# -Section 1

1. What parts does the United Kingdom consist of?

**Answer:** 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?

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

3. What is the climate of Great Britain like?i

**Answer:** 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 32C (90°F) in summer, or falls below 10°C (l4°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?

**Answer:** The common ideas foreigners have about the weather in Britain are: "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".

// думаю, это не то: English phrases, а тут мнения иностранцев

// может быть нужны идиомы типа It’s raining cats and dogs? +

http://www.vocabulary.cl/english/weather-idioms.htm

5. Have you ever been to England?

**Answer:** Yes / no / I’d like to but I don’t have enough money :(

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

**Answer:** Big Ben, Queen (Freddie Mercury), Queen (monarch), London, Tower, Football, …

7. What do you know of Stonehenge?

**Answer:** Stonehenge is the remains of a ring of [standing stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_stones)s set within [earthworks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthwork_%28archaeology%29). [Archaeologists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeology) believe it was constructed from 3000 BC to 2000 BC. It was added to the [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO)'s list of [World Heritage Sites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Sites). It **was used by Druids for their ceremonies.**

8. What were the origins of Old English?

**Answer:** three Germanic tribes: the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. 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. The words be, strong and water, for example, are derived from Old English. Old English was spoken until around 1100.

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9. What is the Great Vowel Shift?

**Answer:** The Great Vowel Shift was a major change in the [pronunciation of the English language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_phonology) that took place in England between 1350 and 1700. Vowels started being pronounced shorter.

10. What definition can you give to English as the global language? (начало docx файла)

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.

# Section 2

//DONE

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

**Answer:**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?

**Answer:** In 1258 the nobles elected a council called the parliament.

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

**Answer:**  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?

**Answer:** 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?

**Answer:** 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?

**Answer:** 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?

**Answer:** The [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland)—then consisting of England, Scotland, Wales, and the whole of Ireland—was one of the [Allied Powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) during the First World War of 1914–1918, fighting against the [Central Powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Powers) (the [German Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Empire), the [Austro-Hungarian Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Empire), the [Ottoman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) and the [Kingdom of Bulgaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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?

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

9. Describe British foreign policy now.

Answer: **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 then 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?

Answer: **Because life in cities has become too expensive.**

16. What are “commuters”?

**Answer**: 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?

**Answer:**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.

# Section 3

//DONE

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

**Answer: Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats**

2. How do elections take place?

**Answer: General elections are held every 5 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.**

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

**Answer: There are two Houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The members of the House of Commons are elected, and the members of the House of Lords inherit their seats from their fathers, are granted by the Queen or are bishops of the Church of England. The House of Lords 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 passed by the Commons.**

4. Who is the head of the Government?

**Answer: The head of the Government is Prime Minister (the leader of the winning party).**

5. What is a cabinet?

**Answer: The Cabinet is a committee of ministers formed by the party which wins the most seats in the Parliament. Each member of the Cabinet is a minister responsible for a government department. The Cabinet runs the country (управляет страной) and is responsible to Parliament.**

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

**Answer:** Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair, David Cameron.

# Section 4

//DONE

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

**Answer:** Compulsory schooling in England and Wales lasts 11 years, from the age of 5 to 16.

2. What types of school exist in Britain?

**Answer:** 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.

3. What age do British pupils normally take exams?

**Answer:** The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) was introduced for 16 year-olds. "A" Level (Advanced Level) GCE exam (General Cer­tificate of Education) at 17-19.

4. How can they enter Universities and colleges?

**Answer:** "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?

**Answer:** British universities differ greatly from each other. They differ in date of foundation, size, history, tradition, general organization, methodsm 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.

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

**Answer:** 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.

# Section 5

1. What does the term “media” include?

**Answer:** 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?

**Answer:** grandmothers and grandfathers buy newspapers

3. Which categories are the British newspapers divided into?

**Answer: 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)?

**Answer:** The Times, The Sun, The Economist, The Spectator, etc.

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

**Answer:** BBC1,2,4, 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?

**Answer:** 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 ?

**Answer: 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.**

# Section 6

//DONE

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

**Answer:**

**(Lets assume someone is correct)**

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

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

**Answer:** 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?

**Answer:** 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?

**Answer:** 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?

**Answer:** 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?

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

7. What do you know about UK theater?

**Answer:** Britain has a long tradition of theater. It was introduced from Europe to England by the Romans. The reign of Elizabeth I saw a flowering of the theater. During the Revolution of 1642—1660, English theatres were closed by the Puritans. Today there are over 200 theaters in Britain: 40 of which are situated in London’s West End. The most famous British theaters 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?

**Answer:** Yes / no / I’d like to

9. Have you seen any Shaw’s plays?

**Answer:** Yes / no / I’d like to