

Лингвистическая культура

Готовые ответы

Ссылка на диск с материалами

Possible questions (из документа)

Part 1

1. What were the origins of English?

The history of the English language really began in the 5th century with the arrival to the British Isles of three Germanic tribes (племена): the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, who crossed the North Sea from what today is Northern Germany. Most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders - mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles who came to England gave birth to the language called “English”.

The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which developed into what is now called **Old English**. Old English did not sound or look like English today and English speakers of today would have great difficulty in understanding it. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots.

2. When and how was English Parliament formed?

In 1258 the nobles elected a council called the parliament.

Once the reign of John ended and Henry III took full control of the government, leading peers became increasingly concerned with his style of government, specifically his unwillingness to consult them on decisions he took, and his seeming patronisation of his foreign relatives over his native subjects.

In 1258, seven leading barons forced Henry to swear to uphold the Provisions of Oxford, superseded, the following year, by the Provisions of Westminster. This effectively abolished the absolutist Anglo-Norman monarchy, giving power to a council of fifteen barons, and providing for a thrice-yearly meeting of parliament to monitor their performance. Parliament assembled six times between June 1258 and April 1262, most notably at Oxford in 1258.

3. Why is King the 8th important historically?

A very important English King was Henry the 8 th (the dynasty of the Tudors). Due to the Pope’s refusal to allow Henry the 8 th to divorce his first wife Catherine of Aragon Henry 8 th broke with the Roman Church, “nationalized” the English Church and named himself the Supreme Head of the English Protestant Church (1534). He dissolved the catholic monasteries and seized their wealth. He also came into history

as the one who killed or executed his 5-6 wives for their inability to give birth to his male heirs.

4. What do you know about Queen Elizabeth the First?

She strengthened England, stimulated shipbuilding, foreign commerce and art.

She patronized pirates who robbed Spanish ships coming back from America with gold. The English fleet defeated Spanish Armada.

5. How did Britain act during two World Wars?

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland—then consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, and the whole of Ireland—was one of the Allied Powers during the First World War of 1914–1918, fighting against the Central Powers (the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Bulgaria). During the Second World War Britain acted as a part of Anti-Hitler Coalition. The destruction of property was great but only 60000 people were killed.

6. When did British Empire collapse? What was formed instead?

After the World War II all big colonies of British Empire (India, Pakistan and Ceylon (since 1972 Sri Lanka) and other) reached independence. The British Commonwealth of Nations has undergone fundamental changes: it included the colonies, which gained independence, and the word "British" was removed from the name. As a result, the Commonwealth of Nations arose, which became the union not only of the metropolis and the "old" dominions, but also of all the states that arose within the British Empire.

7. Describe British foreign policy now.

Britain believes in a special relationship with the USA, which is based upon a shared language, Anglo-Saxon culture and strong relationships between Churchill and Roosevelt, Thatcher and Reagan, Blair and Clinton.

8. What is political structure of GB?

Great Britain is a constitutional monarchy. Britain is administered from the Palace of Westminster in London. This is also known as the Houses of Parliament which is made up of two chambers (палаты) — the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The House of Commons has 651 seats which are occupied by Members of Parliament (MPs) who are elected by the British public in general elections which are held every five years. The country is divided into 650 constituencies (избирательные округа) each of which elects one Member of Parliament (MP). The party which wins the elections gets the most seats in the House of Commons and forms the Government. Its leader becomes the Prime Minister. Britain does not have a written constitution, but a set of laws. Most legislation (законодательство) originates in the Commons. Besides legislation the functions of Commons are security of government activities. The House of Commons is presided over by the Speaker. The government

party sits on the Speaker's right while on his left sit the members of the Opposition. The House of Lords comprises about 1 200 members. The members of the House of Lords are not elected: they sit in the House because they are aristocrats who have inherited their seats from their fathers, people with titles and bishops (эпископы) of the Church of England. This House has no real power but acts as an advisory council for the House of Commons. The House of Lords may take a part in legislation, but it cannot permanently block a bill (законопроект) passed by the Commons. The House of Lords is presided over by the Lord Chancellor (Лорд канцлер или председатель суда) and is the highest court of appeal. Technically British Parliament is made up of three parts: the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch (at the moment the Queen Elizabeth II who has been in power since 1953).

9. How did Britain act during two World Wars?

Same as 5 question.

10. What is class division in GB and how is this reflected in speech.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the question of speech. The way English is spoken gives away not only regional identity but class status too. Since the days of Shakespeare, the English of South-East has been considered the standard. The emergence of an upper and upper-middle class mode of speech, "received pronunciation" RP is established through private schools for wealthier families. Through radio and television, RP has become a widely spoken accent.

11. Is the expression "My house is my castle" still important for Englishmen?

Though both the role and the look of the home are changing, an Englishman's home is as much his castle as it was 100 years ago.

12. Why do so many English people prefer to live in the province?

Because life in cities has become too expensive.

13. Which political parties in the UK do you know? Which Party is in power now?

The largest parties are Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats and United Kingdom Independence Party. Now in power in the UK is the Conservative Party.

14. What are Houses in Parliament? Which house is more important and why?

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15. What types of schools exist in GB?

Infant schools (pupils aged from 5 to 7 years), junior schools (from 8 to 11 years), secondary schools (from 11 to 16/18). Private schools are called by different names: the preparatory (often called prep) schools are for pupils aged up to 13, and the public schools are for 13 to 18 year-olds.

16. What do you know about British Universities?

British universities differ greatly from each other. They differ in date of foundation, size, history, tradition, general organization, methods of instruction, way of student life. The oldest and best-known universities are located in Oxford, Cambridge, London, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Southampton, Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham. There is an interesting form of studies which is called the Open University. It is intended for people who study in their own free time and who attend lectures by watching television and listening to the radio and now working on the internet. They keep in touch by phone and email with their tutors and attend summer schools.

After three years of study a university graduate will leave with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine, etc. Later he or she may continue to take the Master's Degree and then the Doctor's Degree.

17. What do you know about British Media?

The term "media" may include any communication system by which people are informed, educated or entertained. In Britain it generally refers to the print industries (the press or newspapers and magazines) and broadcasting (cable and satellite

television, radio and video). These systems overlap with each other and with books, film and the Internet. They cover homes, places of business and leisure activities and their influence is very powerful and an inevitable part of daily life.

National newspapers are those which are mostly published from London and are available in all parts of Britain on the same day, including Sundays. The national press in Britain today consists of 10 daily morning papers and 9 Sunday papers. Most national newspapers have their bases and printing facilities in London, although editions of some nationals are now published in Europe and the USA.

The broadcasting media consist of radio, terrestrial television and cable/satellite television. Three authorities oversee these services: the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Independent Television Commission (ITC) and the Radio Authority.

The serious weekly journals are The New Statesman and Society, the Economist (dealing with economic and political matters); The Spectator (a conservative journal); and The New Scientist. The Times publishes influential weekly magazines, such as the Educational Supplement, the Higher Education Supplement) and the Literary Supplement.

The main British radio and television channels: BBC1,2,4, Channel 4, Sky etc. Radio 1 - 5.

18. Which English writers do you know? Have you read any English books in English?

William Shakespeare, J.R.R. Tolkien, Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Rudyard Kipling, Oscar Wilde, William Somerset Maugham, Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle, Virginia Woolf, Jane Austin, Bernard Shaw, Joan Rolling etc.

Personal answer, e.g. I have read Dreiser, Maugham, London, Byron...

19. Important scientific and technological advances made by the UK scientists.

A Watt steam engine, which powered the Industrial Revolution in the United Kingdom and played a key role in it becoming the world's first industrialised nation.

Major theorists from the UK include Isaac Newton (1643-1727), physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, whose laws of motion and illumination of gravity have been seen as a keystone of modern science and Charles Darwin (1809–82) whose theory of evolution by natural selection was fundamental to the development of modern biology.

Major scientific discoveries include hydrogen by Henry Cavendish (1731-1810).

Major engineering projects and applications pursued by people from the UK include the steam locomotive developed by Richard Trevithick (1771-1833) and Andrew Vivian (1759-1842).

The electric motor , by Michael Faraday (1771–1867), who largely made electricity viable for use in technology.

The theory of aerodynamics , by Sir George Cayley (1773–1857).

The first public steam railway , by George Stephenson (1781–1848).

The first commercial electrical telegraph , co-invented by Sir William Fothergill Cooke (1806–79) and Charles Wheatstone (1802–75).

First tunnel under a navigable river, first all iron ship and first railway to run express services, contributed to by Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806–59).

The invention of the incandescent light bulb (лампы накаливания), by Joseph Swan (1826–1914).

The unification of electromagnetism , by James Clerk Maxwell (1831–79).

The first practical telephone , patented by Alexander Graham Bell (1847–1922).

The UK continues to play a major role in the development of science and technology and major technological sectors include the aerospace, motor and pharmaceutical industries.

The discovery of penicillin , by biologist and pharmacologist , Sir Alexander Fleming (1881–1955).

The world's first working television system, and colour television , by John Logie Baird (1888–1946).

The first meaningful synthesis of quantum mechanics with special relativity by Paul Dirac (1902–84) in the equation named after him , and his subsequent prediction of antimatter .

The invention of the jet engine , by Frank Whittle (1907–96).

The invention of the hovercraft (судно на воздушной подушке), by Christopher Cockerell (1910–99).

The colossus computer , the first digital computer , by Alan Turing (1912–54).

The structure of DNA , by Francis Crick (1916–2004).

The World Wide Web by Tim Berners-Lee (1989).

The theoretical breakthrough of the Higgs mechanism to explain electroweak symmetry breaking and why some particles have mass, by Peter Higgs (1929-).

Theories in cosmology , quantum gravity and black holes , by Stephen Hawking (1942–).

20. What is Brexit?

Brexit (from the combination of the words Britain and Exit) - UK exit from the European Union. It is the main political goal of the conservative opposition and some individuals (nationalists and eurosceptics) in the UK.

The state is expected to leave the European Union on March 29, 2019.

Part 2

1. In whose honor did America get its name?

The continent America however was named for another Italian explorer – Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512) who completed many voyages to South America and was the first to understand that he had reached not India but a new continent – the New World.

2. How did the movement for independence develop in American colonies?

The Seven Years' War ended in the expulsion of France from North America and stirred a wave of patriotism among the English population in America. The colonies had become quite different and no longer wanted to be seen as extensions of England. The controversy between England and the colonies after 1763 revolved around the laws affecting the settlement of the West, colonial trade, currency, taxes, courts of justice and legislative assembly.

The British Prime Minister George Granville was determined to make the American colonies realize their obligations to the Empire. The answer in colonies was boycott against the importation of British goods. After "The Boston Tea Party" British King George and Parliament closed the port of Boston, and in 1774 Americans established so-called Committees of Correspondence, which sent delegates to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Delegates from 12 colonies except Georgia wrote to King George asking to reopen Boston Harbor. American lawyers Thomas Jefferson and James Wilson worked out the rights of Americans and their own legislation. King George did not answer the letter and sent more warships to America. American patriots called on Americans to take up arms to defend their rights. The Second Continental Congress, which also convened in Philadelphia, authorized an American army and appointed a young Virginian planter George Washington as its commander-in-chief. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence from the British rule.

3. Do you remember what is Boston "tea party"?

When three ships loaded with tea came into the port of Boston in December 16, 1773 American colonists refused to pay the tax and unload the tea. Instead at night a group of 60 men disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped the cargo of three hundred forty two chests into the water of the harbor. This event came into American

history under the name “The Boston Tea Party”, and it was an impulse to starting War For Independence.

4. What are personalities of the period of “American Revolution”?

American commander-in-chief(главнокомандующий) was George Washington. American lawyers Thomas Jefferson and James Wilson worked out the rights of Americans and their own legislation.

The British Prime Minister George Granville introduced a series of administrative and financial programs for America: the Quartering (расквартирование) Act (1765), the Currency (валюта) Act (1764), a New Sugar and Molasses(патока) Act (1764), the Stamp(печать) Act (1765).

British King George was British commander-in-chief.

5. When was the name “The United States of America” first used?

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. The name “The United States of America” was first used in this document.

6. Which were the only wars on the territory of the USA?

- American Revolutionary War 1775-1780
- American Indian Wars 1775-1918
- War of 1812 1812-1815
- Thornton Affair April 26, 1846
- Mexican American War 1846-1848
- Black Tom explosion July 30, 1916
- Battle of Columbus 1916
- Bombardment of Orleans 1918
- Battle of Ambros Nogales 1918
- Attacks on North America during World War II 1941-1945
- 1993 shootings at CIA Headquarters January 25, 1993
- 1993 World Trade Center bombing February 26, 1993
- September 11 attacks by al-Qaeda on New York City, New York; Arlington, Virginia;
- and Shanksville, Pennsylvania September 11, 2001

7. What do you know about the Civil War in North America?

The war lasted four years from April 1861 to May 1865. Although abolition of slavery was to be one of its problems, the war was fought not only to destroy slavery but first of all to preserve the union.

Reasons for the Civil War

Political

- North: Wanted strong central government (supporters of federalism)
- South: Believed in states' rights and rights of **nullification** (ignore federal law) and **secession** (leave the union)

Slavery

- North: Abolitionists fought to end slavery
The northern states economies did not require slaves
- South: In the Lower South (Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama) 49% of population were enslaved in 1860
Total number of slaves in 1860 was over 4 million

Economic

- North: Manufacturing and Industry
- South: Agricultural and dependent on slave labor

Emotional

- North: Feared southern conspiracy to spread slavery everywhere
- South: Feared northern conspiracy to abolish slavery

Ex: "Bleeding Kansas" and "John Brown's Raids"

8. What were the results of the Civil War?

The biggest result was the end to Slavery. The 13th Amendment called for the abolishment of Slavery, and it was in support of President Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation. Also Federal government assumes supreme national authority. Union was reunited. Both sides lost thousands of young men. Northern economy boomed, and Southern economy devastated.

9. Which personalities do you remember of the period of the Civil War?

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army. General Grant of the North won several decisive battles. Also the men of great military talent – generals Jackson and Lee.

10. What do you know about so-called "Gold Fever"?

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 set off the famous "Gold Rush". "Gold Rush" or "Gold Fever", dramatically described by famous American writer Jack London, occupies a special place in the USA history.

11. What were the main events in the USA between two World Wars?

After the First World War USA was a country with primary world economy. And business continued develop. At that time "business had become almost the national religion of America". But there were already a lot of troubles. Bank debts were mounting. Low wages of most workers led to underconsumption. And so stock prices dropped dramatically on October 29, 1929, known as Black Tuesday. It was a start of Great American Depression, which lasted until the late 1930s. Nearly eight million Americans were out of work, thousand of banks and over 100000 businesses had closed down. Industrial production had fallen down by half and wage payments by 60%. In 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt became a president. His program, which he called The New Deal 15 major, consisted of a number of legislative measures to fight against the Depression. As a result of all his measures unemployment dropped from 13 million people to 9.

12. What were the main reasons of Great American Depression?

On the surface it seemed that prosperity would continue forever but below the surface there were already a lot of troubles. Bank debts were mounting. Low wages of most workers led to underconsumption. Excessive industrial profits and low industrial wages distributed one third of all personal income to only 5% of the population. The agricultural sector was also plagued with overproduction. In the United States, the Great Depression began soon after the stock market crash of October 1929, which sent Wall Street into a panic and wiped out millions of investors.

13. How did the USA take part in two World Wars?

The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. Before that, they remained neutral. American troops fought from October 1917 on the Western Front and from July 1918 on the Italian Front.

Although the war began with Nazi Germany's attack on Poland in September 1939, the United States did not enter the war until after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. Between those two events, President Franklin Roosevelt worked hard to prepare Americans for a conflict that he regarded as inevitable. In November 1939, he persuaded Congress to repeal the arms embargo provisions of the neutrality law so that arms could be sold to France and Britain. After the fall of France in the spring of June 1940, he pushed for a major military buildup and began providing aid in the form of Lend-Lease to Britain.

Among the war's major turning points for the United States were the **Battle of Midway** (1942), the **invasion of Italy** (1943), the **Allied invasion of France** (1944), the **battle of Leyte Gulf** (1944) and the **dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan** (1945). The war ended with the Axis powers' unconditional surrender in 1945.

14. When and how did the USA turn into the richest country of the World?

Theodore Roosevelt found the Progressive movement; he wanted to allow the businessmen enough freedom of action to make their firms efficient and prosperous. While the First World War started on the continent of Europe, the USA quickly became the main supplier of weapon and capital to the countries of the Anti-German allies. By 1919 USA had a primary world economy, with enormous productive capacity and extensive markets for manufactured goods. From 1920 to October 1929 America became the wealthiest country in the world with no obvious rival. Yet by 1930 she had hit a depression that was to have world-wide consequences.

15. What period started after World War 2?

World War II paved the way for change in the area of civil rights. Black Americans began to play a much greater role in American society. After World War II under the Eisenhower administration in 1953 some measures were taken to accelerate assimilation and destroy remaining Indian culture, which provided a real threat to the tribes. So-called "relocation" policy was implemented. hello potter

16. Have you ever heard of so-called McCarthyism?

There was a constant anxiety in America and fear of the Russian influence on the afterward world. An ambitious and unscrupulous politician McCarthy tried to use these fears to win fame and power for himself. He started the campaign that came into American history with the name a “Witch Hunt” – a search for people he could blame for supposed threats to the United States. For over five years, from early 1950s till the mid 50s McCarthy launched the serial of “hearings”, accusing a lot of people –government officials, scientists, and famous entertainers – of secretly working for the Soviet Union. He never gave proofs, but Americans were so much frightened by the threat of communism that many believed his accusations.

17. What is the political structure of the USA?

The President chooses the fourteen cabinet members who head departments, such as Justice, Defense, or Education; chooses who will run as vice president; appoints federal judges; chooses heads of agencies such as the FBI and CIA; proposes laws, and approves federal laws after Congress has approved them; appoints US ambassadors to foreign countries; bears the responsibilities of relations with foreign countries and commander- in chief of armed forces. **The Vice President** leads the Senate and combined meetings of both houses of Congress, serves on special government committees and becomes president if the president must leave office.

The Cabinet together with the president, the cabinet members (13) form the government. They advise on issues related to their departments.

The USA Congress, **the legislative branch of the federal government**, is made up of **the Senate and the House of Representatives**.

18. What are the main political parties? Which party is in power now?

The US Constitution says nothing about political parties, but over time the US has developed a two-party system: **the Democratic and Republican parties**. The president-day Democratic Party was founded in 1828 representing Southern planters. The Republican Party, founded in 1854, united industrial and trade bourgeoisie from Northeast.

19. What groups are American higher institutions divided into?

(In the USA there is no clear definition of the term "institution of higher education". The institutions, which provide higher education, do not constitute any coordinate system and are not controlled by any centralized national authority In principle, any educational institution offering further training after leaving

high school, the so-called "post-secondary educational institution” may be referred to as Higher Educational Institution. The only criterion to determine the nature of any U.S. institution may be a qualitative level of it.)

- Junior Colleges

- Colleges of Liberal Arts
- Specialized Institutions
- A University
- (+ Private universities?)

20. Who was the main reformer of the American English Language?

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson made the first attempts to renovate the English language. Jefferson was fascinated by words and liked to invent the new ones. Benjamin Franklin, who founded the first free public library in the USA, was also interested in the reform of the English language. In 1768, he published a paper entitled “A Scheme for a New Alphabet and a Reformed Mode of Spelling”. His ideas were not adopted, but made a profound influence on further US linguists.

21. Why did American English Language become the global language?

The American vocabulary during the 19th and especially 20th and 21 centuries began to be exported abroad due to its economic, political and technological prominence in the world. American movies, radio, television, pop culture have certainly hastened the process.

In recent years Americanisms have been introduced into international usage. Hundreds of new business buzz-words are used, reflecting the birth of global markets and the take-over boom.

Americans invented a lot of new words connected with new technology, computers and internet: a notebook, a laptop computer, download, upload, online, offline, website, to hack, software, know-how, the dotcom economy, screensaver, trackpad, thumbnail, footprint, gridlocked, cyber pet, a techno-wizard, a cybercafé and many others of computer-related terms are increasingly invading the daily life. A lot of politically correct terminology also appeared. A lot of abbreviations and acronyms appeared, especially often used in media and ads (advertisements): NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) , UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), IMF (International Monetary Fund), CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), Call (Computer Assisted Language Learning), ZIP code (for Zone Improvement Plan), etc.

22. What do you know about science in the USA?

John Forbes Nash, Jr. (born June 13, 1928) is an American mathematician whose works in game theory are used in market economics, computing, evolutionary biology, artificial intelligence, accounting, politics and military theory. He awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

Norbert Wiener (November 26, 1894 – March 18, 1964) was an American mathematician and philosopher. He was Professor of Mathematics at MIT. Wiener is considered the originator of cybernetics, a formalization of the notion of feedback,

with implications for engineering, systems control, computer science, biology, neuroscience, philosophy, and the organization of society.

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23. Tell about the scientists or companies in the USA you know?

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24. Which so-called “Russian Americans” do you know?

Vladimir Kosmich Zworykin (1888 –1982) was a Russian-American inventor, engineer, and pioneer of television technology. Zworykin invented a television transmitting and receiving system employing cathode ray tubes. He played a role in the practical development of television from the early thirties, including charge storage-type tubes, infrared image tubes and the electron microscope.

Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky (1889 – 1972), was a Russian American aviation pioneer in both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. He designed and flew the world's first multi-engine fixed-wing aircraft, the Russky Vityaz in 1913, and the first airliner, Ilya Muromets, in 1914.

Brodsky, Josef Aleksandrovich, Igor Stravinsky, Vladimir Nabokov, Maria Sharapova and others.

25. Do you know the history of American industry?

By 1913 more than one third of the whole world's industrial production had been originated from the mines and factories of the USA. The growth of American industry was organized and controlled by the number of powerful businessmen like Andrew Carnegie, the owner of the giant Carnegie Steel Corporation and D. Rockefeller, the “king” of the growing oil industry. As the corporations grew bigger and more powerful, they often became “trusts”. By the early 20-century the trusts had controlled large parts of American industry.

Journalist L. Allen wrote that at that time “business had become almost the national religion of America”. Men like automobile-maker Henry Ford, steel industry owner Andrew Carnegie, oil and finance tycoon Rockefeller, George Pullman, W. Colgate, Procter and Gamble and others were widely admired as the creators of nation’s prosperity, the models of so-called “American Dream.”

26. What is a car for middle American? meow

The fact that the Americans can’t do without a car is well known to everybody. One primary reason for having cars is that the public transportation in the USA is not so well developed as in Europe. Bus lines in the US suburbs are unprofitable, bus routes are scarce and the scheduling is very unstable. So, willy-nilly people have to use their own cars. The car is such an important part of American life that for many people it would be impossible to manage without it. The car is inherently built into the tissue of American life. Today only really poor families and those too old to drive do not own a motor vehicle. But for the 87 % who do have cars, there is hardly any need to leave them.. There are banks, fast-food restaurants, and movie theaters, where you can withdraw money, eat a meal, or see a film without ever getting out of your car. There are even drive-in churches. It’s surprising that some people remember how to walk at all. Taking a job or entering a college leads to an immediate follow-up of buying a car. The car is also an absolute necessity for the rural or suburban parent, often the mother, who goes shopping for the family and takes the children to after-school activities. Some people wind up driving many miles a day doing errands and taking their children from one place to another. When it comes to vacation time, many

American families prefer to drive, sometimes very long distances. Even if they go by plane, when they arrive, they often rent a car (fly-drive). American society’s dependence on automobiles creates a lot of serious problems, such as air-pollution, the growing accident rates, traffic jams. Cities, towns and states spend tremendous resources constantly repairing and expanding their streets, roads, and highways. As some roads have been expanded to their limit, there is nowhere to go but up, so in some places “double-decker” appeared, that is, two-tiered highways. As the automobile plays such a large part in American life, it has a great impact on American economy. Now the manufacture of automobiles in America is becoming more and more international. Japanese companies like Honda and Toyota do not just sell cars in America, they have their own plants where they build them. The major American automobile companies, such as Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler have also formed various kinds of partnerships with Japanese and German manufacturers. In addition to the traditional sedans, station wagons, and sports cars, different kinds of jeeps and vans have become especially popular in recent years.

Some Americans take special pride in their cars. They give them special names (John, Marietta, etc), wash and wax them regularly. Others constantly trade and buy them.

Whatever an American's attitude toward cars, it is unlikely that he or she will do without it.

27. Which American writers do you know?

O. Henry (Porter William Sidney) (1862-1910) created a great number of short stories about the life of simple, poor Americans, collected in his books "Cabbages and Kings"(1904),"The Four Million"(1906),"The Gentle Grafters"(1908).

The Northern stories by Jack London (1876-1916) were extremely popular both in the USA and abroad. His novels "The Son of Wolf" (1900), "The Sea-Wolf"(1904), "Martin Eden"(1909) and many others were translated and published in Europe and Russia.

William Faulkner (1897-1962), known for his novels about people living in the South "The Sound and the Fury"(1929),"As I lay Dying"(1930),"Intruder in that Dust"(1948), received the Nobel prize in 1954. Faulkner's style is very much different from that of Hemingway. While Hemingway wrote in short, simple sentences and used a great deal of conversation, Faulkner's sentences sometimes carry on for almost an entire page, with a lot clauses strung together by commas.

Among the other Nobel prize winners there are a playwright Eugene O'Neill(1888-1953), Saul Bellow (1915), Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904-91) and John Steinbeck (1902-68), noted for "Grapes of Wrath" and "The Winter of Our Discontent" picturing the complexities of life in America.

The great master of the modern prose style E. Hemingway (1899-1961) in his early books "Fiesta"(1926), "For Whom the Bell Tolls" (1940) expressed the frames of mind of the "lost generation".

Joel Chandler Harris (1848-1908) composed a great number of Black folklore and published his collections of tales "Uncle Remus Stories" (1880) and "Nights with Uncle Remus" (1883).

The period after the Civil War is associated with the second stage of the US literature. The leading prose writer of the end of the 19th century was Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) (1835-1910).

And others...

INTRODUCTION (из фоточек)

1. What parts does the United Kingdom consist of?

The UK consists of four parts: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

2. What's the difference between the names Great Britain and United Kingdom?

The island of Great Britain consists of three main parts: England (the southern and middle part of the island), Wales (a mountainous peninsula in the West) and Scotland (the northern part of the island). Therefore UK is Great Britain + North Ireland.

3. What is the climate of Great Britain like?

Due to the geographic location of Great Britain the type of the climate is oceanic. There are no extreme contrasts in temperature in Britain because of the current of warm water flowing from the gulf of Mexico called the Gulf Stream. As Britain does not experience extreme weather conditions, it is never very cold or very hot. The temperature rarely rises above 32°C (90°F) in summer, or falls below 10°C (14°F) in winter. Summers are generally cool, but due to global warming they are starting drier and hotter. Winters are generally mild, with the most frequent and prolonged snowfalls in the Scottish Highlands where it is possible to go skiing. If it does snow heavily in other parts of Britain, the country often comes to a standstill. Trains, buses and planes are late.

4. Do you know any English phrases, connected with the weather?

It's raining cats and dogs - льет как из ведра.

It rains all the time, it's very damp.

There's a terrible fog in London, just like in Sherlock Holmes.

The sun never shines in July or August.

5. Have you ever been to England?

Yes, i have/ No, i haven't...

6. Which pictures do you imagine when you think of this country?

Big Ben, Queen (Freddie Mercury), Queen (monarch), London, Tower, Football, ...

7. What do you know of Stonehenge?

Stonehenge is the remains of a ring of standing stones set within earthworks. Archaeologists believe it was constructed from 3000 BC to 2000 BC. It was added to the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. It was used by Druids for their ceremonies.

THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. What were the origins of Old English?

The history of the English language really began in the 5th century with the arrival to the British Isles of three Germanic tribes (племена): the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, who crossed the North Sea from what today is Northern Germany. Most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders - mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles who came to England gave birth to the language called “English”.

The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which developed into what is now called **Old English**. Old English did not sound or look like English today and English speakers of today would have great difficulty in understanding it. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots.

2. What is the Great Vowel Shift?

In the 14th century so-called **Middle English** became dominant in Britain. It was the language of **the great poet Chaucer (1340-1400)**. Towards the end of Middle English, a change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter. Since the 16th century the British had contacts with many nations from around the world. This, and the Renaissance (Возрождение) of Classical learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language.

3. What definition can you give to English as the global language?

English is considered the universal language for business, international communications, entertainment, tourism, trade and technology. The majority of all resources on the internet are in English, affecting people to learn English to take full advantage of it. Above all, learning English is important for being able to exchange views and make friends with people all over the world.

SOME SNAP SHOTS OF BRITISH HISTORY

1. When was the British's power weakened for the first time?

King John of England was forced to sign the Great Charter (Magna Carta) with the barons in 1215, in which he promised to limit the Crown's power and control over finance.

2. When and how was English Parliament formed?

In 1258 the nobles elected a council called the parliament.

3. Why is King Henry the 8th important historically?

A very important English King was Henry the 8th (the dynasty of the Tudors). Due to the Pope's refusal to allow Henry the 8th to divorce his first wife Catherine of Aragon Henry 8th broke with the Roman Church, “nationalized” the English Church and named himself the Supreme Head of the English Protestant Church (1534). He dissolved the catholic monasteries and seized their wealth. He also came into history

as the one who killed or executed his 5-6 wives for their inability to give birth to his male heirs.

4. What do you know about Queen Elizabeth the First?

She strengthened England, stimulated shipbuilding, foreign commerce and art. She patronized pirates who robbed Spanish ships coming back from America with gold. The English fleet defeated Spanish Armada.

5. What is the period of Industrial Revolution in England?

At the end of the 18th century as a result of the invention of the steam engine by James Watt in 1769 Britain entered the period known as the Industrial Revolution. The first factories appeared and a movement of population from the countryside into towns began.

6. When did the saying “The Sun never sets on the British Empire become popular”?

In 1850 she had as many merchant ships as the rest of the world. That is why the English way of life was seen as superior to that of other nations. Queen Victoria reign was also marked by a great expansion of the British Empire. Britain enlarged her colonies and dominions with India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, a lot of African lands. “The sun never sets on the British Empire” became a popular saying of that time.

7. How did Britain act during two World Wars?

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland—then consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, and the whole of Ireland—was one of the Allied Powers during the First World War of 1914–1918, fighting against the Central Powers (the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Bulgaria). During the Second World War Britain acted as a part of Anti-Hitler Coalition. The destruction of property was great but only 60000 people were killed.

8. When did the British Empire collapse?

After the World War II all big colonies of British Empire reached independence.

9. Describe British foreign policy now.

Britain believes in a special relationship with the USA, which is based upon a shared language, Anglo-Saxon culture and strong relationships between Churchill and Roosevelt, Thatcher and Reagan, Blair and Clinton.

10. What is the UK economically now?

The population of Britain at the moment is 58 million people and currently approximately 35 million are of working age. About 2.5 million people are unemployed. When the oil resources were discovered in the North Sea much of the oil

revenue was spent on social security for the unemployed. Like in some other countries there is a gap between the earning of the rich and poor. The salaries of directors (so-called 'fat cats') are sometimes 20 times greater than average earnings at the bottoms of the companies. The centre of economic and political power, and therefore the largest population concentration is in the south of the country - a result of good climate and proximity to the European mainland. Men in the south East earn the most and work the shortest week. The south east accounts for more than one-third of the Gross domestic Product (GDP) of the United Kingdom. The north of England had the lowest average weekly wages, and the second highest regional unemployment level. North Ireland has the highest.

11. What is class division in England and how is this reflected in speech?

Nowhere is this clearer than in the question of speech. The way English is spoken gives away not only regional identity but class status too. Since the days of Shakespeare, the English of South-East has been considered the standard. The emergence of an upper and upper-middle class mode of speech, "received pronunciation" RP is established through private schools for wealthier families. Through radio and television, RP has become a widely spoken accent.

12. What is a typical British house?

Here are some typical houses owned by Britons: "Detached" houses, ones that stand on their own, are the most desirable. "Semi-detached" houses, consisting of two equal halves and there are also "terraced" ones, joined in a row of more than two. Some typical British homes are the smallest in Europe. All of us know the love of Britons for gardening. There are small gardens in front and behind their house.

13. Is the expression "My house is my castle" still important for Englishmen?

Though both the role and the look of the home are changing, an Englishman's home is as much his castle as it was 100 years ago.

14. What do you know about British eating habits?

First – a typical English breakfast different from the continental one, a lunch (from 12 o'clock to 1 o'clock), five-o'clock tea, dinner or supper (6-7 o'clock). There are some traditional dishes such as roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, and of course pies. British people spent less time cooking now than they used to do in the past. Even traditional English breakfast is a bit of a myth today. Many people prefer to have a bowl of cornflakes or a cup of coffee for breakfast. A lot of people unite two meals: breakfast and lunch together (so-called "brunch"). When British people go out for a meal, they very often go to their local Indian or Chinese, Italian or Turkish restaurant or buy a "takeaway" food. Very many still go to the pubs.

15. Why do so many English people prefer to live in the province?

Because life in cities has become too expensive.

16. What are “commuters”?

Life in London and other big cities has become too expensive. Many of people prefer to move out of big cities and move to quiet cheaper small towns, retaining their jobs in cities. They go to work and come back every day and become so-called “commuters”.

17. Why are pubs so important for Englishmen?

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 POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND ELECTIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

1. Which political parties in the UK do you know?

The largest parties are Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats and United Kingdom Independence Party.

2. How do elections take place?

Each parliamentary constituency of the United Kingdom elects one MP to the House of Commons using the "first past the post" system. If one party obtains a majority of seats, then that party is entitled to form the Government, with its leader as Prime Minister. If the election results in no single party having a majority, there is a hung parliament. In this case, the options for forming the Government are either a minority government or a coalition.

3. How many Chambers (Houses) are there in the British Parliament? What is the difference between them?

The British parliament is bicameral but has three parts, consisting of the Sovereign (the Queen-in-Parliament), an upper house (but in fact the second chamber) called the House of Lords, and a so-called "lower house" (but in fact the primary chamber) called the House of Commons.

The House of Lords includes two different types of members: the Lords Spiritual, consisting of the most senior bishops of the Church of England, and the Lords Temporal. The House of Commons is an elected chamber with elections to 650 single member constituencies held at least every five years under the first-past-the-post system.

4. Who is the head of the Government?

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is the head of the United Kingdom Government. Theresa May, leader of the Conservative Party, was appointed by the Queen on 13 July 2016.

5. What is a cabinet?

The Cabinet of the United Kingdom is the collective decision-making body of Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom, composed of the Prime Minister and 21 cabinet ministers, the most senior of the government ministers.

6. Call any great political figures in the UK who you remember.

Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair, David Cameron.

7. What is Brexit?

Brexit is the term used to refer to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union (EU) and is a shortened version of British Exit. On June 23, 2016, the UK decided to officially sever ties with the EU.

EDUCATION IN BRITAIN

1. At what age do British children go to school?

Children in Britain go to school at the age of 5(4 in Northern Ireland) until they are 16.

2. What types of school exist in Britain?

Comprehensive schools, Grammar schools, City Technology Colleges (CTCs), Specialist schools, "Public" Schools.

3. What age do British pupils normally take exams?

At sixteen upon completion of training, pass the General certificate of secondary education (GCSE) 0-level. At the age of eighteen they take GCSE A-level.

4. How can they enter Universities and colleges?

"A" Level (Advanced Level) GCE exam (General Certificate of Education) is necessary for University entrance. Good "A" Level results in at least two subjects are necessary to get a place at a university. However, good exam passes alone are not enough. Universities choose their students after interviews, and competition for places at university is fierce.

5. Which types of British universities do you know?

Unitary universities, Examining Board universities, Federal universities,

Collegiate universities. Federal universities are also sometimes referred to as collegiate.

6. What degrees do British students receive on leaving universities?

After three years of study a university graduate will leave with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine, etc. Later he or she may continue to take the Master's Degree and then the Doctor's Degree.

BRITISH MEDIA

1. What does the term “media” include?

The term “media” generally refers to the print industries (the press or newspapers and magazines) and broadcasting (cable and satellite television, radio and video).

2. What is the reason why the British continue to buy and read newspapers in our internet age?

(One of possible reasons) Grandmothers and grandfathers buy newspapers.

3. Which categories are the British newspapers divided into?

There are national and regional newspapers. National papers are usually termed ‘quality’ or ‘popular’ depending on their differences in content and format (broadsheet or tabloid). Others are called ‘mid-market’. They are between these two extremes.

4. Do you know any names of the British newspapers or magazines (journals)?

The Times, The Sun, The Economist, The Spectator, etc.

5. What are the main British radio and television channels?

BBC 1, 2, 4, Channel 4, Sky etc. Radio 1-5.

The BBC now has two television channels (BBC1 and BBC2). BBC1 is a mass-appeal channel with an audience share of 28 per cent. Its programmes consist of news, plays and drama series, comedy, quiz shows, variety performances, sport and documentaries. BBC2, with an audience share of 11 per cent, tends to show more serious items such as news analysis and discussion, documentaries, adaptations of novels into plays and series, operas, concerts and some sports. It also provides Open University courses. In 2001 The Labour government approved the expansion of BBC television services by the creation of a BBC4 channel (culture and the arts) and two channels for children.

Radio 1 caters for pop music; Radio 2 has light music, news, and comedy; Radio 3 provides classical and modern serious music, talks, discussions and plays; Radio 4 concentrates on news reports, analysis, talks and plays; and Radio 5 Live (established in 1990) has sport and news programs.

6. What is the BBC service?

The BBC's external services, the World Service in English and 42 other languages abroad, were founded in 1932 and are funded by the Foreign Office. These have a reputation for objective news reporting and programmes. News reports, documentaries and current-affairs analyses, animal films are generally of a high standard.

7. What is Reuters?

Reuters News Agency is an international news agency headquartered in London. It operates in more than 200 cities and offers quick and easy access to hot news in about 200 languages.

FOLKLORE AND LITERATURE

1. When was the term ballad used in its present sense?

After the 18th century when was used to describe love songs.

2. What is one of the oldest printed fairy tales in England?

Tom Thumb. In this fairytale a childless poor couple asked Magician Merlin to give them a son even if he were no bigger than his father's thumb. Tom Thumb uncounted many adventures.

3. What important information does the British folklore contain?

The main system of values, beliefs and traditions of British nations is mostly reflected in the ballads and fairy tales.

4. What English fairy tales and legends do you know?

Legends: Beowulf, the legend devoted to King Arthur, Robin Hood.

Fairy tales: Tom Thumb, Three Heads in the Well, Tom Tit Tot, Cap o'Rushes, the Small-Tooth Dog, and the Rose Tree.

5. Which English writers do you know?

William Shakespeare, J.R.R. Tolkien, Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Walter Scott, Charles Dickens, Rudyard Kipling, Oscar Wilde, William Somerset Maugham, Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle, Virginia Woolf, Jane Austin, Bernard Shaw, Joan Rolling etc.

6. Which English writers have you read in English?

(Name at least one English writer you have read in English or explain why you haven't done it yet)

7. What do you know about UK theater?

Britain has a long tradition of theatre. It was introduced from Europe to England by the Romans. The reign of Elizabeth I saw a flowering of the theatre. During the

Revolution of 1642—1660, English theatres were closed by the Puritans. Today there are over 200 theatres in Britain: 40 of which are situated in London's West End. The most famous British theatres are The Royal Opera and Royal Ballet, both based at Covent Garden, the National Theatre and the Barbican Theatre. The National is a part of the South Bank Arts Centre, located near the River Thames.

8. Have you read or seen any Shakespeare plays?

Yes, I have / No, I haven't.

9. Have you seen any Shaw's plays?

Yes, I have / No, I haven't.

ТЕМЫ ДОКЛАДОВ

UK:

1. How the English Language was formed.
2. The historical period of Queen Elizabeth 1.
3. The most interesting historical events in GB from your point of view.
4. The political structure of GB
5. The political situation at the moment in GB.
6. What do you know about brexit?
7. Education in GB
8. Mass Media
9. Science in GB
10. Literature
11. The most interesting personalities in the UK
 - a. -in politics
 - b. -in science
 - c. -in literature
12. Culture, museums, interesting sights

USA:

1. The formative events in the US history.
2. The war for independence
3. The Civil War
4. Political structure in the USA
5. The period between two World Wars
6. The political situation now
7. Why American English can be called "A linguistic melting pot".
8. Global English. What are the reasons of the influence of American English on its mother tongue and many other languages of the world?
9. Personalities in American science.

10. Famous Russian Americans.
11. Silicon Valley – what it is now.
12. Joint space research projects of the USA and the RF.
13. Favorite American writers.
14. Favorite American movies, directors and actors.
15. Music in the USA.