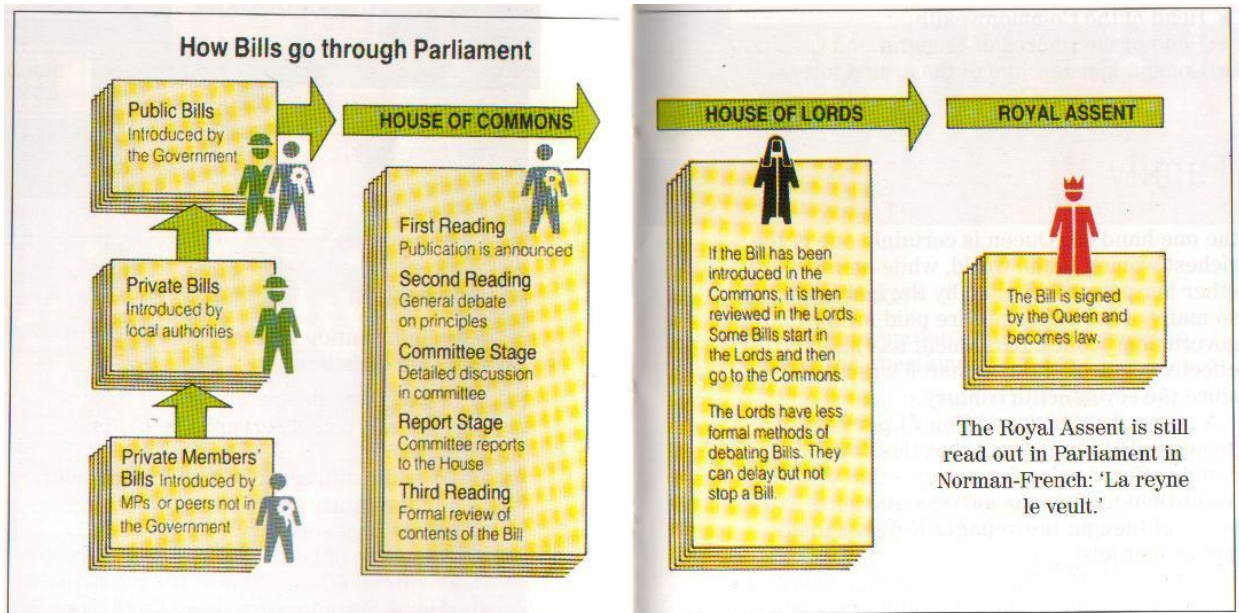
On some Fridays, private members' bills have priority over government business. MPs also have a chance to introduce a bill under the 'ten minute rule', when they can make a short speech in support of it. Only a few of these bills ever become law. Private members' bills may also be introduced in the House of Lords. The time available for debating such a bill may be restricted by a timetable motion, often called a 'guillotine'.

The progress of a bill

Most bills start in the house of Commons where they go through a number of stages: **the first reading** is a formal announcement only, without a debate. The bill is then printed. The **second reading** may take place several weeks later. The House debates the general principles of the bill and takes a vote. This is followed by the committee stage: a committee of MPs examines the details of the bill and votes on amendments (=changes) to parts of it. Sometimes, all MPs take part in the committee stage and form a Committee of the Whole House. At the report stage the House considers the amendments and may propose further changes. At the third reading the amended bill is debated as a whole.

The bill is then sent to the House of Lords, where it goes through all the same stages. If the Lords make new amendments, these will be considered later by the Commons. By tradition, the Lords pass bills authorizing taxation or national expenditure without amendment. When both Houses have reached agreement, the bill must go for royal assent (=be approved by the king or queen).

Many countries have a written constitution like that of the United States. Because this is not the case in Britain, there are no special procedures for changing the laws which govern the country. If a political party has a clear majority in the House of Commons it can make new laws and give itself new powers. This allows a Government to make radical changes in the law.



The Government

Functions of the Prime Minister:

- Leading the majority party
- Running the Government
- Appointing Cabinet Ministers and other ministers
- Representing the nation in political matters

The Cabinet

Since the 18th century the Cabinet has been increasingly responsible for deciding policies and controlling and coordinating government administration. It meets in private and its discussions are secret. When a policy has been decided, an individual minister must either support it or resign, because the Cabinet acts as one body with 'collective responsibility'.

The prime Minister has considerable individual power to introduce and control policies, and to change the Cabinet by appointing new ministers, sacking old ones, or 'reshuffling' the Cabinet by moving its members to other Cabinet posts.



10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister's London residence

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

Match notions with their definitions

1. royal assent	a) an official report presenting the government's policy on a particular question to be discussed in Parliament
2. public bill	b) the final stage that a British Act of Parliament must go through to become law, when it is signed by the king or queen
3. white paper	c) a bill (=a proposal for a new law in the British Parliament) that affects the whole country rather than a person or group
4. the House of Lords	d) the lower house of the British Parliament, in which elected Members of Parliament meet to discuss current political issues and vote on Acts of Parliament
5. private bill	e) a bill (=proposal for a new law) presented to the British House of Commons by a private member (=a Member of Parliament who is not a minister)
6. private member's bill	f) the upper house of the British Parliament, whose members are not elected
7. the House of Commons	g) a bill (=the proposal for a new law in the British Parliament) that affects a person or group rather than the whole country

Exercise 2.

1. Name two functions of Parliament and two of the Prime Minister.
2. What is the difference between the constitutions of the UK and the US?
3. Which of the two Houses of Parliament has more power?
4. What is the difference between a Bill and an Act of Parliament?
5. What is 'collective responsibility?'
6. If the Prime Minister wants to introduce a new law, what do the following do: the Cabinet, the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the Queen?
7. Make a list of features of the British constitution which you consider important and compare them with the constitution of your own country.

Chapter V

The Law

The legal system

British law comes from two main sources: laws made in Parliament (usually drawn up by government departments and lawyers), and Common Law, which is based on previous judgments and customs. Just as there is no written constitution, so England and Wales have no criminal code or civil code and the interpretation of the law is based on what has happened in the past. The laws which are made in Parliament are interpreted by the courts, but changes in the law itself are made in Parliament.

The most common type of law court in England and Wales is the magistrates' court. There are 700 magistrates' courts and about 30,000 magistrates.

More serious criminal cases then go to the Crown Court, which has 90 branches in different towns and cities. Civil cases (for example, divorce or bankruptcy cases) are dealt with in County courts. Criminal law is concerned with wrongful acts harmful to the community. Civil law is concerned with individuals' rights, duties and obligations towards one another.

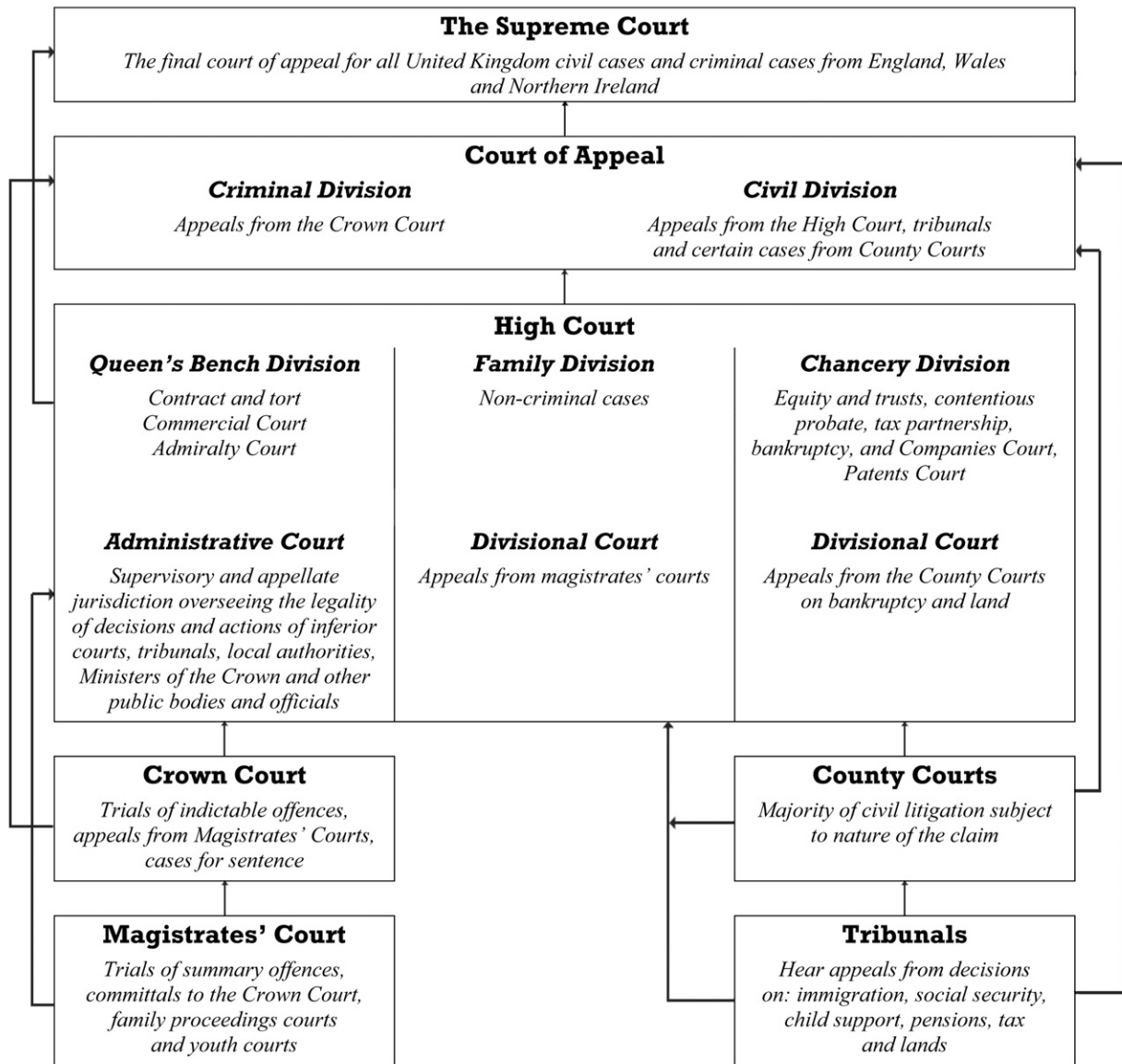
Appeals are heard by higher courts. For example, appeals from magistrates' courts are heard in the Crown Court, unless they are appeal on point of law. The highest court of appeal in England and Wales is the House of Lords. (Scotland has its own High Court in Edinburgh, which hears all appeals from Scottish courts.) Certain cases may be referred to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. In addition, individuals have made the British Government change its practices in a number of areas as a result of petitions to the European Court of Human Rights.

The legal system also includes juvenile courts (which deal with offenders under seventeen) and coroners' courts (which investigate violent, sudden or unnatural deaths). There are administrative tribunals which make quick, cheap and fair decisions with much less formality. Tribunals deal with professional standards, disputes between individuals, and disputes between individuals and government departments (for example, over taxation).

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

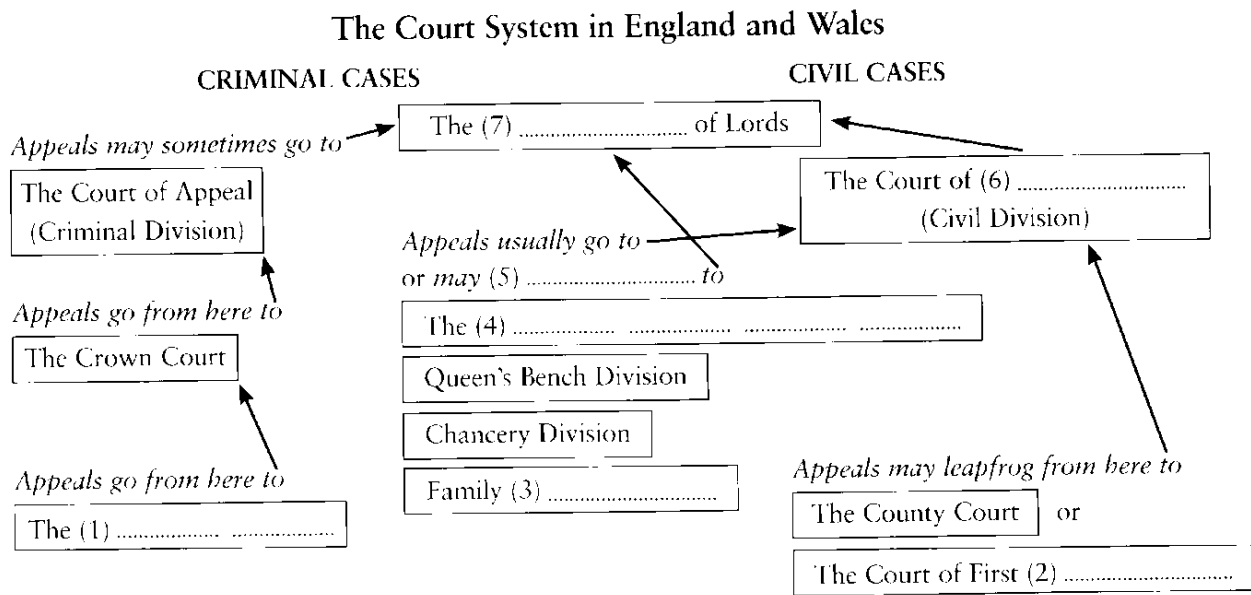
1. Who is responsible for making laws in Britain?
2. In the United Kingdom, what is the difference between criminal and civil law?
3. What is the most common type of law court in England and Wales?
4. Name three other types of British courts.



Exercise 2. Answer the questions.

1. Why are some laws in Britain affected by laws outside Britain?
2. Which courts do you think would deal with the following:
 - a. a bank robbery?
 - b. a divorce case?
 - c. a burglary committed by a 15-year old?
 - d. a drowning?
 - e. a case of driving too fast?

Exercise 3. Complete the diagram.



People in law cases

Solicitors and Barristers



In most countries there is only one legal profession. England is almost unique in having two different kinds of lawyers, with separate jobs in the legal system. The two kinds of lawyers are solicitors and barristers. Solicitors and barristers are qualified lawyers, but they have a different legal training, they take different

examinations to qualify, and once they qualified they usually do different types of legal work.

If a person has a legal problem, he will go and see a solicitor. Almost every town will have at least one. In fact there are at least 50,000 solicitors in Britain, and the number is increasing.

Solicitors do much of the initial preparation for cases, which they then give to barristers to argue in court, as well as legal work, which does not come before a court. They draw up wills, give advice in the field of business, make all the legal arrangements for buying or selling land, assist employees and employers in cases involving allegations of unfair dismissal and redundancy payments, handle divorce and child care. They also deal with litigation, which is settled out of court. Solicitors have the right of audience in lower courts, such as Magistrates' courts and in a civil action they can speak in the County Court, when the case is one of divorce or recovering some debts.

To qualify as a solicitor, a young man or woman joins a solicitor as a "clerk" and works for him while studying part time for the "*Law Society*" exams. Interestingly enough, it is not necessary for you to go to university. When you have passed all the necessary exams, you can "practice", which means you can start business on your own.

Barristers are different from solicitors. Barristers are experts in the interpretation of the Law. The barrister is also an expert on advocacy (the art of presenting cases in Court). If you want representation in any Court except the Magistrates' Court, you must have a barrister. A barrister must be capable of prosecuting in a criminal case one day and defending an accused person the next. Barristers are rather remote figures. If you need one, you never see him without your solicitor being with him. They are not paid directly by clients, but are employed by solicitors. Barristers do not have public offices in any street. They all belong to institutions called *Inns of Court*, which are ancient organizations rather like exclusive clubs: *Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple and Middle Temple*.

The highest level of barristers has the title QC (*Queen's Counsel*). The status is bestowed on about 30 counsellors a year by the Queen on the advice of the *Lord Chancellor*. Before a junior counsel can hope to achieve the status he must have at least 10 years of successful practice as a barrister. The QC appears only in the most important cases.

Judges

In Britain, the vast majority of judges are unpaid. They are called "Magistrates", or "Justices of the Peace" (*JPs*). They are ordinary citizens who are selected not because they have any legal training but because they have "sound common sense" and understand their fellow citizens. Magistrates are selected by

special committees in every town and district from as wide a variety of professions and social classes as possible.

A small proportion of judges are not Magistrates. They are called “High Court Judges” and they deal with the most serious crimes. Judges are usually chosen from the most senior barristers, and once appointed they cannot continue to practice as barristers. High Court Judges, unlike Magistrates, are paid salaries by the State and have considerable legal training.

Jury

A *jury* consists of twelve people (jurors), who are ordinary people chosen at random from voter registration lists. The jury listens to the evidence given in court in certain criminal cases and decides whether the defendant is guilty or innocent. If the person is found guilty, the punishment is passed by the presiding judge.

Coroners

Coroners have medical or legal training (or both), and investigate violent or unnatural deaths.

Clerks of the Court

Clerks look after administrative and legal matters in the courtroom.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. What is almost unique about the English legal system?
2. What is the difference between a barrister and a solicitor?
3. What kind of problems does a solicitor deal with?
4. In what courts do solicitors have the right of audience?
5. How do you qualify as a solicitor?
6. What are barristers experts in?
7. When must you have a barrister?

Exercise 2. Insert prepositions consulting the text:

1. Magistrates are selected ... special committees ... every town.
2. Judges are usually chosen ... the most senior barristers.
3. High Court Judges are paid salaries ... the State.
4. A jury consists ... twelve people.
5. The jury listens ... the evidence given ... court.
6. Clerks look ... administrative and legal matters.

Exercise 3. Choose the best way to complete the sentences:

1. England has two different kinds of lawyers:
 - a. solicitors and barristers
 - b. barristers and clerks
 - c. solicitors and judges

2. Solicitors work on court cases of clients ...
 - a. in the court
 - b. outside the court
 - c. at home

3. ... prepare a case for a barrister.
 - a. Clerks
 - b. Judges
 - c. Solicitors

4. In a ... action solicitors have the right to speak in the lowest courts.
 - a. civil
 - b. criminal
 - c. civil and criminal

5. Barristers are experts in ... the Law.
 - a. interpreting
 - b. examining
 - c. making

6. ... is a governing body of solicitors.
 - a. the Bar
 - b. the Highest Court
 - c. Law Society

7. The highest level barristers have the title of ...
 - a. Queen's Counsel
 - b. Queen's Advocate
 - c. Senior Barrister

8. The status on the barrister is bestowed by the Queen on the advice of ...
 - a. the Lord Chancellor
 - b. Prime Minister
 - c. the Attorney General

9. The ... is expected to appear only in the most important cases.
 - a. Lord Chancellor

- b. Queen's Counsel
- c. Prime Minister

10. Barristers belong to ...

- a. Law Society
- b. the Inns of Court
- c. the Bar

11. Magistrates don't have ...

- a. legal training
- b. common sense
- c. both legal training and common sense

12. Magistrates don't work ...

- a. in any other sphere but legal
- b. for money
- c. in a law court

13. Judges are usually ... from the most senior barristers.

- a. elected
- b. chosen
- c. appointed

14. High Court Judges don't ...

- a. work for money
- b. have any legal training
- c. appear in lower courts

15. A jury consists of ...

- a. ordinary people
- b. people from only specific professions
- c. ex-judges

Exercise 4. Choose the correct definition for each legal profession mentioned in the text:

- a. an officer acting as a judge in a low court;
- b. a public official with authority to hear and decide cases in a law court;
- c. a group of people who swear to give a true decision in a law court;
- d. an official who investigates the cause of any violent or unnatural death;
- e. a lawyer who has the right to speak and argue in higher law courts;
- f. a lawyer who prepares legal documents and advises clients on legal matters.

The Police



Most countries have a national police force which is controlled by the Central Government. Great Britain has no national police force, although police policy is governed by the central Government's Home Office. Instead there is a separate police force for each of 52 areas into which the country is divided. Each has a police authority – a committee of local county councilors and magistrates.

Outside London most counties (regions in Scotland) have their own police forces, though in the interests of efficiency several have combined forces. The policing of London is in the hands of the Metropolitan Police Force, with the headquarters in New Scotland Yard, and the City of London Force.

The duties of the police forces in UK include the provision of policing at major airports (Heathrow, Gatwick etc) but the police carry no responsibility for running prisons, for immigration or for customs excise duties.

The duties and responsibilities of police are the following:

- the protection of life and property
- the prevention of crimes and the detection of offenders
- the preservation of public tranquility.

The Home Secretary and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland approve the appointment of chief, deputy and assistant of chief constables, and may require a police authority to retire a chief constable in the interests of efficiency. They can make regulations covering such matters as police ranks, qualification for appointment, promotion and retirement, etc.

Every force has its Crime Investigation Department staffed by experienced detectives. There is also a traffic division which operates road patrol units. At the heart of most police stations there is the control room equipped with high-tech

computers and radio devices. British police still do not carry guns (although all police stations have a store of weapons).

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. What body is a national police force governed by?
2. What type of subordination do the British police belong to?
3. How many territorial police forces is the country divided into?
4. What body is responsible for governing the Metropolitan Police Force?
5. What are Home Secretary's responsibilities?
6. What is policing aimed to?
7. What department does each police force have?
8. What functions are out of police liability?

Exercise 2. Choose the correct variant.

1. Most countries have a national police force controlled by
a) the national Parliament b) the Supreme Court c) the Central Government
2. There is a separate police force for each of
a) fifty three areas b) sixty two areas c) fifty two areas
3. The policing in London is in the hands of
a) Home Secretary's office b) The Metropolitan Police Force c) the Prime Minister
4. Every force has its Crime Investigation Department staffed by
a) engineers b) specialist detectives c) barristers
5. The primary duty of police is
a) to protect life and property b) to prosecute offenders c) to decide cases

Crime and punishment

CRIMES

About 90 per cent of all crimes are dealt with by magistrates' courts. Sentences (that is, the punishment decided by the court) vary a lot but most people who are found guilty have to pay a fine. Magistrates' courts can impose fines of up to 2,000 pounds or prison sentences of up to six months. If the punishment is to be more severe the case must go to a Crown Court. The most severe punishment is life imprisonment: there has been no death penalty in Britain since 1965.

Police recorded crime figures for the year ending March 2021 have been significantly affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Across the whole year ending year March 2021, there was a 13% fall in total police recorded crime (excluding fraud). The scale of reduction varied by crime type with the largest falls

seen in theft (down 32%) with smaller falls in sexual offences (down 10%) and no change in violence against the person offences (0%). There was a large increase in drug offences 13% compared with the previous year.

PUNISHMENT

These are some of the punishments available to judges.

Prison

Suspended sentences: the offender does not go to prison unless he or she commits another offence.

Probation: normal life at home, but under supervision.

Youth custody: in special centres for young adults.

Short disciplinary training in a detention centre.

Community service: decorating old people's houses, etc.

Compensation: paying, or working for, one's victim.

Fines: the punishment in 80 per cent of cases

Disqualification from driving.

Fixed penalty fines: especially for parking offences.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

- 1) What are the most common offences in England and Wales?
- 2) What is the most common type of punishment?
- 3) Is there the death penalty in Britain?
- 4) What affected the crime rate in 2021?

Exercise 2. Match the crime on the left with its definition on the right.

1. Robbery	a. the stealing of any property, with the use or threats of force
2. Theft	b. taking another's property with dishonest intent to permanently deprive the other of the property
3. Burglary or house-breaking	c. entering a building as a trespasser with intent to steal, or entering as a trespasser and then stealing anything in the building
4. Mugging	d. making a false or fake copy of something
5. Pickpocketing	e. unlawfully causing damage to property
6. Shoplifting	f. theft from shops
7. Assault	g. unlawfully carrying-off a person in order to obtain a ransom
8. Rape	h. causing criminal damage by fire
9. Child abuse	i. inflicting unlawful physical and psychological harm to a child
10. Vandalism	
11. Forgery	
12. Confidence tricks	
13. Arson	
14. Murder	

<p>15. Homicide 16. Kidnapping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">j. robbery of a person in the streetk. unlawfully killing a person with intent to kill or cause grievous bodily harml. deceiving someone into parting with property (usually money)m. sexual intercourse without consentn. frightening a person into thinking they are going to be hit, or actually hitting another (the later is called a “battery”)o. includes all forms of unlawful killing, including manslaughter which is less serious than murderp. theft from a person’s pocket or bag in the street
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Chapter VI

Britain and the World

The Commonwealth



The Commonwealth of Nations is a loose association of former British colonies and current dependencies, along with some countries that have no historical ties to Britain. The Commonwealth of Nations includes 54 independent nations with their dependencies, all of which recognize the British monarch as the Head of the Commonwealth. The origin of the Commonwealth lies in the British Empire. Starting from the 16th century, Britain invaded a lot of lands. This was very violent most of the times. Some colonies, such as India with large local population, were ruled by British overlords. Others, such as Australia, became colonies for settlement by the British. At the beginning of the 20th century, these lands of settlement, known as Dominions, had been largely internally governed. As these settlements became less profitable, there came the idea of the Commonwealth.

In 1931 Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were granted “independence”. When World War II broke out, these Commonwealth nations and the colonies fought alongside the UK and its allies for the ideals of liberty. They helped the Allies to win in 1945. The independence for the remaining colonies followed soon after. Most joined the Commonwealth to remain close to the vast amount of resources that Britain had. From the start, the UK was the dominant force in what was known as “the British Commonwealth”. It was run from the Commonwealth Office in London. By the 1950s, it had become “the Commonwealth of Nations”.

In 1965, an office called the Commonwealth Secretariat was set up to run the Commonwealth. The UK remained the dominant power giving directives through the various offices. Under the “old Empire”, the UK allowed some special rules for trade with the colonies. These rules made things from the colonies cheaper in the UK. They also encouraged the colonies to buy goods produced in the UK. The Commonwealth consists of most of the countries that were once parts of the British Empire. In 1926, Britain and its dominions agreed they were equal in status. They decided to be freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. There are 54 members. Some are very large countries like Canada, India, and Australia. Some are just small islands like Barbados and Tonga.

The Commonwealth was first headed by King George VI. After his passing, Queen Elizabeth II became the Head of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth member countries choose who becomes the Head of the Commonwealth, it is not automatically passed between the British Royal Family.

Under the formula of the London Declaration, Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth. The land area of the Commonwealth nations is about 21% of the total world land area. Sixteen members of the Commonwealth known as Commonwealth realms recognize the Queen of Great Britain as their head of state. The majority of members are independent republics such as India and five members have monarchs of different royal houses.



The flag of the Commonwealth consists of a gold globe surrounded by emanating rays on a dark blue field. Today the Commonwealth works to advance democracy, human rights, social and economic development. It organizes educational programmes and exchanges between nations, promotes trade, science, health and many other specific issues in its member countries. Every four year they hold the Commonwealth Games. Headquarters of the Commonwealth is located in Marlborough House, London.

The Commonwealth had no constitution until it adopted its Charter in 2012, which commits members to 16 core values of democracy, gender equality, sustainable development and international peace and security. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) are held every two years to discuss issues of common interest. The Queen attends Commonwealth summits and the

Commonwealth Games. Her advanced age means that she is no longer likely to attend on a regular basis if travel involves long distances, and may delegate the duty to her heir, Prince Charles. On every Commonwealth Day, the second Monday in March, the Queen broadcasts a message to all member countries.

The Commonwealth has been criticized for being a post-colonial club. But to its members it is a voluntary association of independent states in the business of promoting democracy, good government, human rights and economic development. It has also been criticized for having little influence. Indeed, the Commonwealth does not act as a bloc in international affairs and has little influence over non-members.

The last 2 countries to join the Commonwealth – Rwanda and Mozambique – have no historical ties to the British Empire.

In 2013 The Gambia announced its withdrawal from what it called a “neo-colonial institution”.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. What is Commonwealth of Nations?
2. How many countries are there in the Commonwealth?
3. Who is the Head of the Commonwealth?
4. How many Commonwealth realms are there in the Commonwealth?
5. What is the flag of the Commonwealth?
6. What happened in 1965?
7. What trade rules did the UK allow under the “Old Empire”?
8. What decision did Britain and its dominions come to in 1926?
9. What is the land area of the Commonwealth?
10. What values does the Commonwealth promote?

Exercise 2. Continue the sentences using information from the text.

1. Fifty three countries recognize the British Queen as the Head of the _____.
2. The origin of the Commonwealth lies in the British _____.
3. In the 1930s several colonies got _____.
4. All members of the Commonwealth are equal in _____.
5. Each country of the British Commonwealth has its own _____.

Britain and Europe

The UK has had good relations with the rest of Europe since World War II. It became a member of the European Economic Community in 1973 under a Conservative government. The EEC eventually became the European Union through the Maastricht Treaty of the European Union in 1993.

Tensions between the EEC and the UK exploded in 1984, when the Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher talked tough in order to reduce British payments to the EEC budget. Though at the time the UK was the third-poorest nation in the Community, it was paying a lot more into the budget than other nations due to its relative lack of farms. Farm subsidies then made up some 70 percent of total EEC expenditures. The UK “rebate” negotiated by Thatcher remained in place, and has reduced Britain’s contribution to the budget from more than 20 percent of the total in the ‘80s to about 12 percent.

The Maastricht Treaty, which took effect in 1993, created the Brussels-based European Union (EU), of which the EEC, renamed simply the European Community (EC) was the main component. The EU (a Union of 27 countries (2021)) was designed to integrate Europe’s nations politically and economically, including a united foreign policy, common citizenship rights and (for most member nations, not including the UK) a single currency, the euro. The UK did not use the euro and was not a member of the Eurozone. In February 2005, 55% of British citizens were against adopting the currency, with 30% in favour. The idea of replacing the pound with the euro has been controversial with the British public, partly because of its identity as a symbol of British sovereignty and because it would, according to critics, lead to suboptimal interest rates, harming the British economy.

In the interests of protecting Britain’s financial sector, David Cameron became the first UK prime minister to veto a EU treaty in 2011. In early 2013, he gave a much-anticipated speech in which he outlined the challenges facing Europe and promised to renegotiate membership in the EU if his Conservative Party won a majority in the next general election. At the same time, support was growing among British voters for the UK Independence Party (UKIP) and its hard line stance against the EU.

Against the backdrop of economic unrest in the eurozone (as the territory of the 19 EU countries that use the euro is known) and an ongoing migrant crisis, UKIP and other supporters of a possible British exit from the EU – or Brexit – increased. After winning reelection in May 2015, Cameron went to work renegotiating the UK-EU relationship, including changes in

migrant welfare payments, financial safeguards and easier ways for Britain to block EU regulations. In February 2016, he announced the results of those negotiations, and set June 23 as the date of the promised referendum.

In October 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May, who had assumed office following David Cameron's resignation, announced her intention to invoke Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, formally giving notice of Britain's intent to leave the EU.



The United Kingdom formally left the EU on 31 Jan 2020. Britain entered the transition period. It will only be a party to a single market and the customs union. Now under these circumstances, the UK will continue its relations with the European Union for some time and will also decide the future course of action in terms of trade and security.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. When did the UK become a member state of the EU?
2. What is the national currency of the country?
3. What is the British public response to the idea of adopting the new currency?
4. How many countries are there in the European Union in 2021?
5. Can you explain the term "Brexit"?
6. Why did the UK leave the European Union?
7. When did the UK leave the European Union?

Chapter VII

Mass Media

British Newspapers



'You must stay at home'

● PM declares national emergency ● Meetings of more than two banned ● Fines for flouting new curbs

Francis Elliott Political Editor
Steven Swindland Deputy Political Editor

Boris Johnson declared a "moment of national emergency" last night as he finally imposed a near full lockdown in Britain to protect against the spread of coronavirus.

Police will enforce new quarantine rules under which people will be allowed to leave their home only for essential supplies, one form of daily exercise, medical care or "absolutely necessary" work.

The prime minister closed all shops selling "non-essential goods", playgroups, libraries and churches. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the coronavirus pandemic is accelerating around the globe.

He said that police would have the power to enforce the rules, which include a ban on public gatherings of more than two people. Anyone caught flouting the measures faces a fine of between £10 and £1,000 from Thursday, when a bill containing new legislation to deal with coronavirus is expected to become law.

The regulations, which bring Britain largely into line with most big European nations, will last at least three weeks and could be renewed, or even toughened, depending on the progress of the disease.

"From this evening I must give the British people a very simple instruction – you must stay at home," the prime minister said in a televised address. "Without a huge national effort to halt the growth of this virus, there will come a moment when our health services in the world could possibly cope because there won't be enough ventilators, enough intensive care beds, enough doctors and nurses."

"To put it simply, if too many people become seriously unwell at one time, the NHS will be unable to handle it, meaning more people are likely to die not just from coronavirus but from other illnesses as well."

People were urged to reduce shopping trips to a minimum and use food delivery services where possible. All social events, including weddings, are now banned, with only funerals allowed. Public gatherings of more than two are outlawed unless the attendees are members of the same household.

"At present there are just so many people who are dying from this and it is still true that many lives will still be lost," Mr Johnson said, adding that no prime minister wants to enact measures like this. Images of crowds walking open spaces across many parts of Britain over the weekend had fuelled calls for Mr Johnson to match action in France, Italy and Spain.

These premises allowed to stay open include supermarkets, pharmacies,



Boris Johnson said from Downing Street last night that the NHS would not cope without a national effort to contain the virus.

vet's pet shop, hardware stores, petrol stations, banks, post offices, laundrettes and undertakers. Roads and rail links will remain open to allow key workers to travel.

The measures were announced at 10pm. The coronavirus death toll in Britain rose by 54 to 3,584 and revealed infections went up by 811 to 6,650.

Mr Johnson's death toll showed for the second consecutive day to be 602, with the number of new infections also falling.

A consortium of manufacturers promised to deliver 5,000 ventilators within a fortnight as part of efforts to meet a target of 20,000.

The FTSE 100 index dropped below 5,000 for the first time in more than eight years. It has lost 33 per cent of its value since the sell-off began.

An estimated one million Britons travelling abroad were urged to take the first available flight home as air travel started to shut down.

The limit on contactless payments was lifted to £45 from next month to reduce the number of cash transactions and risk of transmission.

Schools kept open for the children of key workers demanded clearer safety advice including on whether pupils needed masks.

The government used emergency legislation to effectively nationalise the railways temporarily to ensure that services kept running.

The decision to enforce a lockdown was taken at a meeting of the Cobra committee. Before the meeting, Mr Johnson's spokesman said that ministers would review evidence on how many people were flouting existing guidance.

He spoke on a matter of life and death

Quentin Letts
Political Sketch

Most, must, must. The imperatives shot like a keel through the evening address to the nation. "From this evening, I must give the British people a very simple instruction – you must stay at home."

A flurry of sentences began "you should not". Should not meet friends. Should not shop, save for essentials. We were conscripted to a common cause and we must – that word again – stop "this invisible killer".

He spoke swiftly, without the sort of gammony pauses one always imagined this sort of crisis might require. How comprehensively imagined? Most evenings have been superseded by the mundane, deadly reality of all this. No martial music, no military uniform, and just a single Uncle Jack behind him, but this was modern democratic authority dropping in to the colours.

We have reached the point when our PM must speak to us from a desk in Downing Street, trimming liberties to save (we hope) thousands of lives. The pace of his delivery, rattling it out, accentuated this was a leader working in overdrive. There was no time to lose. The absence of melodrama, paradoxically, made it all the more striking and urgent.

The Commons had spent much of its day passing the Coronavirus Bill, the legislation strengthening.

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Probably in no other country there are such great differences between the various national daily newspapers – in the type of news they report and the way they report it. On the one hand, there are British newspapers that are called the quality newspapers: *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*. These concern themselves as far as possible, with factual reports of major national and international events, with the world of politics and business and with the arts and sport.

On the other hand, there are British newspapers which are called the "populars" and "tabloids", so-called because of

their small size. The tabloids – the most widely read of which are *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Express*, *The Daily Mirror*, *The Sun*, *The Daily Star* – concentrate on more emotive reporting of stories often featuring sex, violence, the Royal Family, film and pop stars, and sport. It is often said that the popular press aims to entertain its readers rather than inform them. The tabloid press is much more popular than the quality press.

In some countries newspapers are owned by government or by political parties. This is not the case in Britain. Newspapers here are mostly owned by individuals or by publishing companies, and the editors of the papers are usually allowed considerable freedom of expression. This is not to say that newspapers are not allowed political bias. Papers like *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Daily Express*, *The Sun*, for example, usually reflect Conservative opinions in their comment and reporting, while *The Daily Mirror*, *The Guardian* have a more left-wing bias.

In addition to the 12 national daily newspapers there are 9 national papers which are published on Sundays. Most of the "Sundays" contain more reading matter than daily papers, and several of them also include "colour supplements" – separate colour magazines which contain photographically-illustrated feature



articles. Reading a Sunday paper, like having a big Sunday lunch, is an important tradition in many British households. Besides, nearly every area in Britain has one or more local newspapers.

The British are one of the biggest newspaper-reading nations in the world.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. What British “quality” newspapers do you know?
2. What do they concern themselves with?
3. What does a “tabloid” mean?
4. What “popular” British newspapers do you know?
5. What kind of materials do these newspapers concentrate on?
6. Are “quality” papers more popular than “tabloids”?
7. In some countries, newspapers are owned by government or by political parties. What about Britain?
8. What’s the difference between daily newspapers and “Sundays”?
9. What does a “colour supplement” mean?
10. Are the British one of the biggest newspaper-reading nations in the world?

Exercise 2. Quiz. **Did you know?** Match the questions and answers and learn more about British press.

1. Which daily newspaper sells the most copies in the UK?
2. Which UK newspaper is the oldest surviving daily newspaper in the world?
3. Around which London street were most national papers based until the 1990s?
4. Which of these newspapers is widely available in Wales?
5. Which national daily is famously printed on 'pink' paper?
6. Who was the famous owner of "the Sun", "the Times" and Sky television?
7. Which of these Sunday newspapers is not closely linked with a daily paper?

a) Financial Times. As its name suggests, the Financial Times focuses on business economics, though it also provides extensive coverage of a wide range of

political and other areas. Its salmon pink paper is one of the cheapest and subtlest ways ever thought up to make a product stand out from the crowd.

b) The People. The People is owned by Trinity Mirror, but is not closely linked with a daily newspaper. It once had a circulation of more than five million copies an issue, but the News of the World – linked with the Sun – sold more than seven million. The Observer, which was nearly closed in 2009, is linked with the Guardian, and the Sunday Sport, which once reported that a double decker bus had been found frozen in Antarctica, is linked with the little known Daily Sport.

c) Belfast News Letter. The News Letter was established in 1737. The more famous Times was first published as the “Daily Universal Register” in 1785, and was followed by the Observer (the world’s oldest Sunday paper) in 1791. The weekly Worcester Journal is the longest-established newspaper in the world, first published as the Worcester Postman in 1690.

d) Fleet Street. Fleet Street has been a centre of publishing since the 16th century. From the 1700s, it grew into the centre of newspaper publishing, and it is still a synonym for the national UK papers.

e) Rupert Murdoch. Rupert Murdoch, most famous in the US as the owner of Fox, is the most successful and least liked newspaper owner in the UK. He introduced topless “page 3” models, destroyed unions and fought to make his media empire successful – by any means.

f) Western Mail. The Western Mail is published in Cardiff and describes itself as the “national newspaper of Wales”. The Herald and the Daily Record are both published in Glasgow, while the Scotsman is from Edinburgh. For many years, the Daily Record sold more copies in Scotland than any UK-wide newspaper did.

g) The Sun. In January 2009, the Sun was selling 3.1 million copies per day. The Daily Mail was the second-highest selling paper, with 2.2 million, then the Mirror on 1.4 million. The Star was way behind on only 770,000 sales.

British Television



Television is the most popular entertainment in British home life today. In London people have four TV channels: BBC I, BBC II, ITV=Independent Television (Channel III) and Channel IV.

The BBC is known for its objectivity in news reporting. The first two are run by the British Broadcasting Corporation and are non-commercial. This means that they do not show advertisements. The money to run BBC TV (and radio) comes from a licence, which everybody who owns a TV must buy. The whole of ITV is controlled by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA). It was set up in 1954. There are fifteen different television programme companies, each serving a different part of the country. These companies get most of their money from firms who use them for advertising.

ITV started in 1954. ITV is run by commercial companies who get their money by showing advertisements. Advertisers' material appears for one or two minutes at quarter-hour intervals, either between programme – items or in so-called “natural breaks”. There are strict rules about the amount of advertising and the type of advertisements allowed (e.g. advertisements for cigarettes are forbidden). The advertisers do not sponsor the programmes or have any direct influence on their content. However, the charge for each half-minute of time is high, and varies according to the likely number of viewers. The programme companies' financial success depends on their ability to attract viewers, and the programmes themselves inevitably reflect public tastes. In general ITV companies show programmes aimed at the mass market. BBC I programmes are also mainly light entertainment; e.g. detective programmes, comedy shows and music. More serious films, plays and documentaries are normally found on BBC.

ITV news programmes are not made by individual television companies. Independent Television News is owned jointly by all of them. So it has been protected from commercial influence.

There are different types of TV programmes in Great Britain. BBC and ITV start early in the morning. One can watch news programmes, all kinds of chat shows, quiz shows, soap operas, different children's programmes, dramas, comedies and different programmes of entertainment on these channels.

News is broadcast at regular intervals and there are panel discussions of current events. Broadcasts for schools are produced on five days of the week during school hours. In the afternoon and early evening TV stations show special programmes for children.

Operas, music concerts and shows are presented at various time. A large part of TV time is occupied by serials.

Britain has two channels (BBC II and Channel IV) for presenting programmes on serious topics, which are watched with great interest by a lot of people. These channels start working on early weekday mornings. But they translate mostly all kinds of education programmes.

Weekend afternoons are devoted to sport. Sport events are usually broadcast in the evening.

These are the main channels in Great Britain. Only about a fifth of households receive satellite or cable.

British Sky Broadcasting operates a satellite television service and numerous television channels including Sky1, Sky2, Sky3, Sky Movies and Sky Sports.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions.

1. Can you describe some characteristics, which give the BBC its special position in Britain?
2. What is the difference between BBC and ITV?
3. What programmes are very popular in Great Britain?
4. When was the BBC World Service set up?
5. Which channels don't have advertising?
6. How many TV channels are there in Great Britain?
7. Are TV channels commercial or non-commercial?
8. What programmes does the BBC broadcast?

Exercise 2. Fill in the gaps.

1. Television is the most popular _____ in Great Britain.
2. In London there are _____ channels.
3. People have to pay _____.
4. BBC is famous for its _____.
5. Commercial television gets its money from _____.
6. ITV started in _____.
7. Weekend afternoons are devoted to _____.

Exercise 3. True or false?

1. BBC is a commercial television.
2. All TV channels have advertising.
3. Channel IV is famous for its objectivity.
4. Independent Television News is owned by a private company.
5. TV stations show different programmes for children.
6. English people are not fond of soap operas.
7. Most people in Britain receive satellite.

Chapter VIII

Higher Education in Great Britain

The percentage of young people entering universities in Britain is lower than in the United States, where more than half attend. In Britain the proportion was one in three in 2006.



Nowadays the higher education in UK is not free. For a resident of the country the fee for a year of study is 2000 pounds, while for a foreign student this fee is much higher. A foreign student has to pay 16 thousand pounds a year.

So, after finishing secondary school you can apply to a university. At the age of 16 students are tested in various subjects to earn a General Certificate of Secondary Education. If they wish to go on to higher education at a university, they take Advanced Level examinations, commonly known as “A” Levels. Good A-level results in at least 2 subjects are necessary to get a place at a university. However, good exam passes are not enough. Universities choose their students after interviews.

British universities are comparatively small, the approximate number of students studying there is about 7–8 thousand students. A university usually consists of colleges. The departments of the colleges are organized into faculties. The academic year in Britain’s universities is divided into 3 terms. In the



university students have a series of lectures, seminars, tutorials and laboratory classes. Lectures are given to large groups of students while seminars are much smaller than lectures. Lectures and seminars are all one hour in length, laboratory classes last 2 or 3 hours. After three years of study a university graduate will leave with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine, etc. Later he may continue to take Master’s Degree (1 year of study) and then a Doctor’s Degree

(from 2 to 5 years). It goes without saying that research is an important feature of university work.



Britain has more than 90 universities. The oldest and best-known universities are located in Oxford, Cambridge, London, Birmingham. English universities differ from each other in date of foundation, size, history, tradition, general organization, methods of instruction, way of student life.

The foremost universities are the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, both founded in the Middle Ages. Another type of university is the so-called redbrick variety – old and solid schools built in the 19th century when bricks were the standard building material. The large number of ultramodern universities that appeared in the last half of the 20th century are often called cement block and plate glass universities.

Students interested in advanced education can also attend polytechnics, which are schools dedicated to the sciences and applied technology. They offer the so-called sandwich courses (for people who work). An education act in 1992 changed the status of these colleges to universities.

Higher education can also be obtained through the Open University, founded in 1969, which offers extension courses taught through correspondence, television and radio programs. It also sponsors local study centers and residential summer schools. The purpose of the Open University is to reach people who may not ordinarily be qualified for university study.

The University education in Britain was only for men until 1871, when the first women's college was opened. Now almost all colleges are mixed.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions

1. Is the education in the UK free?
2. Why do you think a foreign student has to pay much more money than a resident of the country?
3. What is the procedure of entering the university in the UK?
4. What is the approximate number of students studying in the UK colleges?
5. What types of classes do the British students have?
6. How many years should an English student study to get a Master's Degree?

7. What are the three types of universities in terms of date of foundation?
8. How do the methods of instruction in the Open University differ from the methods of instruction in a traditional university?
9. What information in the text was new personally for you?

Exercise 2. Match the words from the text with their contextual translations.

1. summer school	a. приблизительно
2. to be dedicated to	b. учебный год
3. to be founded in	c. читать лекцию
4. applied technologies	d. посещать
5. extension course	e. обращаться с заявлением о приеме
6. to apply to	f. летняя школа
7. to attend	g. быть посвященным чему-либо
8. academic year	h. прикладные разработки
9. to give a lecture	i. курс повышения квалификации
10. approximate	j. быть основанным

Exercise 3. Read and translate the text, compose the dialog according to the tasks.

Most English Universities have campuses with beautiful gardens decorated with modern sculptures, exotic trees, flowers and ducks swimming in ponds. Some universities have even special staff to take care about the gardens. But university campus doesn't only comprise miles of well-organized nature but all the necessary facilities for the successful students' study as well. Besides you should keep in mind that English universities compete for the students and they have to suggest the best conditions of study and high quality of education for the lowest cost.

Student A. Task:



You are a school leaver. Next year you want to enter a university. You want to leave your home and live in a university campus to have a new experience. You have heard from your friend that Exeter University is one of the beautiful and interesting places to get a degree. But you need some additional information about the university facilities and conditions of study.

Your task is to ask all the necessary questions to make a decision on whether you will choose this university as a place to get a higher education or not.

Try not to forget to ask about:

1. Terms of admission
2. Fees
3. Methods of instruction
4. Libraries (information resources)
5. Accommodation

Student B. Task:

You are the Academic Officer of the university. You know the answers to all the questions about the university and students' life. Your task is to provide information to the applicants and to make the university attractive for the applicant. Use the information given.



1. **Terms of admission** (General Certificate of Secondary Education + A-level results in at least two subjects + interview)
2. **Fee** (5,000 pounds for a resident, 15,000 pounds for a foreign student)
3. **Methods of instruction** (personal tutor, individual support and advice, choice of courses, a possibility to study for a year in Europe, lectures, tutorials, e-learning, Internet-based materials, interactive on-line Learning Environment which delivers 120 courses)
4. **Libraries** (1,100,000 volumes, over 3,500 periodical subscriptions to journals, on-line access to 7,000 journals, PC clusters available 24hours 7 days a week for Internet access and word-processing)
5. **Accommodation** (4000 thousand places, singles furnished with a bed, wardrobe, bookshelves, desk and chair. All rooms have a phone and high-speed network/internet link. The kitchens are modern and well-equipped).

Chapter IX

Traditions of the UK

Many things that are always regarded as typically British were written long ago and are not representing "modern life".

In the 20th century a lot of immigrants came to the British Isles and now it is extremely incorrect to identify these stereotypes with all people living there. It is a multicultural society. But still there are many interesting peculiarities in the British culture.

Most British people live in towns and cities. But they have an idealized vision of the countryside. The countryside for them means peace and quiet, beauty, good health and no crime. People in Britain are fond of gardening. They like to plant and grow different flowers. The British have sentimental attitude to animals. They like to keep pets.



The British are the sport loving nation. Sport is a popular leisure activity. Football and rugby are very popular with British people. Over three million people participate in basketball in the UK. Horse-racing, "the sport of Kings" is a very popular sport. Polo is popular too. It was brought to Britain from India in the 19th century by the English soldiers.

Fishing (angling) is one of the most popular sports. Traditionally, the favourite sports of the British upper class are hunting, shooting and fishing. The most widespread form of hunting is fox-hunting. This is a popular pastime among some members of the higher social classes and is a mark of their status. Darts is a very popular pub game.

The word "pub" is short for "public house". Pubs are so popular in the UK that there are over 60,000 pubs there (53,000 in England and Wales, 5,200 in Scotland

and 1,600 in Northern Ireland). Pubs are an important part of British life. People talk, eat, drink, meet their friends and relax there.

The British is a nation of tea-drinkers. It is a stereotype which is out-of-date. Of course, they like it to be made in a certain distinctive way - strong and with milk, but more coffee than tea is bought in the country's shops. Afternoon tea was always thought to be a very important tradition in the UK.

Afternoon tea was introduced in England by Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford, in the year 1840. The Duchess would become hungry around four o'clock in the afternoon and a long period of time was still between lunch and dinner. This became a habit of hers and she began inviting friends to join her. This pause for tea became a fashionable social event. Nowadays, however, in the average household, afternoon tea is likely to be just a biscuit or a small cake and a mug of tea, usually produced using a teabag. The tradition of afternoon tea is supported by retired people or by upper-middle class people.



Many think of British conservatism and call it "the land of tradition" because of their loyalty to traditions, but it is only true of public life. Annual ceremonies are centuries old. Speaking nationally they like stability in terms of state. In their private everyday life the British do not follow these traditions so precisely.

The British and about a quarter of the world drives on the left side of the road, and the countries that do so are mostly old British colonies. This puzzles the rest of the world. However, there is a perfectly good reason. Up to the late 1700's, everybody travelled on the left side of the road because it is the sensible option for feudal, violent societies of mostly right-handed people. Why driving on the left? The knights with their lances under their right arm naturally passed on each other's right, and if you passed a stranger on the road you walked on the left to ensure that your protective sword arm was between yourself and him. It was changed under Napoleon because he was left-handed. His armies had to march on the right, so he could keep his sword arm between him and an opponent. From that time any part of the world which was, at some time, part of the British Empire, was thus left-handed and any

part colonized by the French was right-handed. The drive-on-the-right policy was adopted by the USA to become free of all remaining links with its British colonial past. It is very difficult to imagine that the British will ever refuse from driving on the left. Not being like everyone else is a good reason not to change.



In Britain they shop in pounds and ounces, though almost everywhere in the world people use grammes and kilogrammes. As for temperature, even weathermen use Celsius while people in the UK use Farenheit. The English continue to start their financial year not as other countries do, at the beginning of the calendar year, but at the beginning of April.

The class system has a special meaning for the British. And the most peculiar thing is that the class system there. It is not totally dependent on money. This system is more historical than money-measured. Old aristocracy - the royal family, all the dukes, earls and barons are of very small number.

The accent reminds of the class greatly. Most ordinary people have regional accents and upper-class people speak the same language throughout England and Scotland. It is like upper class, which has their own dialect with a pronunciation called RP (Received Pronunciation).

The British form the queues whenever they are waiting for something. Some people even joke that an Englishman even if he is alone forms an orderly queue of one. But this does not mean that they enjoy it. They regard the necessity to wait in the queues for about 3 minutes already a problem.

It should be noted that the British police are unarmed. That is very good for their public image - they are serving people and controlling them. The policemen are occasionally called "Bobbies". Originally though, they were known as "Peelers". Before 1829 there were no police anywhere in Britain. And the police was the creation of the Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel. That is where the name "Peelers" comes from. And Bobby is short for Robert.

If the British like formal ceremonies, many visitors draw a conclusion that they like formalities in their general behavior. They do observe formalities, but this does not mean that they are formal in everyday life. Bank workers wear a tie and a suit. But they like to dress down because of clothes formalities. Some offices have recently adopted the American custom of "dress-down Friday", when employees can wear more casual clothes for one day a week.

The difference of formality and informality is sometimes regarded as coldness of the British people. Being friendly in Britain is sometimes showing that you are not bothering with formalities.

For example, not shaking hands when meeting and not saying "please" when making a request. When they avoid doing these things they are not being unfriendly as it may seem, they just mean that you are in category "a friend", so all the rules can be ignored.

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions

1. Why are the British the sport loving nation?
2. Why do many think of British conservatism and call it "the land of tradition"?
3. Why do the British drive on the left?
4. Who was afternoon tea introduced in England by?
5. What do the British use in shops instead of grammes and kilogrammes?
6. The British policemen are unarmed, aren't they?
7. Are the British formal in everyday life?
8. How are the policemen occasionally called?

Exercise 2. True or false?

1. Angling is one of the most popular sports in Britain.
2. The English continue to start their financial year at the beginning of May.
3. The word "pub" is short for "public life".
4. The tradition of afternoon tea is supported by retired people or by upper-middle class people.
5. Bobby is short for Bernard.
6. The countryside means for the British peace and quiet, beauty and good health.
7. Most ordinary people have regional accents and upper-class people speak the same language throughout England and Scotland.
8. Soccer, "the sport of Kings" is a very popular sport.

British Customs

British nation is considered to be the most conservative in Europe. Englishmen are proud of their customs and carefully keep them up.

There are many customs and some of them are very old. There is, for example, the Marle Championship, where the British Champion is crowned; he wins a silver cup known among folk dancers as Morris Dancing. Morris Dancing is an event where people, worn in beautiful clothes with ribbons and bells, dance with handkerchiefs or big sticks in their hands, while traditional music-sounds.

Another example is the Boat Race, which takes place on the river Thames, often on Easter Sunday. A boat with a team from Oxford University and one with a team from Cambridge University hold a race.



British people think that the Grand National horse race is the most exciting horse race in the world. It takes place near Liverpool every year. Sometimes it happens the same day as the Boat Race takes place, sometimes a week later. Amateur riders as well as professional jockeys can participate. It is a very famous event.

Halloween is a day on which many children dress up in unusual costumes. In fact, this holiday has a Celtic origin. The day was originally called All Halloween's Eve, because it happens on October 31, the eve of all Saint's Day. The name was later shortened to Halloween. The Celts celebrated the coming of New Year on that day.

Another tradition is the holiday called Bonfire Night. On November 5, 1605, a man called Guy Fawkes planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament where the king James 1st was to open Parliament on that day. But Guy Fawkes was unable to realize his plan and was caught and later, hanged. The British still remember that Guy Fawkes' Night. It is another name for this holiday. This day one can see children with figures, made of sacks and straw and dressed in old clothes. On November 5th, children put their figures on the bonfire, burn them, and light their fireworks.

In the end of the year, there is the most famous New Year celebration. In London, many people go to Trafalgar Square on New Year's Eve. There is singing and dancing at 12 o'clock on December 31st.



A popular Scottish event is the Edinburgh Festival of music and drama, which takes place every year. A truly Welsh event is the Eisteddfod, a national festival of traditional poetry and music, with a competition for the best new poem in Welsh.

If we look at English weights and measures, we can be convinced that the British are very conservative people. They do not use the internationally accepted measurements. They have conserved their old measures. There are nine essential measures. For general use, the smallest weight is one ounce, then 16 ounce is equal to a pound. Fourteen pounds is one stone.

The English always give people's weight in pounds and stones. Liquids they measure in pints, quarts and gallons. There are two pints in a quart and four quarts or eight pints are in one gallon. For length, they have inches» foot, yards and miles.

If we have always been used to the metric system therefore the English monetary system could be found rather difficult for us. They have a pound sterling, which is divided into twenty shillings, half-crown is cost two shillings and sixpence, shilling is worth twelve pennies and one penny could be changed by two halfpennies.

Exercise 1. Answer these questions

1. What nation is considered to be the most conservative in Europe?
2. What is the original name of Halloween?
3. What are the most popular English customs?
4. What peculiarities of the English monetary system do you know?
5. What is the Eisteddfod?
6. What is a popular Scottish event?

Exercise 2. Match the words from the text with their contextual translations.

1. to crown	a. унция
2. amateur	b. всадник
3. bonfire	c. важнейший, необходимый
4. essential	d. убеждать, уверять
5. ounce	e. короновать
6. origin	f. любитель, поклонник
7. to convince	g. пинта
8. pint	h. солома
9. straw	i. происхождение, начало
10. rider	j. костер

Chapter X
British literature
Arthur Conan Doyle

Arthur Conan Doyle, in full Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle, (born May 22, 1859, Edinburgh, Scotland—died July 7, 1930, Crowborough, Sussex, England), Scottish writer best known for his creation of the detective Sherlock Holmes—one of the most vivid and enduring characters in English fiction.



Conan Doyle, the second of Charles Altamont and Mary Foley Doyle's 10 children, began seven years of Jesuit education in Lancashire, England, in 1868. After an additional year of schooling in Feldkirch, Austria, Conan Doyle returned to Edinburgh. Through the influence of Dr. Bryan Charles Waller, his mother's lodger, he prepared for entry into the University of Edinburgh's Medical School. He received Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery qualifications from Edinburgh in 1881 and an M.D. in 1885 upon completing his thesis, "An Essay upon the Vasomotor Changes in Tabes Dorsalis."

While a medical student, Conan Doyle was deeply impressed by the skill of his professor, Dr. Joseph Bell, in observing the most minute detail regarding a patient's condition. This master of diagnostic deduction became the model for Conan Doyle's literary creation, Sherlock Holmes, who first appeared in *A Study in Scarlet*, a novel-length story published in Beeton's Christmas Annual of 1887. Other aspects of Conan Doyle's medical education and experiences appear in his semiautobiographical novels, *The Firm of Girdlestone* (1890) and *The Stark Munro*

Letters (1895), and in the collection of medical short stories *Round the Red Lamp* (1894). (See also *Sherlock Holmes: Pioneer in Forensic Science*.) Conan Doyle's creation of the logical, cold, calculating Holmes, the "world's first and only consulting detective," sharply contrasted with the paranormal beliefs Conan Doyle addressed in a short novel of this period, *The Mystery of Cloomber* (1889). Conan Doyle's early interest in both scientifically supportable evidence and certain paranormal phenomena exemplified the complex diametrically opposing beliefs he struggled with throughout his life.



Driven by public clamour, Conan Doyle continued writing Sherlock Holmes adventures through 1926. His short stories were collected in several volumes, and he also wrote novels (e.g., *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, serialized 1901–02) that feature Holmes and his assistant, Dr. Watson. Conan Doyle, however, claimed the success of Holmes overshadowed the merit he believed his other historical fiction deserved, most notably his tale of 14th-century chivalry, *The White Company* (1891), its companion piece, *Sir Nigel* (1906), and his adventures of the Napoleonic war hero Brigadier Gerard and the 19th-century skeptical scientist Professor George Edward Challenger.

When his passions ran high, Conan Doyle also turned to nonfiction. His works included military writings, *The Great Boer War* (1900) and *The British Campaign in France and Flanders*, 6 vol. (1916–20), and subjects such as the Belgian atrocities in the Congo during Leopold II's reign, in *The Crime of the Congo* (1909), as well as his involvement in the actual criminal cases of George Edalji and Oscar Slater.

Conan Doyle married Louisa Hawkins in 1885, and together they had two children, Mary and Kingsley. A year after Louisa's death in 1906, he married Jean Leckie and with her had three children, Denis, Adrian, and Jean. Conan Doyle was

knighted in 1902 for his work with a field hospital in Bloemfontein, South Africa, and other services during the South African (Boer) War.

Conan Doyle himself viewed his most important efforts to be his campaign in support of spiritualism, the religion and psychic research subject based upon the belief that spirits of the departed continued to exist in the hereafter and can be contacted by those still living. He donated the majority of his literary efforts and profits later in his life to this campaign, beginning with *The New Revelation* (1918) and *The Vital Message* (1919). He later chronicled his travels in supporting the spiritualist cause in *The Wanderings of a Spiritualist* (1921), *Our American Adventure* (1923), *Our Second American Adventure* (1924), and *Our African Winter* (1929). He discussed other spiritualist issues in his *Case for Spirit Photography* (1922), *Pheneas Speaks* (1927), and a two-volume *The History of Spiritualism* (1926). Conan Doyle became the world's most-renowned proponent of spiritualism, but he faced considerable opposition for his conviction from the magician Harry Houdini and in a 1920 debate with the humanist Joseph McCabe. Even spiritualists joined in criticizing Conan Doyle's article "The Evidence for Fairies," published in *The Strand Magazine* in 1921, and his subsequent book *The Coming of the Fairies* (1922), in which he voiced support for the claim that two young girls, Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths, had photographed actual fairies that they had seen in the Yorkshire village of Cottingley.

Conan Doyle died in Windlesham, his home in Crowborough, Sussex, and at his funeral his family and members of the spiritualist community celebrated rather than mourned the occasion of his passing beyond the veil. On July 13, 1930, thousands of people filled London's Royal Albert Hall for a séance during which Estelle Roberts, the spiritualist medium, claimed to have contacted Sir Arthur.

Conan Doyle detailed what he valued most in life in his autobiography, *Memories and Adventures* (1924), and the importance that books held for him in *Through the Magic Door* (1907).

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions

1. When was Arthur Conan Doyle born?
2. What is the name of his creation—one of the most vivid and enduring characters in English fiction?
3. Where did Sir Arthur Conan Doyle study?
4. What was the name of his professor whose skills deeply impressed Conan Doyle?
5. What was the name of the first story about his famous character?

6. What military writings do his works include?
7. Who are other characters of his works?

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences according to the text.

1. After an additional year of schooling in Feldkirch, Austria, Conan Doyle returned to _____.
2. Conan Doyle, the second of Charles Altamont and Mary Foley Doyle's _____ children.
3. He received _____ and _____ qualifications from Edinburgh in 1881 and an _____ in 1885.
4. One professor – a master of _____ became the model for Conan Doyle's literary creation.
5. When his passions ran high, Conan Doyle also turned to _____.
6. Other aspects of Conan Doyle's medical education and experiences appear in his _____.
7. Conan Doyle became the world's most-renowned proponent of _____.

Joanne Rowling

Joanne Rowling was born on 31st July 1965 at Yate General Hospital near Bristol, and grew up in Gloucestershire in England and in Chepstow, Gwent, in south-east Wales.

Her father, Peter, was an aircraft engineer at the Rolls Royce factory in Bristol and her mother, Anne, was a science technician in the Chemistry department at Wyedean Comprehensive, where Jo herself went to school. Anne was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when Jo was a teenager and died in 1990, before the Harry Potter books were published. Jo also has a younger sister, Di.

The young Jo grew up surrounded by books. “I lived for books,” she has said. “I was your basic common-or-garden bookworm, complete with freckles and National Health spectacles.”



Jo wanted to be a writer from an early age. She wrote her first book at the age of six – a story about a rabbit, called ‘Rabbit’. At just eleven, she wrote her first novel – about seven cursed diamonds and the people who owned them.

Jo studied at Exeter University, where she read so widely outside her French and Classics syllabus that she clocked up a fine of £50 for overdue books at the University library. Her knowledge of Classics would one day come in handy for creating the spells in the Harry Potter series, some of which are based on Latin.

Her course included a year in Paris. “I lived in Paris for a year as a student,” Jo tweeted after the 2015 terrorist attacks there. “It’s one of my favorite places on earth.”

After her degree, she moved to London and worked in a series of jobs, including one as a researcher at Amnesty International. “There in my little office I read hastily scribbled letters smuggled out of totalitarian regimes by men and women who were risking imprisonment to inform the outside world of what was happening to them.” She said later. “My small participation in that process was one of the most humbling and inspiring experiences of my life.”

Jo conceived the idea of Harry Potter in 1990 while sitting on a delayed train from Manchester to London King's Cross. Over the next five years, she began to map out all seven books of the series. She wrote mostly in longhand and gradually built up a mass of notes, many of which were scribbled on odd scraps of paper.

Taking her notes with her, she moved to northern Portugal to teach English as a foreign language, married Jorge Arantes in 1992 and had a daughter, Jessica, in 1993. When the marriage ended later that year, she returned to the UK to live in Edinburgh, with Jessica and a suitcase containing the first three chapters of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

In Edinburgh, Jo trained as a teacher and began teaching in the city's schools, but she continued to write in every spare moment.

Having completed the full manuscript, she sent the first three chapters to a number of literary agents, one of whom wrote back asking to see the rest of it. She says it was "the best letter I had ever received in my life."

The book was first published by Bloomsbury Children's Books in June 1997, under the name J.K. Rowling.

The "K" stands for Kathleen, her paternal grandmother's name. It was added at her publisher's request, who thought a book by an obviously female author might not appeal to the target audience of young boys.

The book was published in the US by Scholastic under a different title (again at the publisher's request), Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in 1998. Six further titles followed in the Harry Potter series, each achieving record-breaking success.

In 2001, the film adaptation of the first book was released by Warner Bros., and was followed by six more book adaptations, concluding with the release of the eighth film, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2, in 2011.



J.K. Rowling has also written two small companion volumes, which appear as the titles of Harry's school books within the novels. Fantastic Beasts and Where

to Find Them and Quidditch Through the Ages were published in March 2001 in aid of Comic Relief. In December 2008, a third companion volume, The Tales of Beedle the Bard was published in aid of her international children's charity, Lumos.

In 2012, J.K. Rowling's digital company Pottermore was launched, which became Wizarding World Digital in 2019. Pottermore Publishing continues to be the global digital publisher of Harry Potter, Fantastic Beasts and the Wizarding World.

Also, in 2016, J.K. Rowling made her screenwriting debut with the film Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, a further extension of the Wizarding World, which was released to critical acclaim in November 2016. This was the first in a series of new adventures featuring Magizoologist Newt Scamander and set before the time of Harry Potter. The second film, Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald, was released in 2018 and the third, Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore is to be released in April 2022.

The screenplays were published (Little, Brown) to coincide with each film release: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them The Original Screenplay (2016) and Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald The Original Screenplay (2018).

In March 2020, J.K. Rowling and Wizarding World partners launched the Harry Potter At Home initiative to entertain children stuck at home during the Covid-19 pandemic with the first Harry Potter book read aloud by celebrities on video, and made available for free through audiobook and ebook streaming.

In May 2020, J.K. Rowling's fairy tale for younger children, The Ickabog, was serialised for free online for children during the Covid-19 pandemic in the summer of 2020, and is now published as a book illustrated by children, with her royalties going to charities supporting vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic.

October 2021 sees the publication of her latest children's novel The Christmas Pig, a standalone adventure story about a boy's love for his most treasured thing, and how far he will go to find it.

J.K. Rowling has been married to Dr Neil Murray since 2001. They live in Edinburgh with their son, David (born 2003) and daughter, Mackenzie (born 2005).

Comprehension

Exercise 1. Answer these questions

1. When was Joanne Rowling born?
2. What were her parents?
3. When did Joanne want to be a writer?
4. Where did she study?
5. What city did she live for a year as a student?
6. Where did Jo conceive the idea of Harry Potter?
7. When was the first book published?

8. When was the film adaptation of the first book released by Warner Bros?
9. When did J.K. Rowling make her screenwriting debut with the film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*?
10. When was the second film, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* released?

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences according to the text.

1. J.K. Rowling wrote her first book at the age of _____ – a story about a rabbit, called _____.
2. Her knowledge of Classics would one day come in handy for creating the spells in the Harry Potter series, some of which are based on _____.
3. Over the next _____ years, she began to map out all _____ books of the series.
4. In Edinburgh, Jo trained as a _____ and began _____ in the city's _____.
5. The book was first published under the name J.K. Rowling - the "K" stands for _____, her _____.
6. J.K. Rowling has also written two small companion volumes, which appear as the titles of Harry's school books within the novels: _____.
7. In _____, J.K. Rowling made her screenwriting debut with the film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.
8. In _____, J.K. Rowling and Wizarding World partners launched the Harry Potter At Home initiative to entertain children stuck at home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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