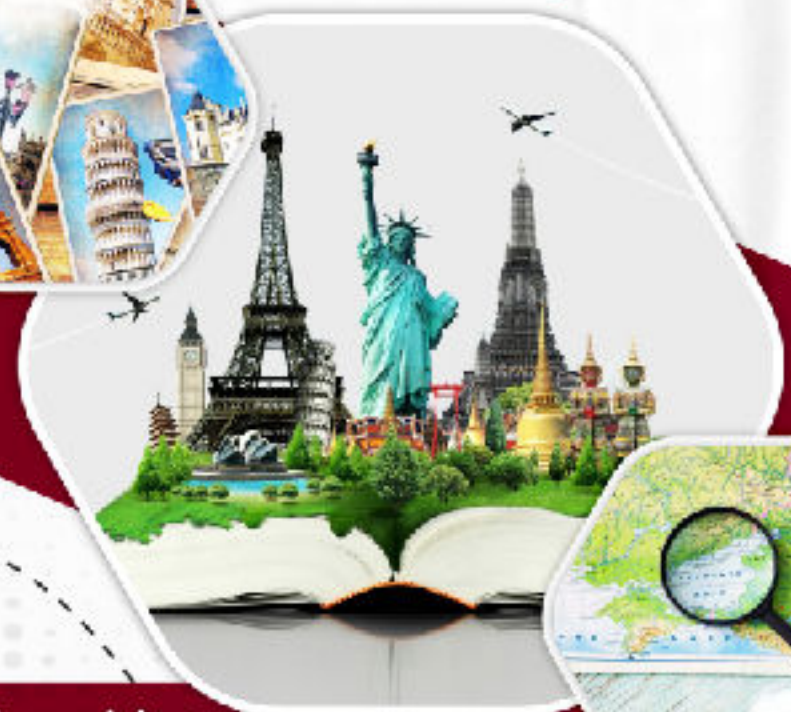


Sirojova Zarnigor Nasriddinovna  
Ubaydullayeva Dilafruz Fazliddinovna

FOR THE SUBJECT OF

# ***COUNTRY STUDY***



Study guide



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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION STUDIES AND  
LINGUODIDACTICS

*Sirojova Zarnigor Nasriddinovna*  
*Ubaydullayeva Dilafruz Fazliddinovna*

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**EDITOR:**

N.F.Qosimova – f.f.f.d., (PhD), dotsent

**TAQRIZCHILAR:**

A.A.Fayziyeva – f.f.f.d., (PhD)

M.B. Barotova – f.f.f.d., (PhD)

*Students studying English language in the field of translation theory and practical training can use this teaching method and guide in practical training of the Department of Country Studies. This study guide is based on science training topics and is filled with relevant information, exercises. This study guide has been developed taking into account the general requirements and suggestions that can ensure students to have systematic knowledge of science, to have the competence specific to their chosen profession, to be able to independently master its sciences, to work on themselves and to organize their labor activity on a scientific basis, and to recommend it for publication. possible*

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This guide and translation activity, translation theory and practice study guide is intended for students studying at Bukhara State University.

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## **Introduction**

There are thousands of countries in the world where people speak thousands of languages and use dozens of scripts. In this methodological guide, we will study the history, culture, traditions and customs of the English-speaking countries of the world, as well as the educational system and lifestyle. This manual can be used by every student studying the country's language.

Language is part of culture. Of course, it is impossible to learn the country, its customs and culture without knowing the language.

This study guide serves as a program for students in learning the English language to form the place and speed of the United States of America, Great Britain, New Zealand, Canada and Australia in the world. The educational methodical manual helps to form and develop the linguistic and cultural features of language formation, its etymology, as well as socio-cultural competence by language students. The pursuit of communicative competence, as the final result of learning, includes not only the acquisition of relevant foreign language technologies, but also the assimilation of vast non-linguistic information. Among the speakers of different languages, this information is mainly determined by the various material and spiritual conditions for the existence of the respective peoples and countries, their history, culture, socio-political system, and the specific features of the political system.

The prepared study guide is aimed at providing students with literature related to the specialty, teaching them to work with the given information. This literature is intended for 26 hours.

The authors hope that this literature will facilitate the understanding and study of the countries whose language is being studied for the students of the faculties specializing in the field of language, and express their immense gratitude to the friends who contributed to its creation and expressed their opinions.

## **Theme: 1. Introduction to Country Study. Great Britain. General Information.**



- 1. The climate and environment of the Great Britain**
- 2. The population and landmarks of the Great Britain**

The largest insular nation in Europe is Great Britain. The North Sea islands border France in the southeast and Northern Ireland in the east. They are situated there. England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland make up the union known as Great Britain. Additionally, Great Britain has 800 little islands. Approximately 245 000 square kilometers, or almost two thirds of Germany's surface, make up Great Britain. The largest city in Great Britain and the country's capital is London.

### **United Kingdom's climate**

Great Britain has a rather temperate climate. Compared to other European nations in the same latitude, the golf stream has a warmer climate. Greater Britain's southern and eastern regions experience a warmer and drier climate than its western and northern regions. Snow is extremely uncommon in Great Britain during the winter since temperatures rarely dip below freezing.

### **Flora and Fauna in the Great Britain**



Great Britain is home to a wide variety of plants because of its diverse soil types and moderate climate. The vegetation is made up primarily of thick woods in Scotland, Wales, and the southern and eastern regions of England. They support a variety of oak species, as well as common beech, ash, and elm trees. The three main tree species in Scotland are scots pine, spruce, and birch. In addition, Great Britain's terrain is characterized by marshland and heathland.

The forests and valleys of Great Britain are home to the common animal species of European forests, including red deer, roe deer, fallow deer, Red Fox, hedgehog, European hare, and European otter. Grey seals and common seals can also be seen in coastal locations.

- The United Kingdom is made up of four nations: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. It is located in northwest Europe.
- The United Kingdom is primarily situated on Great Britain and Ireland, two sizable islands in the Atlantic Ocean.
- No place in the UK is more than 125 kilometers (77 miles) from the sea!
- The United Kingdom is somewhat smaller than the state of Oregon in the United States and slightly larger than Ghana, with the only land border with a non-UK nation being the border with Ireland in Northern Ireland.
- The Greenwich meridian timezone (GMT) is marked by the prime meridian, which passes through the UK. Rugged hillsides and rolling plains make up the majority of the area.
- The Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands are in the Caribbean, Gibraltar is on the Iberian Peninsula, and Saint Helena is in the South Atlantic Ocean. The UK owns 13 British overseas territories.
- From 1973 until the conclusion of "Brexit" on December 31, 2020, when new agreements between the EU and the UK came into effect, the United Kingdom was a member of the EU.
- England is the largest nation in the UK. Northern Ireland is the tiniest of all the nations.

- After Norway and Denmark, the UK boasts the third-longest coastline in Europe at 12,430 km/ 7,723 miles (Greenland)
- Ben Nevis, a mountain in Scotland, is the highest point in the United Kingdom at 1,345 meters (4,412 feet).
- The largest freshwater lake in the UK (by volume) is Loch Ness, which is located in Northern Ireland's Lough Neagh.
- The Severn River, at 354 kilometers (220 miles), is the UK's longest river.
- The largest airport in Europe is located in London, and there is only one land border with Ireland.
- The smallest island in the UK is Bishop Rock, which located off the Scilly Isles in southern England.

### ***LANDMARKS***

- **London:** The nation's capital has a lot to offer visitors. The highest structure in Europe is London's Shard, which is 310 meters (1,015 feet) tall.
- **Windsor:** This charming town in Southern England is renowned for its castle, an 11th-century royal home.



Windsor Castle was founded in 1070 by William I on a hill in the Thames Valley, 30 kilometers from London. Initially, it was a wooden fortress, which was surrounded by a stone wall. A little later, an additional wall of wood was erected to the east of the hill (now the Upper Courtyard is located in its place), and by the end of the century, a similar wall was erected near the western slope of the hill, where



the Lower Courtyard is now located. Later, all these buildings were rebuilt several times, but the layout itself has survived to our times - two four-corner buildings (courtyards), and in the middle there is a round tower on a hill.

- **Stonehenge** is regarded as the oldest monument in the world, dating back more than 3,000 years, making these enormous rocks older than the Pyramids. Windsor Castle is the largest inhabited castle in the world.
- **Loch Ness:** Quite a large freshwater lake Loch Ness is located 37 km west of Inverness. It was formed in the Great Glen geological fault, is part of the Caledonian Canal, which connects the eastern and western sea coasts of Scotland. Most of the lakes in this part of the country are of glacial origin, Loch Ness is no exception. The water in the lake is muddy and has a specific shade due to the high content of peat in the bottom soil.

The lake is the second largest in Scotland, and the largest in terms of water volume. The local landscapes are nothing outstanding, but the views of the mountains and the ruins of Urquhart Castle make them picturesque in their own way.



- **Cardiff:** The "City of Arcades" is a common moniker for Wales' capital city. In the UK, Cardiff has the most indoor shopping malls. The Welsh city does, however, also include a large number of interesting old homes and castles.

- **Belfast:** On the banks of the Lagan River is where much of Northern Ireland's commercial activity takes place. One of the largest ports in the UK is located in the city. A significant industry for the city in the 20th century was shipbuilding, and it once boasted the largest shipyard in the world, where the RMS Titanic was constructed in 1912. Learn about the tragic ship's history and journey at the Titanic Belfast.

The UK is a country with a diverse and multiethnic population. People from all over the world have made this country their home.

Only approximately 20% of people in the UK reside in rural areas, making up the majority of the country's population (83%). In and around the major cities of London, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast are where the bulk of Britons reside.

London is the largest city in the UK. Glasgow, Manchester, and Birmingham are more cities with populations above a million.

The most widely-played sports are cricket, rugby, soccer, and rugby. The UK is credited with creating all of these sports. According to legend, golf was created around 1457. The oldest golf course is the one at St. Andrews, Scotland. The most prestigious universities, Oxford and Cambridge, are among the more than 130 institutions in the UK.

King Charles III, who was born on November 14, 1948, took the throne on September 8, 2022, the day after his mother Queen Elizabeth passed away. He is the leader of 14 Commonwealth nations in addition to the United Kingdom. King Charles III's second wife is Queen Consort Camilla; he wed again in 2005 following the passing of Princess Diana after divorcing her in 1996.

Up to her passing on September 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II held the record for the longest reigning queen in history. She ruled the UK for 214 days and 70 years. King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II's father, died in 1952, and she took the throne as of that time. As the monarch of 16 Commonwealth nations and the world's longest-reigning royal, Queen Elizabeth II.

**Questions.**

1. What are the most played sports in the Great Britain?
2. What are the greatest landmarks in the Great Britain?
3. Where is situated Loch Ness?
4. What percentage of people live in rural areas in the UK?
5. How many institutions are there in the Great Britain?

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### **Theme: 2. The History of Great Britain**

1. The first settlers on the British Isles.
2. The Roman invasion.
3. The first king of England.
4. The conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.
5. The Norman conquest.
6. The English Bourgeois Revolution.
7. The Industrial Revolution. Chartism.
8. Victorian Britain.

The people who now live in Britain are descended from various peoples who inhabited the British Isles many centuries ago. From the earliest times known a long succession of invaders and colonizers moved to the British Isles as they lay within the easy reach of the continent. The first settlers on the British Isles were Iberians who came from the Iberian Peninsula (the area of Spain and Portugal) between 3000 BC and 2000 BC. The Iberians stayed comparatively long before they were attacked, slain or driven westwards by the numerous Celtic tribes (Picts, Scots and Britons), which came from central Europe and the Rhine valley in the period between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 3d centuries BC. They were pagan, with priests known as Druids. In the middle of the 1st century AD Britain was successfully invaded by the Romans who stayed on the island for four centuries, living in military camps, building towns, roads, walls and bridges, so that to defend their gains (seized territories) from other invaders.

The Romans left behind them in the language of Britain many words denoting the names of things such as street, port, wall. After the Roman legions left Britain at the beginning of the 5th century to defend their own Empire from the barbarians, the British Isles were almost immediately attacked by numerous invaders from all sides. Germanic tribes — the Jutes, the Saxon and the Angles attacked Britain from the south and east, Danes and Norsemen from Scandinavia in the north-east. Again, the native population was driven to the west (Wales) and north (Scotland). These tribes gave the name to the country, and their language formed the basis of the old English language. In the 9th century the greatest

kingdoms Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex struggled for predominance. In 829 Egbert, King of Wessex, was acknowledged by Kent, Northumbria and Mercia and Egbert became the first king of England. Under his rule all the small Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were united to form one kingdom which was called England from that time on.

The conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity began at the end of the 6th century (597) and was completed, in the main, in the second half of the 7th century. In 597 the Roman Pope sent about forty monks to Britain to convert the Anglo-Saxons. The first church was built in the town of Canterbury, the capital of Kent, that is why the Archbishop of Canterbury is now Head of the Church of England.

The last in the long successions of invaders on the British Isles were the Normans, the Norsemen who had assimilated in France. In 1066, led by Duke of Normandy (who went into history as William the Conqueror), they crossed the Channel and conquered England, subduing the Anglo-Saxons. For almost two centuries there were two languages, two nations and two cultures in the country. Norman-French was the language of the ruling class, the official language of the country, while Anglo-Saxon (old English) was spoken by the majority of the oppressed native population. The victorious Normans gradually broke their ties with France and by the 13th century had mingled in blood and language with Anglo-Saxons and united into one nation, speaking one language, born as a result of the marriage of the two nations and the two languages. The new English (Middle English) greatly enriched and changed under the influence of Norman-French, had become the language of educated classes and the official language of the state by the end of the 13th century. Such words as baron, serve, court, battle, victory appeared in the English language.

The basis of feudal society was the holding of land, and its main purpose was economic. The central idea was that all land was owned by the king but it was held by others, called "vassals", in return for services and goods. The king gave large estates to his main nobles in return for a promise to serve him in war for up to

forty days. The nobles also had to give him part of the produce of the land. The greater nobles gave part of their lands to lesser nobles, knights, and other "freemen". Some freemen paid for the land by doing military service, while others paid rent. The noble kept "serfs" to work on his own land.

These were not free to leave the estate, and were often little better than slaves. There were two basic principles to feudalism: every man had a lord, and every lord had land. The king was connected through this "chain" of people to the lowest man in the country. At each level a man had to promise loyalty and service to his lord.

One of the most important events in the British history was the English Bourgeois Revolution (1642—1648) which marked the beginning of capitalism in the country. The bourgeoisie and the gentry led the peasants and the townsmen against the absolute monarchy. The struggle between Charles I and Parliament finished with the victory of the second. Oliver Cromwell was the leader in the English Revolution.

He created an army of a New Model — of educated people, with able leaders, iron discipline and regular pay. He consolidated his position by subjugating Ireland and Scotland and uniting them with England. The fact that popular masses took the side of Parliament (Roundheads, as they cut their hair short) against the Royalists (or Cavaliers) decided the results of the Civil War: The monarchy was overthrown, Charles I was beheaded, the House of Lords was abolished as "useless and dangerous", the Commonwealth (or Free State, or Republic) was proclaimed.

Cromwell, now titled the Protector, enforced justice and order at home and made England stronger and more respected abroad. The following democratic ideas initiated by the Levellers were proclaimed: all men should have equal opportunities and should make or mar their fortunes by their own efforts, not by accident of their birth and the class to which their parents belonged; all the citizens of the state should have a voice in making of its laws; no attempt should be made



to interfere with sincere and honest views of any man about religion, if they did not tend to popery.

After the death of Cromwell, the monarchy was restored. Well before the end of the eighteenth-century Britain was as powerful as France. This resulted from the growth of its industries and from the wealth of its large new trading empire, part of which had been captured from the French. Britain now had the strongest navy in the world; the navy-controlled Britain's own trade routes and endangered those of its enemies. It was the deliberate policy of the government to create this trading empire, and to protect it with a strong navy. This was made possible by the way in which government had developed during the eighteenth century. For the first time, it was the king's ministers who were the real policy and decision-makers. Power now belonged to the groups from which the ministers came, and their supporters in Parliament. These ministers ruled over a country which had become wealthy through trade. This wealth, or "capital", made possible both an agricultural and an industrial revolution which made Britain the most advanced economy in the world.

However, there was an enormous price to pay, because while a few people became richer, many others lost their land, their homes and their way of life. Families were driven off the land in another period of enclosures. They became the working "proletariat" of the cities that made Britain's trade and industrial empire of the nineteenth century possible. The invention of machinery destroyed the old "cottage industries" and created factories. The development of industry led to the sudden growth of cities like Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester and Liverpool and other centers in the north Midlands.

Several influences came together at the same time to revolutionize Britain's industry: money, labor, a greater demand for goods, new power, and better transport. By the end of the eighteenth century, some families had made huge private fortunes. Growing merchant hanks helped put this money to use.

By the early eighteenth century simple machines had already been invented for basic jobs. They could make large quantities of simple goods quickly and

cheaply so that "mass production" became possible for the first time. Each machine carried out one simple process, which introduced the idea of "division of labour" among workers. This was to become an important part of the industrial revolution. By the 1740s the main problem holding back industrial growth was fuel. There was less wood, and in any case, wood could not produce the heat necessary to make iron and steel either in large quantities or of high quality. But at this time the use of coal for changing iron ore into good quality iron or steel was perfected, and this made Britain the leading iron producer in Europe. This happened only just in time for the many wars in which Britain was to fight, mainly against France, for the rest of the century. The demand for coal grew very quickly. In 1800 Britain was producing four times as much coal as it had done in 1700, and eight times as much iron. Increased iron production made it possible to manufacture new machinery for other industries. No one saw this more clearly than John Wilkinson, a man with a total belief in iron. He built the largest ironworks in the country. When James Watt made a greatly improved steam engine in 1769, Wilkinson improved it further by making parts of the engine more accurately with his special skills in ironworking.

In this way the skills of one craft helped the skills of another. Until then steam engines had only been used for pumping, usually in coal mines. But in 1781 Watt produced an engine with a turning motion, made of iron and steel. It was a vital development because people were now no longer dependent on natural power.

One invention led to another, and increased production in one area led to increased production in others. Other basic materials of the industrial revolution were cotton and woolen cloth, which were popular abroad. In the middle of the century other countries were buying British uniforms, equipment and weapons for their armies. To meet this increased demand, better methods of production had to be found, and new machinery was invented which replaced handwork. The production of cotton goods had been limited by the spinning process, which could not provide enough cotton thread for the weavers. In 1764 a spinning machine was invented which could do the work of several hand spinners, and other improved machines were made shortly after. With the far greater production of cotton thread,

the slowest part of the cotton clothmaking industry became weaving. In 1785 a power machine for weaving revolutionized clothmaking. It allowed Britain to make cloth more cheaply than elsewhere, and Lancashire cotton cloths were sold in every continent. But this machinery put many people out of work. It also changed what had been a "cottage industry" done at home into a factory industry, where workers had to keep work hours and rules set down by factory owners.

In the Midlands, factories using locally found clay began to develop very quickly, and produced fine quality plates, cups and other china goods. These soon replaced the old metal plates and drinking cups that had been used. Soon large quantities of china were being exported. The most famous factory was one started by Josiah Wedgwood. His high-quality bone china became very popular, as it still is. The social effects of the industrial revolution were enormous. Workers tried to join together to protect themselves against powerful employers. They wanted fair wages and reasonable conditions in which to work. But the government quickly banned these "combinations", as the workers' societies were known. Riots occurred, led by the unemployed who had been replaced in factories by machines. In 1799 some of these rioters, known as Luddites, started to break up the machinery which had put them out of work. The government supported the factory owners, and made the breaking of machinery punishable by death. The government was afraid of a revolution like the one in France.

The stronghold of Chartism, as of Trade Unionism, lay in the industrial North, but its origin was among the Radical artisans of London. The London Working-Men's Association was formed in June 1836 as a political and educational body intended to attract the "intelligent and influential portion of the working class". In February 1837 the Association drew up a petition to Parliament in which were embodied the six demands that afterwards became known as the People's Charter. They were: equal electoral districts; abolition of the property qualifications for MPs; universal manhood suffrage; annual

Parliaments; vote by ballot; the payment of MPs. These demands were accepted with enthusiasm by hundreds of thousands of industrial workers who saw

in them the means to remove their intolerable economic grievances. In the spring of 1838 the Six Points were drafted into the form of a Parliamentary Bill, and it was this draft Bill which became the actual Charter of history. It was endorsed at gigantic meetings all over the country. At all these meetings the Charter received emphatic approval and the tactics by which it was proposed to secure its acceptance soon took shape. These were a campaign of great demonstrations, a mass petition to Parliament and, if the petition were rejected, a political general strike. A Reform Bill was rejected by Parliament and a number of demonstrations swept the country. Parliament had to use troops. The failure of Chartism was partly a result of the weaknesses of its leadership and tactics. But they were only a reflection of the newness and immaturity of the working class. Politically, the twenty years after 1848 afford a striking contrast to the Chartist decade. The attempt to create a great, independent party of the working class was not repeated: political activity became more localized, or was confined to some immediate practical issue, but it never ceased to exist. Its strength was that while in Europe the working classes were still dragging at the tail of the industrial bourgeoisie, in England the workers were able by 1838 to appear as an independent force and were already realizing that the industrial bourgeoisie were their principal enemy.

Queen Victoria (1819—1901) came to the throne in 1837. Because of the growth of parliamentary government, she was less powerful than previous sovereigns. However, she ruled over more lands and peoples than any previous sovereigns and enjoyed the respect and affection of her British subjects. Her reign is called “the golden age” in the history of Britain. No other nation could produce as much at that time. By 1850 Britain was producing more iron than the rest of the world together.

Britain had become powerful because it had enough coal, iron and steel for its own enormous industry, and could even export them in large quantities to Europe. With these materials it could produce new heavy industrial goods like iron ships and steam engines. It could also make machinery which produced traditional goods like woolen and cotton cloth in the factories of Lancashire. Britain's cloth as

cheap and was exported to India, to other colonies and throughout the Middle East, where it quickly destroyed the local cloth industry, causing great misery. Britain made and owned more than half the world's total shipping. This great industrial empire was supported by a strong banking system developed during the eighteenth century.

By the end of the nineteenth century Britain controlled the oceans and much of the land areas of the world. Most British strongly believed in their right to an empire, and were willing to defend it against the least threat. But even at this moment of greatest power, Britain had begun to spend more on its empire than it took from it. The empire had started to be a heavy load. It would become impossibly heavy in the twentieth century, when the colonies finally began to demand their freedom.

### **Questions for self-check**

1. Who changed the royal family name and when did it happen?
2. What kind of monarch was George V?
3. How did World War I start?
4. In what way was Great Britain involved in WW I?
5. Speak about the growth of independence movement in British colonies in the beginning of the 20th century.
6. Describe the development of trade unions.
7. What was the situation in Ireland?
8. The danger of a new war made the country to rebuild its armed forces and economy, didn't it?
9. Who inspired the nation to the victory in WW II?
10. What steps to rebuild the national economy were made under Clement Attley?
11. Speak about the division of Europe into two parts after WW II.
12. What two opposite alliances were formed?
13. What changes occurred in the British monarchy in the 1950s?

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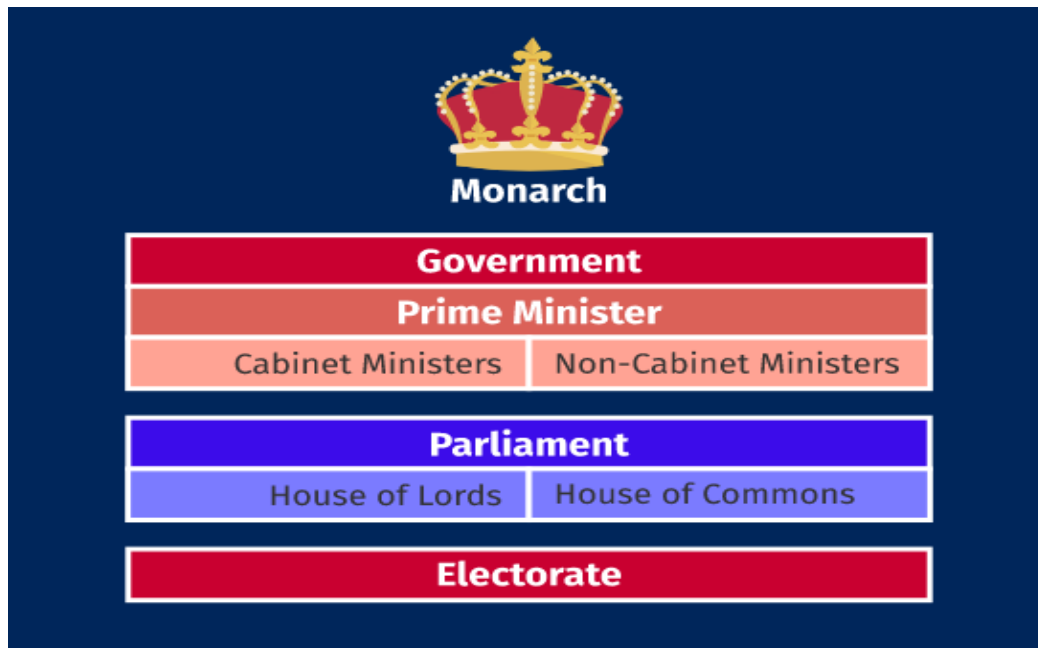
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### **Theme: 3. The Government of Great Britain. British Monarchy.**

- 1. The British monarchy**
- 2. Parliament in the Great Britain**
- 3. The constitution in the Great Britain**



In a unitary state like Great Britain, the structure of administration is tied to long-standing customs. The English monarchs enjoyed unlimited power for a very long period, yet they also had no real authority; they were only symbolic individuals who served primarily as representatives. But officially, the monarch continues to be in charge.



## Monarchy

The king, who has the authority to dissolve parliament and appoint ministers on the prime minister's recommendation, nominally oversees all three institutions of government as well as the Anglican Church. In his capacity as commander in chief, he is also responsible for making war on foreign nations.

Queen Elizabeth II currently reigns over Great Britain, as is well known. A bill presented to Parliament may be approved or rejected, but an existing legislation cannot be repealed. Great Britain doesn't have a constitution as a matter of fundamental law, and the term "parliamentary monarchy" is used to describe its system of administration. There isn't a constitution; instead, the nation is governed by a body of laws.



## Parliament

The parliament, which is comprised of the upper house of lords and the lower house of commons, is where the nation's laws are created. Territorial constituencies are used to elect members of the House of Commons, but the Prime Minister also nominates members of the government who are known as titular subjects and members of the House of Lords. Surprisingly, the House of Lords has more members than the House of Commons, typically numbering 750. Because it avoids aspects of voluntarism, a multi-level management structure like this is completely legitimate. The prime minister is chosen by the king, who then forms the new government. However, all of these characteristics are merely symbolic and have no bearing on how the country's political conflict develops.



Each minister's party affiliation plays a significant role in the Cabinet of Ministers. The prime minister must assemble his cabinet from members of the

party to which he belongs, per the rule. The prime minister and his cabinet hold the majority of the executive power in the nation. Theresa May, the head of the Conservative Party, is the current premier.

The three major political parties—Conservatives, Labor, and Liberals—represent the majority of the 650 members of the House of Commons. This variety of parties guarantees the continuation of the debate in parliament about whether switching from the current parliamentary monarchy to a constitutional monarchy is the best option for Britain. But so far, these lengthy discussions have produced little. The speaker is responsible for facilitating communication between the two chambers of the parliament. He holds a responsible job, hence he occasionally displays political bias. The speaker stays with the ruling party if it wins the election and is given a new 5-year term. Additionally, the management structure will be maintained for an additional five years. The newly chosen prime minister appoints the cabinet, which typically consists of 20 portfolios, at his discretion. Appointments to personal positions are made by the prime minister personally.

Perhaps Great Britain's democratic system of government accounts for its stability. A separate "inner cabinet" comprising ministers in charge of significant economic sectors is always present in parliament, working closely with the prime minister. In the organization of the Cabinet of Ministers, committees are formed on a variety of topics, including international and domestic policy, defense, the economy, and legislative concerns.

Elizabeth II is actually a direct descendant of Abraham, the patriarch! Elizabeth II, Queen of Great Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the word "BRIT-ANIA" itself is translated from Hebrew as "Land of the Covenant." The 12 stones on British rulers' crowns are an obvious reference to the "12 tribes of Israel."

Great Britain is formally a "constitutional monarchy." as if constrained However, the English Queen has the authority to DECLARE WAR (without any

legal limitations or justifications), to sack the government (likewise), to dissolve Parliament, and to address in front of lawmakers once a year to make requests for the near future (that is, he really shapes state policy). The crown has extensive authority over internal matters. Ministers, officials, executive body members, and other officials are appointed.

The monarch also serves as the commander of the armed forces (British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Intelligence). The sovereign has the authority to make war, make peace, and use force directly. Regarding the Queen's privileges in regard to foreign affairs, Parliamentary approval is not required for the negotiating of terms or the ratification of treaties, alliances, or international agreements. The sovereign also receives foreign diplomats and accredits British high commissioners and ambassadors. The Sovereign is respected as the source of justice and names judges for all types of trials. According to common law, the monarch "must not be tried in court for criminal offenses" because the Crown "cannot err." In actuality, the queen has complete influence over the legislative, executive, and judicial. The monarch is the Anglican Church's Supreme Ruler and has the authority to name bishops and archbishops (that is, the head of not only secular, but spiritual power, which is not found anywhere in the world, not even in Iran).

Since there is no formal constitution for the nation, laws are based on conventions and Acts of Parliament, which are widely accepted guidelines for what should be done and how. The UK is controlled by two different types of laws: the laws of law (Rules of Law) and the laws of custom (Rules of Custom).

The Magna Carta (1215) and renowned Acts of Parliament that commemorate significant moments in British history, including the Bill of Rights (1689), the Settlements Act (1701), the Reform Act (1832), and Act of Parliament (1911).

A document like Magna Carta is regarded as a component of the Constitution merely because it represents a significant turning point in national history and established the idea that the king is subject to the law, not above it. The

majority of these acts were approved by Parliament. The Bill of Rights and the Settlements Act make it clear that the king does not reign by divine right but rather with the consent of Parliament. The Reform Law allowed the upper middle class to vote, thus setting in motion a mechanism that would inevitably lead the country to democracy. An Act of Parliament stripped the Lords of their former power and the House of Lords ceased to be the determining factor in legislation, many of the principles of the British Constitution being principles of common law or rules of custom.

The Reform Law initiated a process that would inevitably bring the nation to democracy by granting the upper middle class the right to vote. Since many of the tenets of the British Constitution were common law or customary standards, an Act of Parliament delegated the Lords' former authority and eliminated their role as a deciding factor in legislation.

These are precepts that are rulings of (judicial) individual cases, not laws that were established by any statute or that were approved by Parliament. However, in actuality, precedents are equally significant and binding as the law's norms. A British monarch, for instance, is not permitted by one of the laws to wed a Roman Catholic. After a general election, it is customary for the Queen to seek advice on the formation of a new government from anyone other the leader of the ruling party. The laws of custom, or conventions as they are often known, are crucial since breaking them would constitute a legal infraction in such a serious case.

The development of individual rights and freedoms throughout the British Constitution's history can be seen as a result of conceptions of traditional freedoms and precedent rather than legal requirements.

The monarch is a symbol of the state and is depicted on banknotes, coins, and postage stamps. The monarch is formally regarded as the head of state.

The support of Parliament allows the king or queen to rule without having any real power. By the grace of God, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the nations and territories subject to her, defender

of the faith, and sovereign of the British orders of chivalry is how the current monarch, Elizabeth II, is referred to in official documents. In addition to being the head of the English Church, Elizabeth II also serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the British Armed Forces.

Only seven monarchs still reign in Europe, four of whom the British Queen shares a family connection with through her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria. No other European nation has the same regard for the institution of the monarchy as Great Britain, where royal customs are upheld through religious events and the presence of a large titled aristocracy.

The Windsor dynasty is the family of Elizabeth II. The royal family's forebears were Germans, despite the surname's "English" sound. Queen Victoria (1819–1910), the great-great-grandmother of the current Queen Elizabeth II, was born in Britain but married a German. After her marriage, Queen Victoria adopted the surname Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The royal family used to go by this last name until the First World War (1914–1918), when King George V (1865–1936) made the decision to change it to Windsor, named after one of the royal castles, in order to seem more English.

Elizabeth II, the daughter of the Duke of York, King George V's second son, was born in London in 1926. Elizabeth became the successor to the throne in 1936 after her uncle Edward VIII abdicated in favor of his father. She wed Prince Philip, a distant relative, in 1947, and succeeded to the throne in 1952 following the unexpected death of her father, King George V.

The constitutional function of the queen is primarily symbolic. The prime minister and his cabinet have real power (Tony Blair). The speech the Queen delivers while seated on the throne, which discusses the government's future goals, is written by the Prime Minister. The Queen traditionally starts Parliament every autumn. The queen has never so far declined to sign a measure approved by Parliament, despite the fact that no law can be made into law without the king's approval. The Prime Minister is formally chosen by the Queen, but customarily the leader of the party with the most Commons votes confers with her first. The



monarch's authority is thus so constrained that it is accurate to say that he "reigns, but does not govern."

The queen's primary role is ceremonial; she opens and closes Parliament, approves the appointment of the prime minister, grants royal assent to laws, presents awards and honorary titles (such as peerage and knighthood), welcomes important visitors to the nation, and gives the annual Christmas speech.

Elizabeth II's working day starts at 8:30 when she receives the most recent information compiled by the secretariat, a report on the meeting of Parliament that just took place, as well as paperwork for her to sign. The Queen visits different parts of the nation and attends groundbreaking events for landmarks, hospitals, and ships. The queen peruses the paperwork in the evening.

Hundreds of letters addressed to the Queen arrive daily at Buckingham Palace, the royal family's official residence. They arrive to Elizabeth II in huge bags that have not been opened. She chooses a few of letters at random, reads them, and asks the recipients to respond. All letters addressed to the Queen are responded to by secretaries and assistants. The amount of the pay that the Queen of Great Britain receives is set by Parliament. Elizabeth II makes roughly £1 billion sterling each year, of which 10% is used to support her personal requirements and the remainder to pay royal bonuses and the expense of upkeep of the court. Elizabeth II is one of the richest women in the world; she personally owns Regent's Park, Carlton House Terrace, Pall Mall, Piccadilly, Hallbourne, and Kensington in London, as well as 182,313 acres of land in England and 85,290 acres in Scotland. To cover the costs incurred by the state in maintaining the monarchy, taxes from a portion of the enormous income from these lands are paid to the state coffers.

The Duke of Edinburgh is the official title of Elizabeth II's husband, Prince Consort Philip. Greek island of Corfu is where Philip, the son of Greek Prince Andrew, was born in 1921. Philip was brought to England at the age of 1.5 because Greece was at war. The child received his diploma from Dartmouth Naval College and the Gordon Stone School in Scotland. Philip gave up the Greek throne before getting married and adopted British citizenship, assuming the title of Duke of

Edinburgh at the same time. The Queen's husband is not considered the current monarch in accordance with British law. It's not an easy situation for him because he needs to uphold his own dignity while also highlighting the fact that he is a target of his crowned wife.

A significant figure in society is the Duke of Edinburgh. He has a keen interest in issues related to science, technology, and business, is concerned about the upbringing and education of the younger generation, and is the most well-known authority on issues relating to nature preservation, wildlife, and rural areas. He inadvertently foresaw the vast environmental movements of today in this area of public activism.

A monarch or queen's eldest son who is the successor to the English throne is granted the title of Prince of Wales. Charles Philip Arthur George, the present Prince of Wales, was born in Buckingham Palace on November 14, 1948, the same location where all royal children were born beginning in the 18th century. When he was ten years old, Charles acquired his title. In the raising of the successor to the throne, a break from convention was permitted for the first time: the prince received his education from Gordon Stone School, renowned for its Spartan traditions, where his father studied, rather than being tutored at home. Charles studied abroad in Australia for the second semester.

The prince enrolled in St. Trinity University in Cambridge in 1967 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in history after studying history, archaeology, and ethnography there. The Prince of Wales played the lead role in the solemn event that marked his invitation to office in 1969. One of the most well-known Welsh castles, Carnarvon Castle, served as the scene of the action. This event contributed to the increased interest of the British in the monarchy. The Duchy of Cornwall is required to provide Prince Charles a 200 000 pound annual income. Charles refused to give the state half of his salary on the day he reached majority (21 in Britain), which, of course, paid off handsomely politically.

The House of Lords is made up of people who have been given the title of lord for life as well as secular peers who hold seats by right of succession, bishops

of the English church, some chief justices or lords - judges of appeal. Life peers are mostly former members of the House of Commons or other notable individuals who have excelled in a variety of spheres of public life, including science, the arts, and business.

There may be more than 1,100 Lords in the country, but only roughly 320 of them are estimated to attend daily chamber meetings; the actual number is unknown. Few of them focus solely on politics. Many people do not have any clear political allegiances, however some do belong to political parties and express their opinions. The Lord Chancellor serves as the House of Lords' president.

The House of Commons, the country's lower house, is made up of 650 members who represent every region of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A candidate who wins more votes than his closest challenger is regarded as elected to Parliament. They are chosen by the populace for a term of five years in an uninominal (i.e., one person from each constituency) majoritarian election. The Speaker of the Commons is the President of the chamber.

There are typically 80 to 100 members of the UK government, including cabinet ministers (some of whom are referred to as secretary of state), non-cabinet ministers, and junior ministers. The majority of ministers are House of Commons members, but some are also Lords members.

The prime minister, who is in charge of the government but is actually the leader of the party that got the most votes in the elections, was chosen by the monarch but serves in that capacity. The party with the most seats in the House is chosen to serve as the government, while the party with the next-highest number of seats is referred to as the "official opposition."

The cabinet of ministers, which consists of the senior leaders of the same party, is the highest body of the executive branch and has roughly 20 members. The administration is accountable for its actions in front of the House of Commons and is required to resign in the event of a vote of no confidence. All crucial government decisions are made by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Only 437 people can fit in the little chamber where the House of Commons meets. The speaker is seated at the front of the House on a separate platform. He or she usually wears a wig and a black robe. The House of Commons' members elect the Speaker, often known as the President. Additionally, despite the fact that he is a political party member and a member of Parliament, he is required to be unbiased in his decisions and not support his own political party.

The speaker's right is occupied by lawmakers from the government party, and the speaker's left is occupied by lawmakers from the opposition party. The front row is occupied by representatives of the formal opposition and government ministers, together known as the "shadow cabinet." They are permitted to speak while standing in front of a table that is situated at the speaker's chair. The other lawmakers will take the floor from their places in the back rows. They are known as "backbenchers" because of this.

Parliament meets year-round, only taking breaks for shorter durations during holidays and lengthier summer vacations. The average number of days the House of Commons and House of Lords meet each year is around 170 to 180. Although debates occasionally go past midnight, the House of Commons meets from Monday through Thursday from 14:30 to 22:30.

#### **THEME: 4. The State Symbols of Great Britain, Political Parties**

1. The union Jack
2. UK's Patron Saints
3. Floral Emblems
4. National Anthem
5. Parliament
6. Political Parties

The British National Flag is the Union Flag, commonly known as the Union Jack. It has the flag of England (St. George's Cross), the flag of Scotland (St. Andrew's cross) and Saint Patrick's cross, representing Northern Ireland. Wales is not represented in the Union Jack.

The flag of the United Kingdom is made up of three crosses. The upright red cross on a white background is the cross of the 1st George, the patron saint of England. The white diagonal cross on a blue background is the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, the red diagonal cross on a white background

is the cross of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The Welsh flag, called the Welsh dragon, represents a red dragon on a white and green background.

St. George's Day falls on 23 April and is regarded as England's national day. On this day some patriotic Englishmen wear a rose pinned to their jackets'. A red rose is the national emblem of England from the time of the Wars of the Roses (15th century). St. Andrew's Day (the 30th of November) is regarded as Scotland's national day. On this day some Scotsmen wear a thistle in their buttonhole.

As a national emblem of Scotland, thistle apparently first used in the 15th century as a symbol of defence. The Order of the Thistle is one of the highest orders of knighthood. It was founded in 1687, and is mainly given to Scottish noblemen (limited to 16 in number). St. Patrick's Day (the 17th of March) is considered as a national day in Northern Ireland and an official bank holiday there.

The national emblem of Ireland is shamrock. According to legend, it was the plant chosen by St. Patrick to illustrate the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to the Irish. St. David's Day (the 1st of March) is the church festival of St. David, a 6th-century monk and bishop, the patron saint of Wales. The day is regarded as the national holiday of Wales, although it is not an official bank holiday. On this day, however, many Welshmen wear either a yellow daffodil or a leek pinned to their jackets, as both plants are traditionally regarded as national emblems of Wales.

The Royal Coat of Arms depicts the symbols which represent the parts of the country. Three lions symbolize England, a lion rampant — Scotland, and a harp — Ireland. The whole is encircled and is supported by a lion and a unicorn. The lion has been used as a symbol of national strength and of the British monarchy for many centuries.

The unicorn, a mythical animal that looks like a horse with a long straight horn, has appeared on the Scottish and British royal coats of arms for many centuries, and is a symbol of purity.

God Save the Queen is the national anthem of the UK. In fact, it was a patriotic song, first performed in 1745. It became known as the national anthem at the beginning of the 19th century. The national anthem is played whenever the



British monarch makes a public appearance. It is also played by the British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC) every night before closedown. Besides, it is sung at the end of all-important ceremonies, including football matches and other sports events.

### GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

God save our gracious Queen,

Long live our noble Queen,

God save the Queen:

Send her victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us:

God save the Queen.

O Lord, our God, arise,

Scatter her enemies,

And make them fall.

Confound their politics,

Frustrate their knavish tricks,

On Thee our hopes we fix,

God save us all.

Thy choicest gifts in store,

On her be pleased to pour;

Long may she reign:

May she defend our laws,

And ever give us cause

To sing with heart and voice

God save the Queen.

When the monarch is a man, “Queen” is replaced by “King”.

The motto of the UK is Dieu et mon droit (French) that means God and My Right

Parliament is the supreme legislative body of the United Kingdom. The overriding function of Parliament is legislating bills, making bills lawful. But Parliament is not only lawmaking body, it is also a law-enforcing body, i. e. it has judicial functions. Other functions of Parliament are to raise money through taxation so as to enable the government to function, to question and examine government policy and administration, particularly its financial program, and to debate or discuss important political issues.

Every parliament is limited to a 5-year term of work. The work of Parliament is divided into sessions. Every session starts at the end of October or the beginning of November and lasts 36 weeks up to late August. British Parliament is composed of two houses — the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Lords appeared first as King's council of the nobility. The House of Commons originated later, in the second half of the 14th century.

The Houses work in different places, in the opposite parts of Westminster palace, but their debating Chambers are shaped in the same way which is vitally important. The arrangement of seats in both is of great significance, reflects and maintains the two-party system of Britain. Both the Houses are rectangular (not semicircular as most European Chambers) in shape with rows of benches on either side and a raised platform for the throne in the House of Lords, which is a joint present of Australia and Canada, and the Speaker's Chair in the House of Commons.

The seats for the Government and its supporters are to the Speaker's right, and the seats for the Opposition are to his left. As a result, the discussions are literal and not hypothetical. Cross benches for Independent members, or those who do not belong to either of the two major political parties, are located in front of the Speaker. The House of Commons has 5 rows of benches on both of its sides (4 rows in the Lords' Chamber). The Government (Cabinet members) and the Opposition are seated on the front benches on either side (Shadow Cabinet members). Consequently, Legislators are divided into front- and back-benchers.

Both Houses' proceedings are open to the public, and guests are allowed in the Strangers' Gallery. The House of Commons is currently chosen by a national vote.

Of its 659 members, 529 represent constituencies in England, 40 in Wales, 72 in Scotland, and 18 in Northern Ireland (119 MPs are women). The House of Commons is typically mentioned when referring to the British Parliament. Only members of the House of Commons are referred as "MP." With the majority of its members being career politicians, attorneys, economists, etc., this House is the hub of genuine political power and activity.

The majority in the House of Commons is made up of the winning party, which also forms the government. The official Opposition is made up of the party with the next-highest number of members in the House, or occasionally a coalition of other parties, and the Leader of the Opposition is a recognized post in the House of Commons.

There are only enough seats for 437 MPs. The Speaker of the House of Commons, who, despite his title, rarely speaks, is one of the most significant members of the body. The Speaker serves as the House of Commons' chairman or presiding member. He is chosen to preside over the House and uphold the rules of order by a vote of the House at the start of each new Parliament. He is unable to participate in discussions or elections. He only casts a vote when there is a tie, or when the votes are equal, and in this instance, he votes in favor of the government. The main job of the Speaker is to maintain strict control over debates, to keep fair play between the parties, the Government and opposition, between back-benchers and front-benchers.

The House of Lords is the upper house that is hereditary and unelected. There are 26 Lords Spiritual (of whom two are the archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the remaining senior bishops of the Church of England), 91 hereditary peers, and 568 life peers and peeresses established by the Life Peerages Act of 1958 as rewards for very excellent service. Their offspring do not inherit the title. Life peers comprise one-fourth women. More than 703 people, including the Supreme Court of Judicature justices, are so qualified to serve in the House of Lords (the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice). The Queen belongs to

the House of Lords so there is a throne in the Lords' Chamber from where she makes her State Opening Speech.

The Lord Chancellor's chair, which serves as the chair of the House of Lords, is also a woolsack. The Lord Chancellor, who preside over the administration of justice and is a Cabinet member by default, is not impartial, unlike the Speaker of the House of Commons. Despite being the House's leader, he has no interest in maintaining order. Any peer has the right to get up from his seat and move, showing his disagreement with a fellow peer who is speaking. Nobody raises the alarm. The majority-Tory House of Lords is made up of business executives, landlords, bankers, steel and oil barons, newspaper owners, etc. Its primary duty is to protect the interests of the wealthy, criticize the Labour Government, and postpone, alter, or completely bury measures that were against their best interests. It is frequently referred to as "the House of obstruction" or "a hangover from a former age" due to its entirely conservative nature. The Lords still enjoy a huge luxury in being able to postpone a bill for a year. During a year, the political climate may shift in the Conservatives' favor, propaganda efforts could distract from the unsettling measure, it could be forgotten about or drastically changed, losing all traces of its original intent.

The British House of Lords has the lowest quorum requirement of any parliament in the world in order to pass a resolution. A quorum of three Lords will be present and be able to make any decision. Members of the Commons are much less free to vote in accordance with their personal convictions than are members of the Lords. Only approximately 300 people attend on average per day, and the majority are peers from real life.

In addition to being a body responsible for passing laws, the Parliament also has judicial duties. The House of Lords currently does the majority of the judicial work for Parliament on a daily basis. The last Court of Appeal for Great Britain and Northern Ireland is this House. Appellations may be heard in the House Chamber or the Appellate Committee. Decisions are always made in the House itself, typically during a morning session that is specifically scheduled for this

purpose. Hearings on appeals are limited to peers who currently hold or have held high judicial office, and they are occasionally presided over by the Lord Chancellor, who is in charge of the English judicial system. The Queen's name is used to govern, and Her Majesty's government is in charge of managing the country's affairs. On the Prime Minister's advice, the Queen appoints every minister. The number of ministers in the Government can range from 80 to 100; all of them are members of one of the two Houses, with the House of Commons constituting the majority. Of course, the Prime Minister is not eligible to serve in the House of Lords. Ministers can be categorized into two categories based on how they operate:

- 1) departmental ministers, or ministers "without portfolio," who are in control of specific government agencies and are also referred to as secretaries of state; and 2) non-departmental ministers. They include the holders of traditional offices: the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord President of the Council, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster;
- 3) ministers of State — usually appointed as subordinate to government departments where the work is particularly heavy or complex and where it involves frequent travelling abroad;
- 4) junior ministers, or Parliamentary Under-secretaries — assistants of Secretaries of State.

The Cabinet is the key institution and the essence of the British government. The Prime Minister, who is the leading head and force of the Cabinet as well as of the entire government, personally selects roughly 20 ministers to make up the Cabinet. Making a cabinet is a crucial component of a prime minister's duties, and a cabinet continues to be a strong reflection of the prime minister's character. He can demand the resignation of ministers in addition to just appointing them. He has the power to remove a minister or dissolve the entire Cabinet. He is in charge of setting the order of business for Cabinet meetings. At any time, he has the power to call for a general election by dissolving the House of Commons. The Cabinet is the most powerful and strongly rooted organ of government in Britain. The powers of

the Cabinet are immensely large in every sphere of government. The Cabinet of Ministers introduce legislation, control finance, arrange the time-table of the House of Parliament, conduct foreign affairs, control the colonies, exercise supervision over every department of administration.

Even though Britain is a multiparty democracy, there are only two major parties on the political scene: the one in power and the other in opposition. The Conservative and Labour Parties are what they are today. Since the 18th century, when the opposing factions of Parliament created the Conservatives and Whigs, the two-party system has evolved.

The Conservative party was founded to protect the interests of powerful, reactionary landowners, cavaliers who sided with King Charles I during his conflict with Parliament, conservative gentry, and Church of England clergy. As the word Tories meant "Irish thief," it was an insult with a hint of ethnic hatred. The Conservative Party is now the party of the Right, associated mostly with the ideology of opposition to change and the concept of economic freedom. The Party's objectives are to uphold religion, maintain defense forces sufficient for the preservation of freedom and the avertance of war, provide freedom and opportunity by promoting free enterprise and initiative in opposition to the socialist system of state-trading and nationalization, encourage a greater diversity of property ownership, raise living standards, encourage better health, and provide more opportunities for education. The Conservative party has done a good job of positioning itself as the patriotic party. Wealthier classes support it because it makes an appeal to a "property-owning democracy," and it receives a lot of funding from important commercial and financial firms. It gives emphasis to the importance of law and order, and it is highly disciplined, tending no dissent from the leadership publicly.

The Labour Party has more open disagreements between the leadership and other party members and is less orderly but more democratic. Labour is the social justice party, but it places more of a focus on achieving wellbeing and opportunity for all members of society than it does on equality. At least in the realm of economics, it

prioritizes societal welfare over individual freedom. It has historically been dedicated to economic planning and to the nationalization of important industries. By 1990 and thereafter, its politics had drifted to the center, making them nearly identical to those of the Liberal Democrats in many respects. It currently supports diversity, individual initiative, and decentralized economic organization and has accepted a greater reliance on market forces and less on centralized control. Yet in contrast to its previous stance, it now wholeheartedly supports Britain's membership in the European Community as being necessary for the nation's political and economic future.

By its officially stated ideas and purposes the party has claimed to be progressive. Its central ideal has been the brotherhood of men. It has rejected discrimination on grounds of race or color, it has defended the right of all peoples to freedom, independence and self-government, it has supported the work for world disarmament, it has affirmed the duty of richer nations to assist poorer ones, it stood for social justice and the creation of the socialist community with a classless society and with planned economy. It claims to obtain and hold power only through free democratic institutions, by reforms.

The beginning of the Liberal Party goes back to the end of the 17th century as it descended from Whigs, an opposition to the Tory Party in Parliament. Officially it was formed in 1877. During the second half of the 19th century many working people looked to the Liberal Party to provide a policy different from that of the Tory Party and their supporters. So in the middle of the 19th century the Liberals represented the trading and manufacturing classes, supported by popular elements, who pressed for social reforms and extension of the franchise". "Civil and Religious Liberty" was taken as the Party's slogan. For long periods up to 1914 the Liberals had a parliamentary majority. While in power they introduced a number of reforms and innovations including free elementary education.

Following World War I, the Liberal Party was becoming weaker as many members of the working class and bourgeoisie defected.

The party was never able to recover from the impact of multiple electoral failures. Its influence in parliament quickly waned, and the Labour Party, which is now the Tories' main adversary and rival for power, quickly took its place. The Liberal Party and the newly formed Social Democratic Party joined in 1988 to establish the Liberal Democrats.

In an effort to challenge the dominance of the Conservative and Labour parties, a new party was founded in 1981. Several Conservatives and members of the extreme right of the Labour Party defected to the newly formed Social Democrats. The new party agreed to fight elections in alliance with the small but long-established Liberals, forming the Alliance.

After the disastrous 1987 election, the Liberal Party and Social Democratic Party combined to form the Liberal Democrats in 1988. Its objective is to win over voters who fall somewhere between Labour and the Conservatives as well as opposition to both parties and those who are fed up with their platforms. Yet, as of now, their parliamentary representation is essentially nonexistent (26% of the vote, but 8% of MPs in the 2001 General Elections). It advocates for a proportional representation system in parliament because of this. However the Party does have some influence and has the power to tilt the balance between the two biggest parties.

The Liberal Democratic Party aims to build a liberal democratic society in which every citizen shall possess liberty, property and security and none shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

### **Questions for self-check**

1. How does the British electoral system operate?
2. List the British country's major political parties.
3. Exactly when was the Labour Party founded? What served as its foundation? 4. How were the Labour Party's founding principles reflected in its policies and program?
5. How does the Labour Party currently fit into the evolution of British society? 6. What was the foundation of the Conservative Party?



7. Who supports the Conservative Party today and whose interests did it represent in the past?
8. Throughout the 20th century, how long was it in power?
9. What does "top-down" organization mean?
10. How did the Social and Liberal Democratic party come into existence?
11. How are the Liberal Democrats doing in the current British government?
12. Why are they referred to as a "centre" party?
13. What are the main nationalist parties in Britain today? Whose interests do they voice?
14. Name major parties of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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## **Theme: 5. Education System in Great Britain**

### **6. General overview of the education system of Great Britain**

### **7. Secondary education**

### **8. Professional education**

### **9. Higher education**

The British are persuaded that everything good in our lives can be traced back to England. Like all English, the UK's educational system is regarded as the gold standard. At the very least, the educational systems of other nations are frequently contrasted with those in Britain. It hasn't undergone many significant alterations since it was formed many centuries ago. Examples of distinguishing characteristics of British schools include "iron" discipline, traditional teaching techniques, a well-established educational process, and a flexible curriculum to prepare pupils for life in the workplace and society.

In the UK, the system of elite education is particularly well-represented. High-ranking families from all over the world work hard to get their kids accepted into prestigious British schools or universities because doing so ensures not only the acquisition of in-depth knowledge but also the acquisition of secular manners, the British way of acting, and extensive connections in the business and political worlds.

The British system is very adaptable. You can always find the exact training course that suits you among the various options, and if you'd like, the subjects can be modified. Anyone who passes the entrance exams, regardless of age, nationality, or religion, is eligible to enroll in a UK institution of higher learning. To do so, you must pass the international English proficiency test, provide documentation from the institution, and occasionally pass the institution's own test.

### **Secondary education**

In the UK, there are four stages of education: primary (Elementary School), secondary (Secondary School), post-secondary (Further Education), and higher education (Higher Education). Early childhood education is delivered in kindergarten and preschool settings. Primary education is provided to children from the ages of five to eleven or twelve. Five-year-olds can enroll in two-year toddler schools (pre-preparatory school), which are for pupils ages 7 to eleven (primary, elementary or preparatory school). Kids begin secondary education between the ages of 11 and 12. There are both public and private schools in the UK. Every school adheres to the same minimal educational standard. A law requiring free secondary education for all pupils under 16 was passed. Final exams are taken by school graduates, who then get a secondary education GCSE certificate (General Certificate of Secondary Education). This certificate satisfies the requirements for beginning self-employment but does not grant admission to higher education facilities.

State schools are free and meant to educate both English-speaking kids and international kids between the ages of 8 and 18, provided that their parents have the legal right to live in the UK permanently. Only foreign students between the ages of 14 and 18 are admitted to international colleges, which are secondary educational institutions. Both host families and on-campus dorms for students are available as places to stay. The British high school system is used to deliver instruction in international colleges. Math, physics, algebra and geometry, chemistry, biology, geography, human anatomy, sociology, political science, basic legal concepts, statistics, history, music, fine arts, computers and programming, English, English literature, basic religious concepts, and one or more foreign languages are all covered in class (French, German, Spanish, etc.). In addition to the required courses, each institution also offers electives including Latin, accounting, business principles, economics, and a few more.

For students interested in attending universities abroad, international colleges also offer foundational programs. Graduates who complete their studies successfully enroll in universities with whom there is a recognition agreement for

the standing of these courses. For foreign nationals who want to pursue higher education in the UK, this is a very convenient opportunity.

The main prerequisite for enrollment in a British university is a certificate of proficiency in the English language internationally. A year of study in the preparatory courses is a helpful practice period and preparation for university-level independent English study. Also, it offers the option to prepare for and pass the required language exam.

For most English-speaking youngsters (85%), private schools (also known as independent schools) are a more prestigious type of education. No more than 15% of the pupils should come from other countries. Between the ages of eight and eighteen are served by these schools. Excellent private schools are independent, well-equipped educational establishments with a land holding area of several hundred hectares, on which there are instructional structures, athletic facilities, a swimming pool, and residential dwellings. The majority of accommodations are in residences, however some schools also provide housing with local families.

Boarding schools, both public and private, typically have a solid reputation, a rich past, and traditions.

### **Professional education**

There are Tertiary Colleges in Britain in addition to schools that provide professional (Vocational) education as an alternative to A Level courses. While A Level programs prepare students for university entrance, professional education gained at tertiary colleges incorporates professional activity after graduation.

Education curricula are always evolving. The credentials granted at the conclusion of these programs are likewise evolving. The most typical professional credentials are listed below.

NVQ(National Vocational Qualification (National Vocational Qualification)). For practical work, this qualification is required. It verifies a graduate's aptitude for carrying out a certain task in a specific field of business or production. The NVQ standards are based on the actual needs and requirements of employers. It is currently possible to earn an NVQ qualification in the majority of manufacturing

and commerce. Foundation Skills (NVQ 1) through Professional are the first five levels of the NVQ (NVQ 5). The ability to carry out work in accordance with specified standards must be demonstrated in practice in order to qualify. The training takes place right there at the job. The training course is divided into discrete parts that can be mastered separately. The program does not have to be finished within a predetermined amount of time.

GNVQ (General National Vocational Qualification) (General National Vocational Qualification). It is suitable for students who enjoy practical tasks, unlike A Levels. The GNVQ is a multi-level qualification, similar to the NVQ, that offers a foundation of knowledge in the selected field that the student can use to continue their studies in colleges of further education, university admission (GNVQ). Around two years of study are needed to pass the Advanced level.

ND (National Diploma). The GNVQ Advanced qualification is comparable to this qualification. You can complete a further education program at a college of further education that culminates in tests and the award of the highest national diploma (Higher National Diploma, commonly abbreviated - HND). After two years of study in practically any academic or professional discipline, an HND is possible.

The three principal examination committees whose certificates are most highly valued and accepted in the field of vocational education are the CGLI (City & Guilds of London Institute), RSA (Royal Society of Arts), and BTEC (Business and Technical Education Council) diplomas. Many colleges allow the awarding of degrees on behalf of one of these examination boards. Some colleges either create their own degrees and certifications or obtain them from other examining bodies. The HND diploma is very important for those who will immediately enter the workforce after receiving a bachelor's degree. This diploma, from the perspective of a professional job, enables you to advance within the medium technical or junior management of a company, enterprise, institution.

The HND diploma enables you to enter one of the bachelor's degree-granting programs and finish in in two years.

Vocational education that does not result in a degree or its equivalent is included in the UK definition of "Further Education." In the UK, "higher education" (Higher Education) is defined as courses or programs that lead to the award of a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree (Doctoral or PhD Degree).

### **Higher education**

A bachelor's degree involves three years of study in England and Wales and four years in Scotland. The total time will be increased if earning a degree necessitates not only academic study but also practical experience (Sandwich courses). Students who want to major in a particular field, like art or design, may need to take a foundational course first and then devote three years to it, according to several institutions and schools.

In disciplines including medicine, dentistry, and architecture, bachelor's degree programs typically run seven years..

**Bachelor degree.** The bachelor's degree conferred in the UK can be obtained in a number of ways. Their name varies depending on the specialty. The four primary degrees are a bachelor's in arts (BA), a bachelor's in science (BSC), a bachelor's in engineering (BENG), and a bachelor's in law (LLB) (Bachelor of Law). A Bachelor of Medicine and Dentistry is also offered. After three or four years of full-time, intensive study at a university or college, the bachelor's degree is granted. The international recognition of the British bachelor's degree increases the likelihood of a successful professional career in any nation. The initial stage of higher education is the bachelor's degree. The Master's Degree is the next step.

**Postgraduate Courses.** A bachelor's degree is the first step in this level of study, which leads to master's and doctoral degrees.

**Master's Degree.** Programs can be divided into two categories: those centered on research activities and those centered on professional advancement within a particular expertise. Typically, master's programs include a series of lectures and seminars, followed by tests and a graduating project. A master's degree is given based on the outcomes of exams and the defense of a thesis. The Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) is the name of the master's research degree (Master

of Philosophy). After 1-2 years of autonomous scientific work under the supervision of a supervisor, this degree is earned. A master's degree is granted in response to the findings of this work.

**Doctoral degree** (Doctor of Philosophy - Doctoral or PhD Degree). The majority of PhD programs in the UK are solely research endeavors. There are typically no lectures or training seminars. The supervisor decides the student's area of scientific research and offers the opportunities required for research at the department or laboratory where the student is pursuing a doctorate (workplace, equipment and materials). A research program is completed in two to three years. The student must provide official reports, articles in specialized publications, and a dissertation based on published materials by the end of this time period. After a dissertation is successfully defended, a doctorate is granted.

### **Questions.**

- 1. How many years do students study for doctoral degree?**
- 2. What categories are there in the Master`s program?**
- 3. Typically how many years do Bachelor`s degree last?**

### **Literature.**

1. David Mc Dowall. An illustrated history of Britain. – Longman, 2006
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**Theme: 6. British Customs and traditions. Mass Media. Economy. Sport in the UK**

1. National days
2. Mass Media
3. Economy
4. Sport in the UK



In the United Kingdom, there are eight days off from work called public holidays each year. The following holidays fall under this category: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Bank Holiday, and Late Summer Bank Holiday. Despite the fact that the most of these holidays have religious roots, it is correct to claim that for the vast majority of people, they no longer have any religious importance and are now merely occasions for celebration, rest, and relaxation. All of the public holidays—aside from Christmas Day and Boxing Day, which are marked on December 25 and 26, respectively—are moveable, meaning they don't always fall on the same day. Easter Sunday, which occurs on the first Sunday following a full moon on or after March 21st, determines Good Friday and Easter Monday. May 1st is recognized as May Day. The last Monday in May is the Spring Bank Holiday, and the final Monday in August is the Late Summer Bank Holiday.

Besides public holidays, there are other festivals, anniversaries and celebration days on which certain traditions are observed, but unless they fall on a Sunday, they are ordinary working days. They are: St. Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, April Fool's Day, Bonfire Night (or Guy Fawkes' Night), Remembrance (or Poppy) Day, Halloween and many others including Royal Ascot — the biggest horse race in Britain, the Proms — a series of classical music concerts, the London Marathon, Harvest Festival, Dog Shows and so on.

The national capital, London, is known for its pageants and festivities, which are highly beloved by the British people. Many of them are internationally renowned and draw large numbers of visitors from all over the world. These include yearly celebrations and daily rituals. The most well-known daily events are the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace at 11.30 a.m., Ceremony of the Keys in the Tower at 10 p.m., and Mounting the Guard at Horse Guards Square. The illustrious spectacle of Trooping the Color, which commemorates the official birthday of the Queen and is held on the second Saturday in June, is among the oldest and most cherished of those events that take place every year. The Lord Mayor's Show, held on the second Saturday in November, is when the newly

elected Lord Mayor is driven in the stunning gilded coach drawn by 6 white horses to the Royal Court of Justice where he takes his oath of office and becomes second in importance in the City only to the Sovereign. These events commemorate the Queen's accession on February 6 and her birthday on April 21. They also mark the start of the legal year (Queen).

## **Christmas**

From decorating Christmas trees and hanging up stockings to pulling crackers and eating mince pies, us Britons celebrate the festive season with a range of rituals and traditions, yet we seldom stop to ask why. Discussion of the origins of such holiday customs tend to stall with: “Wasn’t it all invented by the Victorians? Or the Germans? Or was it Coca-Cola?” In fact, many date back to ancient times and have been influenced along the way by religion, pop culture and the commercialisation of Christmas. Here is everything you need to know about Christmas traditions, including the history behind the festive practices and the story of the beloved Santa Claus.

You might have trouble getting a seat if you try to board a train on December 24. On this day, December 25, many people will be returning home to spend Christmas Day with their family. For the majority of British families, this will be the most significant winter holiday. Several churches have carol services with specific hymns on the Sunday before Christmas.

On occasion, carolers can be heard singing on the streets as they solicit donations for charitable causes. They are reminded of the Christmas Carol story by Charles Dickens.

Most families use holly or brilliantly colored paper to decorate their homes, and they frequently place a Christmas tree in the front room's corner that is glistening with ornaments and lights. The story of Father Christmas starts with Saint Nicholas, a bishop who lived in Myra, Asia Minor (what is now known as Turkey) in the fourth century. He had a reputation for giving to the poor and being kind to children.

Legend has it that Saint Nicholas dropped a bag of gold down the chimney of a poor man who could not afford his daughter's dowry. The bag fell into a stocking that had been left by the fire to dry. He also dropped a bag of gold for the second daughter. The father tried to find out who this mystery benefactor was, and when he did, Saint Nicholas begged him not to reveal his identity. Word soon got out, and when anyone received a secret gift, it was always thought to be Saint Nicholas.



### **Hogmanay and First Footing**

People lock hands in a big circle and sing "Auld Lang Syne" at the stroke of midnight on December 31 to mark the beginning of the New Year "The phrase "for auld lang syne" (which translates to "in recollection of former times") was coined by Robert Burns, Scotland's most renowned poet. He used the Scotch dialect of English to write a lot of his poems.

In Scotland, New Year's Eve is a bigger holiday than it is in England, and it even has a unique name. The origin of the phrase Hogmanay is unclear "arrives from, but it has to do with making sure that everyone who comes to your house on December 31 has food and drink. On New Year's Day, it was thought that the first visitor to one's home could either bring good or ill luck. Many so tried to make arrangements for the chosen individual to be waiting outside their homes to be let

in as soon as midnight arrived. Typically, a guy with a dark complexion was picked; a woman was never considered since she would be unlucky. A lump of coal for warmth, some bread for food, and a silver coin for riches were needed items for the first footer to take. These lovely practices are still practiced in some areas of northern England.

### **Mass Media**

There are no official government newspapers in the UK. The majority of English newspapers are quite proud of their distinctive styles, and the government does not formally oversee the newspaper sector. The British population reads newspapers more than any other nation in the globe. This explains why there are so many distinct editions available. The majority of newspapers are split into two categories.

## Fleet Street

- Fleet Street has been the home of the British press for 300 years. Here are published almost all Britain's national newspapers. Here also are the headquarters of many magazines, foreign and provincial press bureaus, international news agencies



On the one side, there are "quality" newspapers that publish insightful pieces on important subjects like politics, business, and the economics.

The Times, The Guardian, The Financial Times, and The Independent are a few of the "excellent" publications. Despite their little circulation, they have a solid reputation.

On the other hand, there are "tabloids," or "popular" publications, which are seen as amusing rather than educational. Consumers purchase these publications in order to stay up to date on gossip, celebrity scandals, and sporting events.

Compared to "quality" newspapers, their circulation is far greater. In order to report sensational news, they often are smaller and employ large lettering for the headlines. The word "Daily" appears in the name of the newspaper of this type. There are usually a lot of photographs, crosswords, sketches and com mixes in these papers. Among them the most popular are Daily Express, The Sun, Daily Mail, Private Eye, Daily Mirror, Daily Star and others.

National Newspapers			
"Qualities or Heavies"		"Populares or Yellow Press"	
Dailies	Sundays	Dailies	Sundays
The Daily Telegraph	The Sunday Telegraph	The Sun	The Sunday Mirror
The Guardian	The Observer	The Daily Mirror	The Mail on Sunday
The Times	The Sunday Times	The Daily Mail	The Sunday Express
The Independent		The Daily Express	The People
The Financial Times		The Daily Star	The News of the World

In addition to daily newspapers, there are also Sunday publications. They could be either the daily newspaper' supplements or separate Sunday publications, which are usually larger and contain numerous separate pieces on various topics. These can be referred to as family papers because there is something for every member of the family to read, including love stories, mystery stories, historical information, sports, art, and much more. The word "Sunday" appears in the titles of these publications.

Quality newspapers are national, daily publications with a serious tone that primarily appeal to the upper and middle classes. They are typically distributed as



broadsheets. "Financial Times," "The Times," "The Guardian," and "The Daily Telegraph" are among them. Reports on local, national, and international news are available in "The Daily Telegraph," along with comprehensive coverage of sports and other subjects. Due to its thorough coverage of business, government, and public affairs, "Financial Times" is read primarily by professionals and business people. The news is extensively covered by "The Guardian," including pieces on social issues, the arts, education, etc. The Times is the most well-known publication. It is renowned for its mail column and represents the institutional viewpoints.

<b>"Qualities"</b>		
<b>National Dailies</b>		
<b>Title, Foundation Date</b>	<b>Political Tendency</b>	<b>Circulation</b>
The Daily Telegraph (1855)	Con	1,138,000
The Guardian (1821)	Ind (Lib)	470,000
The Times (1785)	Con	450,000
The Independent (1886)	Ind	375,000
The Financial Times (1888)	Ind	206,000

Also, there are several magazines of all kinds. In the UK, every newspaper and magazine is owned privately. The offices of numerous newspapers have migrated out of London due to the costly rent, which has diminished the prominence of Fleet Street in London, which was once recognized as the home of many publications. Mass market tabloids, often known as red-tops, middle-market tabloids, and quality broadsheets are the three main, albeit historical, categories into which UK newspapers fall.

Quality broadsheet "The Independent" started publishing a tabloid-sized compact version in addition to its usual broadsheet-sized daily in October 2003. This had a remarkable impact on circulation; sales increased by 20% year over

year. "The Times" then launched its own tiny edition in response. Both newspapers are now exclusively available in compact form.

## The Independent

- The Independent is a British newspaper published by Tony O'Reilly's Independent News & Media.
- It is nicknamed the Indy, while the Sunday edition is the Sindy.
- Launched in 1986, it is one of the youngest UK national daily newspapers.
- It is regarded as leaning to the left politically, although it has not affiliated itself to any political party.
- The Independent has a reputation for its emphasis on views, rather than on news. Not surprisingly so, T. Blair once called The Independent a "Viewspaper".



The "Guardian," which opposed the initial transition to compact, is rumored to be converting to the "Berliner," a mid-size format that falls between tabloid and broadsheet. Although their introduction has been delayed due to ownership changes, "The Daily Telegraph" may also utilize this format in the future.

## The Guardian

- The Guardian is a British national daily newspaper owned by the Guardian Media Group.
- It is unique among other British newspapers in being owned by a foundation (the Scott Trust).
- Founded by textile traders and merchants, The Guardian had a reputation as an "organ of the middle class".
- It is known to be to the left of political spectrum. This is reflected in the paper's readership.
- It's nickname is **Grauniad** because the paper has a reputation for frequent typographical errors.



## 1. 2. Television

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Independent Broadcasting Authority are in charge of overseeing broadcasting in the United Kingdom (IBA). The IBA is in charge of overseeing local independent TV networks and those they have acquired from other regions.

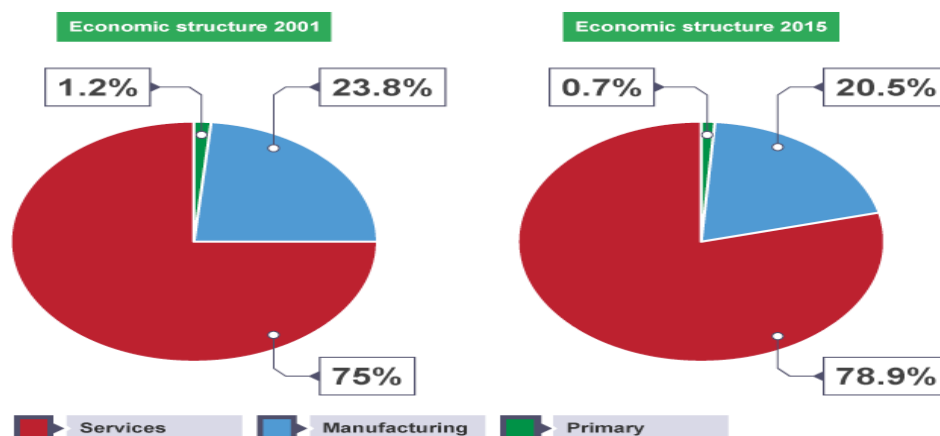
UK-based media outlets and broadcasters Two public broadcasters, the BBC and Channel 4, as well as two private broadcasters, ITV and Five, make up

analogue terrestrial television in the United Kingdom. BBC One, BBC Two, ITV, Channel 4, and Five are the top five free-to-air analog channels. The transition from analog terrestrial transmissions to digital terrestrial, cable, and satellite television is now taking place. The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) are in charge of overseeing broadcasting in the United Kingdom (IBA). Local independent TV businesses in each region, as well as those they have acquired from other regions, are under the supervision of the IBA.

BBC, ITV, and other UK media outlets The BBC and Channel 4 are two of the public broadcasting organizations that make up analogue terrestrial television in the UK. ITV and Five are two of the commercial broadcasting organizations. ITV, Channel 4, BBC One, BBC Two, and Five are the five main free-to-air analog channels. In favor of digital terrestrial, cable, and satellite television, analog terrestrial transmissions are currently being turned off.

### **Economy of UK**

The UK's economy has not changed as much as the population structure or the ethnic composition since 2001:



Between 2001 and 2015 there has been a decline in primary and manufacturing industries and an increase in services.

#### **Decline in primary and secondary industries**

This decline is also known as deindustrialisation, and has been happening since the 1980s. One reason for this deindustrialisation is the increase in food imports, mechanisation of farming and the consequent decline in agricultural



activity in the UK. In addition, raw materials such as coal are in abundance and are more affordable overseas, and are therefore imported, reducing these primary industries in the UK. The increase in competition from emerging and developing countries (EDCs) (particularly China) and cheaper transportation costs has caused manufacturing, such as textiles to be outsourced. This has caused secondary industries in the UK to close.

### **Growth in services**

There has been a rise in the importance of the service industries - particularly the quaternary sector, also known as knowledge-based industries (KBI). This is as a result of the growth of financial services based in London as well as the development of new KBI jobs such as web design.

### **The north-south divide in the UK**

It has long been recognised that there is a north/south divide in the UK.

Although there have been attempts to attract investment into the north, many businesses are choosing to set up in the south. This creates a large wealth divide and those living in the north of the country experience significantly different social and economic conditions from those living in the south.

### **Strategies to resolve regional differences**

Resolving regional differences is a difficult task. The government have agreed devolution measures, which gives additional power and money to councils in the north. An example is the NTCA (North of Tyne Combined Authority.) The NTCA was established in North East England in 2018. It allows the area to make some of their own decisions about how to spend money. The government have agreed a devolution deal, where an investment fund worth £600m has been promised to the NTCA over the next 30 years.



### MediaCity UK, Salford

Some people believe that professional jobs need to be created in the north. The popularity of universities such as Manchester and Leeds has encouraged professionals to settle in the north. The relocation of some businesses and organisations can also help. For example, the BBC built MediaCityUK in Manchester and moved many of its offices there in 2011. A recent report has suggested that MediaCityUK has helped Salford to become a “creative and digital cluster”. It also found that employment in Salford grew by 142% between 2010 and 2019. Since 2011, the multiplier effect has led to other companies locating close by, eg the Holiday Inn.

### **Sport in UK**

Sports of all kinds play an important part in many people's lives. There are several sports that are particularly popular in the UK. Many sporting events take place at major stadiums such as Wembley Stadium in London and the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Local governments and private companies provide sports facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, football pitches, dry ski slopes and gymnasiums. Many famous sports, including cricket, football, lawn tennis, golf and rugby, began in Britain.

The UK has hosted the Olympic games on three occasions: 1908, 1948 and 2012. The main Olympic site for the 2012 Games was in Stratford, East London. The British team was very successful, across a wide range of Olympic sports, finishing third in the medal table.

The Paralympic Games for 2012 were also hosted in London. The Paralympics have their origin in the work of Dr Sir Ludwig Guttman, a German refugee, at the Stoke Mandeville hospital in Buckinghamshire. Dr Guttman developed new methods of treatment for people with spinal injuries and encouraged patients to take part in exercise and sport.

### **Cricket**

Cricket originated in England and is now played in many countries. Games can last up to five days but still result in a draw. The idiosyncratic nature of the game and its complex laws are said to reflect the best of the British character and sense of fair play. You may come across expressions such as 'rain stopped play', 'batting on a sticky wicket', 'playing a straight bat', 'bowled a googly' or 'it's just not cricket', which have passed into everyday usage. The most famous competition is the Ashes, which is a series of Test matches played between England and Australia.

### **Football**

Football is the UK's most popular sport. It has a long history in the UK and the first professional football clubs were formed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each have separate leagues in which clubs representing different towns and cities compete. The English Premier League attracts a huge international audience. Many of the best players in the world play in the Premier League. Many UK teams also compete in competitions such as the UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Champions League, against other teams from Europe. Most towns and cities have a professional club and people take great pride in supporting their home team. There can be great rivalry between different football clubs and among fans.

### **Horse Racing**

There is a very long history of horse racing in Britain, with evidence of events taking place as far back as Roman times. The sport has a long association with royalty. There are racecourses all over the UK. Famous horse racing events include: Royal Ascot, a five day race meeting in Berkshire attended by members of

the Royal Family; the Grand National at Aintree near Liverpool; and the Scottish Grand National at Ayr. There is a National Horseracing Museum in Newmarket, Suffolk.

### **Golf**

The modern game of golf can be traced back to 15th century Scotland. It is a popular sport played socially as well as professionally. There are public and private golf courses all over the UK. St Andrews in Scotland is known as the home of golf. The Open Championship is the only 'Major' tournament held outside the United States. It is hosted by a different golf course every year.

### **Water Sports**

Sailing continues to be popular in the UK, reflecting our maritime heritage. A British sailor, Sir Francis Chichester, was the first person to sail single-handed around the world passing the Cape of Good Hope (Africa) and Cape Horn (South America), in 1966/67. Two years later, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston became the first person to do this without stopping. Many sailing events are held throughout the UK, the most famous of which is at Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Rowing is also popular, both as a leisure activity and as a competitive sport. There is a popular yearly race on the Thames between Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

### **Motor Sports**

There is a long history of motor sport in the UK, for both cars and motor cycles. Motor car racing in the UK started in 1902. The UK continues to be a world leader in the development and manufacture of motor-sport technology. A Formula 1 Grand Prix event is held in the UK each year and a number of British Grand Prix drivers have won the Formula 1 World Championship. Recent British winners include Damon Hill, Lewis Hamilton and Jensen Button.

### **Questions for self-check**

1. How many kinds of newspapers there are in the UK?
2. How British people categorize newspapers?
3. Which magazine is tend to be the best-selling in UK?
4. Which organizations are responsible for the broadcasting system in UK?

- 5.What is analogue terrestrial television?
- 6.Is there any difference in programming between London and other sides of England?
- 7.How many analogue channels there are in UK?
- 8.What are the most popular kinds of sport in UK?
- 9.How many days can last Cricket up to the end of the game?
- 10.How many national teams in football there are in UK?
- 11.What is the most oldest sport in UK?

### **Literature.**

1. David Mc Dowall. An illustrated history of Britain. – Longman, 2006
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## **Theme: 7. United States of America. General Information**

### **1. Geographical position of the USA.**

### **2. Population and density**

**Area** - 9519.4 thousand km<sup>2</sup>.

**Population (2018)** - 328 million.

## **The capital - Washington.**



The United States of America is the third most populous country in the world and ranks fourth in terms of area. The United States is also one of the most powerful nations in the modern world in terms of its economy, politics, and science and technology. The United States of America's territory is divided into three sections: the continental states in the center of North America, Alaska in the northwest, and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

The Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans are all accessible to the United States.

On land, it has only two borders: Canada and Mexico. The longest border in the world is that which separates the United States from Canada. The USA shares a border with Russia through the Bering Strait.

The president is the head of state and government in the United States.

The 50 states that make up the United States of America are united under a federal structure with the district of Columbia acting as its capital. There are 48 states in the continental states plus the District of Columbia, with Alaska being the 49th state and Hawaii being the 50th state (Washington).

### **Resources and environmental conditions.**

The USA's vast geography results in a wide range of natural conditions. Most of the continental states' eastern and central regions are made up of plains,



and their western region is traversed by various branches of the Cordillera mountains. The topography of the states of Alaska and Hawaii is also mainly mountainous. Denali (formerly McKinley) is located in the territory of Alaska, the highest point of the North American continent - 6194 meters high.



The lowest point of the continent - **Death Valley** (-86 m) is also located in California, USA. The USA has large reserves of coal, oil, natural gas, iron, ores of various non-ferrous metals, and mineral salts. Especially the western mountainous regions of the country are rich in mineral resources. But due to the large volume of industrial production in the USA, the country imports many types of mineral raw materials.



The territory of the continental states is mostly temperate and subtropical, most of Alaska is subarctic and arctic, and the Florida peninsula and the Hawaiian Islands are in the tropical climate region. Tropical storms (tornadoes) often occur in areas adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. The USA is rich in water and hydropower

resources. The largest rivers of the country are Mississippi, Missouri, Rio Grande, Colorado, Columbia.

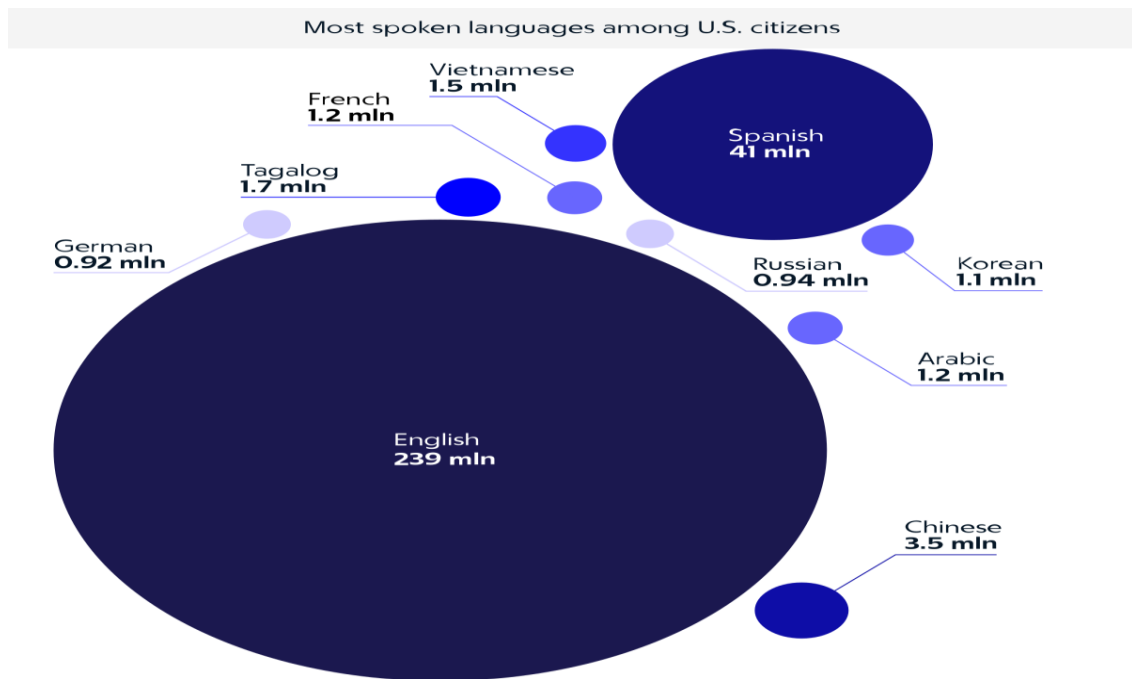
The indigenous people of the United States are the American Indians. But at present, Indians make up a very small part of the country's population. The majority of Americans are descendants of those who immigrated from European countries at different times. At the same time, the share of immigrants from Latin American countries (especially Mexico), blacks, mulattoes and other racial groups in the population of the United States is much higher and is increasing.

In the USA, since 1790, censuses have been conducted regularly every 10 years. From 1790 to 2010, the population of the United States increased almost 80-fold and continues to grow. At the current stage, the natural increase of the population of the United States is 0.3-0.4% annually, which is much lower than the world average (1.2%), but the average of developed countries (0.0%) is relatively high.

Migration growth is equal to 1-1.5% annually. In the USA, the share of urban residents is higher than 80%. The largest cities are New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia. 3 megapolises were formed in the USA: "Boston-Washington" (Boswash) in the northeast, "Chicago-itsburg" (Chipits) along the Great Lakes and "San Francisco-San Diego" along the Pacific Ocean ( Sansan).

The official language of the USA is English. Also, 50million of its population. Almost every person speaks Spanish in everyday life. The share of Spanish-speaking Americans is especially high (20-45%) in the states of New Mexico, California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, which are located near the Mexican border. The average population density in the USA is 35 people per 1 km<sup>2</sup>, but it varies greatly in different parts of it. This is mainly influenced by natural conditions. The Northeastern, Southeastern, and Western oceanic states have the highest population density, while mountain states, especially Alaska, are sparsely populated.





### Interesting facts

“We trust in God” was adopted as the nation's official slogan in 1956. All American banknotes today bear this design, which most likely developed during the American Civil War.

The Statue of Liberty's crown has seven rays, which stand for the seven continents. They each measure 2.75 m in length and weigh 68.5 kg.

You are wealthier than 25% of Americans if you have \$10 in your pocket and no debt. Almost \$21 trillion of US debt is held abroad, and that burden is only increasing. In the US, almost 40% of babies are born outside of marriage. Interestingly, every 8th couple met on the Internet.

Statistics show that even though 74% of Americans believe in God, 42% of them also believe in ghosts, 26% in witches, and 24% in reincarnation. In addition, with around 30% of all scientific articles published worldwide, the United States leads the globe in terms of production.

The USA has a special four corners monument (Four Corners Monument). Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado intersect here for the first time, making it unique among American states. The original marker was erected as a concrete platform in 1912, then a bronze disk in 1931, and finally a contemporary four-cornered monument in 1992.

The official state language of the USA is not English. It has been suggested multiple times to give English, which is spoken by 80% of Americans, official status. But a federal level decision of this nature has never been taken.

Interracial unions were outlawed in the United States from 1776 through 1967.

### **Questions**

3. When was Four-corner monument built in USA?
4. Who were indigenous people of the United States?
5. Where is the lowest point of the continent in the USA?
6. What does the climate of USA like?
7. What are the largest rivers in the USA?

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## **THEME: 8. History of the USA**

1. America before colonial times
2. European Discovery
3. The Colonial Heritage

4. The Movement for Independence
5. The Civil War and Reconstruction
6. A New Place in the World.
7. The United States in World War II

The history of the United States is the story of a great nation that was carved out of a wilderness by a brave and freedom-loving people. The men and women who built the United States came from almost every part of the world, They represented many different nationalities and religions.

Through the years, the people and their descendants learned to live and work together, and to take pride in being Americans. This spirit of cooperation and pride helped make the United States the huge, powerful, and wealthy nation it is today. It also helped the country and its people survive many challenges and hardships - including dangers in the wilderness, wars, social turmoil, and economic depressions.

For thousands of years, Indians were the only inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere. Most scientists believe they wandered into North America from Asia about 15,000 years ago. They spread across the hemisphere to the tip of South America. Probably about 6,000 years ago, Eskimos - another Asian people - moved to the Western Hemisphere. They soon spread eastward across the Arctic part of North America. They remained only in the far north, near the Arctic Circle.

The main historic events of the USA. The Vikings visited the continent of North America almost a thousand years ago, but they were seamen and fighters and they did not try to settle on the land or make its discovery known. It was not really discovered until Christopher Columbus, exploring for the King and Queen of Spain, arrived in 1492. He didn't know that the big continents of North and South America blocked the way. He was sure that because the Earth was round, he could reach India, China and Japan by sailing west. He died believing that he had found the Far East, and never understood that he had discovered new continents.



After Columbus, there were many trips of exploration by the Spanish, the Dutch, the French and the English, but the first permanent English colony was not started until 1607. This was in Virginia, where the settlers found out from the Indians how to grow tobacco. Tobacco was very popular in Europe and Virginia became a rich colony. Farther north, in New England, the land was being settled by people who left their homes in England, and England had several growing colonies along the Atlantic coast. Most of the settlers were English and they brought the English language, culture and customs to the new land.

### **The Movement for Independence**

The colonists bitterly opposed the new British policies. They claimed that the British government had no right to restrict their settlement or deny their freedom in any other way. They also strongly opposed British taxes. The colonists were not represented in Parliament. Therefore, they argued, Britain had no right to tax them.



### **The Declaration of Independence**

Thirteen colonies sent delegates to the Philadelphia Continental Congress in 1774. The Declaration of Independence, which the delegates signed on July 4, 1776, announced the founding of the United States of America. Since that time,

Americans have observed July 4 as an official national holiday known as Independence Day.

The Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America. Written by Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, the declaration was a sweeping indictment of the king, Parliament, and the British people. It also set forth certain self-evident truths that were basic to the revolutionary cause. It said that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To protect those rights, men organized governments, and the governments derived their powers from the consent of the governed. But when a government ceased to preserve the rights, it was the duty of the people to change the government, or abolish it and form a new one.

The war of Independence or the American Bourgeois Revolution (1775-1783). The rapid development of the British colonies in America in the 18th century gave rise to the so-called "American problem". The French and Indian War was over in 1763. The American colonies helped England in this war. The northern country of Canada now belonged to England and the French were driven out of the fertile western river valleys. George III, King of England, wanted to draw the American colonies closer to the mother country. New laws were passed and the colonists had to pay new high taxes to support England. These post-war decisions stimulated an evergrowing movement of protest which exploded into the War of Independence.



The Continental Congress authorized an American army appointing George Washington its commander. But Britain didn't agree with the Declaration until 1783, when the American colonists won in the War of Independence. So after the

years of bitter fighting the United States at last were recognized as a new independent country. George Washington had led the army in its successful fight. He was elected the new country's first president.

### **Forming a New Nation**

The initial 13 states of the United States were composed of the original 13 colonies. America's territory west of the Appalachians was eventually split up into territories. The United States Constitution was drafted by American statesmen in 1787. The Constitution established the nation's fundamental laws and united it into a strong political entity. Some of the most illustrious and significant personalities in American history were among the ones who penned it. These included Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Alexander Hamilton of New York, and George Washington and James Madison of Virginia.

### **Establishing a Government**

As soon as the Americans proclaimed their independence, they started establishing a new form of government. Before the Revolutionary War was over, each of the newly formed states had its own constitution. People were granted various liberties by the state constitutions, most frequently including freedom of speech, religion, and the press. The Articles of Confederation, a set of laws, were used by the states to create the federal government in 1781.

### **Expansion**

During the early 1800s, settlers by the thousands moved westward over the Appalachian Mountains into the new states and territories. Many of these pioneers even settled beyond the country's western boundary. They flocked into Texas, California, and other western lands belonging to Mexico. Americans also settled in the Oregon Country, a large territory between California and Alaska claimed by both Britain and the United States. During the mid-1800's, the United States gained control of the Mexican lands and the southern part of the Oregon Country, and the nation extended from coast to coast. The pioneers were brave, hardy people who went west in search of a better life. They were attracted by the West's open land,

good farmland, and rich mineral and forest resources. Through hard work, they settled the

Western wilderness - as earlier Americans had done in the East. The pioneers included Easterners from both the North and South. Many other pioneers came from Europe. Some people went west in search of religious freedom. The best known of these were the Mormons, who settled in Utah in 1847

### **The Civil War (1861-1865).**

The American Revolution opened a new stage in the transformation from feudalism to capitalism, but it failed to abolish slavery. The struggle of the American colonies for political and economic freedom from Great Britain activated the anti-slavery movement. Slavery as a source of cheap labour was instituted in America as early as the 1660s. Many poor people came to America to escape political oppression and economic exploitation. They had to work on a master's land for some years as payment for their transportation from Europe. But it was impossible to enslave the entire working population and therefore the enslavement of black Africans became a source of cheap labour available. Negroes brought by force from their African homeland to America were turned to slaves. Almost all of them were in the South where southern planters made them plant and pick the great cotton crops. Cruelty was an integral part of the slave system. Slave revolts were frequent.

Slavery became a shame to the American nation. Many people in the North opposed slavery and took part in anti-slavery actions. The problem was not solved even in Congress. The southern states left the Union and the Civil War between the North and the South broke out.





The Civil War greatly affected the course of American history. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which committed the nation to stamp out slavery in the southern states. The American slavery was crushed, the nation was unified. But the fight for Negro rights has not been yet ended.

## Reconstruction

Toward the end of the Civil War, the North set out to establish terms under which Confederate States would be readmitted to the Union. The process, through which the South returned, as well as the period following the war, is called Reconstruction.



Northerners divided into two groups over Reconstruction policy. One group, called the moderates, wanted to end the bitterness between the North and South and favored avoiding harsh treatment of the rebels. Members of the other group, the radicals, believed that the South should be punished. They also wanted a policy that would ensure that blacks received better treatment in the South than they had before the war.

## Industrialization and Reform

The industrial growth that began in the United States in the early 1800s continued steadily up to and through the Civil War. Still, by the end of the war, the typical American industry was small. Hand labor remained widespread, limiting the



production capacity of industry. Most businesses served a small market and lacked the capital needed for business expansion.



The Great Depression did not just affect Americans. Almost every other nation in the globe was affected. The difficult times in certain nations aided in the election of dictators who pledged to revive the economy. Adolph Hitler ruled Germany as one of the dictators, and a collection of military officials ruled Japan. After gaining control, both Hitler and the Japanese emperors started annexing neighboring countries. They caused World War II, the worst conflict in human history, as a result of their acts. From 1941 through 1945, the US participated in the war as a combatant and was crucial to its victory.



Japan and Germany. The United States experienced a huge sense of relief and satisfaction after winning World War Two. The economy flourished after World War II. A big, prosperous middle class was formed as more individuals than ever before shared in the prosperity.

Yet, issues persisted for Americans. The expanding Communist danger, the new nuclear threat, and the resentment of Americans who did not benefit from the affluence were the three main ones.

## **The United States in World War II**

The German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, marked the start of World War Two. The Allies, which included France, Great Britain, and other countries, declared war on Germany. America initially stayed out of the conflict. Yet on December 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft attacked the US military installation in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On December 8, the United States declared war on Japan. Three days later, it did the same for Germany and Italy, which was Germany's main ally.

### **The War Effort**

The American people gave the war effort their unwavering support. In the armed forces, about 15 million American males participated. They included individuals far over 40 and men in their teens. Over 338,000 women served in the military. At home, companies that made cars and other goods were transformed into defense facilities that produced aircraft, ships, guns, and other supplies for fighting. Due to a lack of civilian men in the country, hundreds of women worked in the defense industries. They jokingly and admiringly referred to the female defense workers as "Rosie the Riveter." Even young people participated in the fighting effort. Used tires, empty tin cans, and other items that could be repurposed and utilized to make supplies for the fight were gathered by boys and girls.



The Japanese bombed U.S. naval bases in a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as commander in chief of the military, obtained an official declaration of war from Congress. Japan's partners in the Axis, Italy and Germany, then declared war on the United States. The Allies fought against the German Nazis, the Italian Fascists, and Japan's military empire. This was truly a world war, with battles fought in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Ocean.

## **Questions**

1. How did the history of the USA begin?
2. Who are Paleoamericans?
3. When did settlers by the thousands move westward over the Appalachian Mountains into the new states and territories?
4. What are the results of the first English settlement of 1607?
5. How did George Washington contribute to the American Revolution and what kind of strategy did he lead?
6. In early years of Republic (19th century), there were Jeffersonian Republican era, era of Good feelings and Reconstruction era. What can you say about each of these periods?
7. When did Japanese bombe U.S. naval bases in a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii?

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## **Theme: 9. The Government of the USA**

- **The United States of America and its states.**
- **The Constitution of the USA.**
- **The Congress of the USA**

The fifty states that make up the United States of America are governed by a federal constitutional republic, along with the federal district of Columbia, where

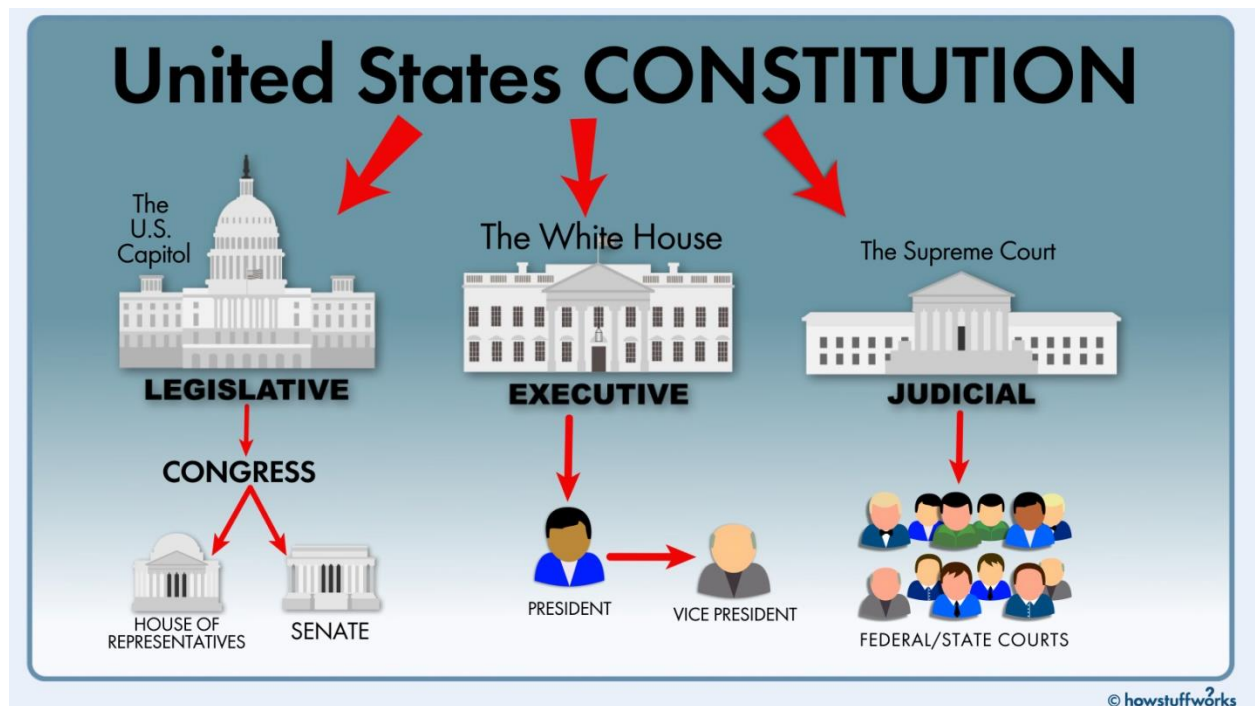
Washington, D.C., is located, and several territories with special status, including Puerto Rico, the American Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palmyra Atoll.



The US Constitution establishes the structure of the US government. The US federal government structure, relations between the federal and state governments, and relations with individuals are all governed by the Constitution. The division of powers into the legislative, executive, and judicial branches is a principle outlined in the US Constitution. Such a strategy is intended to maintain the current democratic system by balancing all the institutions of power without favoring any of them.

The capital of the United States, Washington, a city created specifically to house the supreme authority, is where the federal government of the United States of America is headquartered. Washington is situated in the District of Columbia, which is not one of the country's 50 states.

The US Congress is the American state's highest legislative body. Congress has the authority to coin money, establish the postal service, choose the units of measurement, establish courts (subordinate to the Supreme Court), establish the military and maintain it, declare war, set federal taxes, all of these things, as well as many other things. Additionally, Congress creates the laws required for the US federal government to execute all the authority entrusted to it by the US Constitution.



In circumstances when it is expressly permitted by law, Congress may institute impeachment procedures, which result in the removal of the President of the United States, federal judges, and other government officials from their positions. The District of Columbia may also be directly administered by the US Congress (although in practice the city is governed by a mayor and city council).

The Capitol, a stunning structure in the heart of Washington, serves as the US Congress's headquarters.

Two chambers make up the US Congress. There are 100 senators who are chosen to serve terms of six years in the Senate, the upper house of Congress. The upper house of Congress has two senators from each of the fifty states that make up the United States. The House of Representatives, the lower chamber of Congress, is composed of 435 members. State representation in the House of Representatives is based on population and is determined by constituencies, and they are elected for two years. The President of the United States, who serves as both the head of state and the federal government, is in charge of the executive branch. One person is only permitted to serve as President of the United States for a maximum of two terms.

Any law enacted by Congress or any executive order issued by the President may be overturned by the US Supreme Court. A US Constitutional Amendment

must be passed in order to reverse the Supreme Court's ruling (this has occurred three times in American history. Washington, D.C., is home to the US Supreme Court as well as other federal and state government offices.

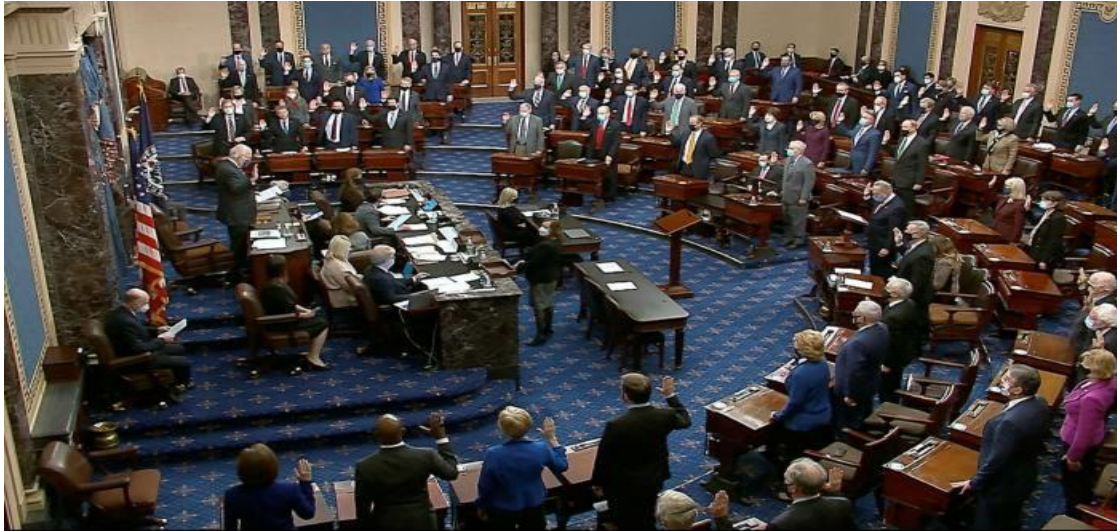
Based on state population, the composition of the House of Representatives is determined. There are now 6 non-voting members and 435 voting members of the House (congressmen and congresswomen). According to a law passed by Congress in 1842, each congresswoman (congresswoman) represents a particular congressional district. The number of districts (1 district = 1 congressman or congresswoman), as determined by the United States Census, which is conducted in the United States every ten years, depending on the population in the states, previously determined the makeup of the House of Representatives (that is, the number of congressmen is directly related to the size of the population that elects them). So, 30,000 votes were counted for each electoral district at the time of their creation in 1842, and each district nominated one congressman. By the middle of the 19th century, 65 congressmen elected in this way were seated in the US House of Representatives.

The formula for evenly distributing the 435 mandates among the states according to their populations was created in 1929 after the number of delegates was set at 435 in 1913. (Act on Reapportionment of 1929) Every state has at least one representative in the House of Representatives. Age (must be at least 25 years old), citizenship (must have been a US citizen for at least 7 years), and residency are requirements for passive suffrage in the House of Representatives (the obligation to reside in the state you represent). A congressman may run for reelection an unlimited number of times during their initial two-year tenure. ix non-voting members (five delegates each from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Federal District of Columbia) represent US territory that do not have statehood.

The Senate has a fixed membership of 100 senators, two from each state, regardless of population. The term of office for senators is six years, as opposed to four for representatives. The Senate's membership is changed by a third every two



years. Senators were appointed by state legislatures prior to 1913; however, as of that year, they have been chosen by popular vote. The US Senate's passive suffrage system is similar to that of the US House of Representatives' passive suffrage system. The majoritarian election method is used to elect senators and members of congress with a reelecting majority. Louisiana, Georgia, and Maine and Alaska are the outliers, which allow rating voting and conduct ballot-only elections, respectively.



Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution of 1787 outlines the authority of the U.S. Congress:

- to authority to impose and collect taxes, charges, levies, and excises on the United States' behalf;
- To set units of measurement and weights, produce coins, and control their value and the value of foreign currency;
- To impose sanctions on those who counterfeit currency or securities;
- To erect postal infrastructure, including roads;
- To give authors and inventors temporary patents to protect their intellectual property;
- To establish federal courts under the Supreme Court's jurisdiction;
- To combat acts of piracy and robbery on the high seas as well as crimes against international law;
- to start of war;

- to create and keep armies;
- to assemble and supply a fleet;
- to establish rules for the conscription, organizing, arming, and discipline of the militia to ensure that the Union's laws are followed, uprisings are put down, and invasions into its territory are repelled;
- exercise exclusive legislative authority over the District of Columbia; control trade with both domestic and international entities;
- Make legislation that the executive branch must abide by.
- The Constitution's limitations on Congress' authority must be followed.

The House of Representatives and the Senate are equal chambers of the bicameral Congress, but each of them has its own special exclusive powers and prerogatives. For example, the Senate must approve (with the wording "advice and consent"; English "advice and consent") many important presidential appointments, including US Cabinet officials, federal judges (including Supreme Court judges), federal ministers (heads of industry bodies of federal executive power - "departments", in the Russian translation usually referred to as "ministries"), senior officers of the US Armed Forces and ambassadors in foreign countries (section 2 of article II of the Constitution). All revenue bills must originate in the House of Representatives (Section 7 Article I of the Constitution). The President must sign the measure into law after it has been adopted by both houses of Congress (a presidential veto may be overridden by a 2/3 majority in each house, at which point the President's signature is no longer necessary) (section 7 of article I of the Constitution). The President and federal judges are among the federal authorities who can be impeached by Congress. While the impeachment process itself and the final judgment about this procedure belong to the Senate, the House of Representatives always initiates the impeachment (section 3 of article I of the Constitution).

### **Questions**

8. What rights does the USA Congress have according to the Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution of 1787?



9. How many chambers does the USA Congress have?
10. When is the President`s veto not necessary?
11. How many senators are in the Senate of the USA?
12. Where is the headquarter of the US Congress?

## **Theme: 10. The State Symbols of the USA**

### **1. Symbols of the United States**

### **2. National anthem and National motto**

Every country has symbols, which are particular artifacts that stand for the ideals, traditions, or other intangible concepts that define that nation. Even while these emblems may alter with time, they can serve as a unifying force within a country by serving as a reminder of its past and core values. The following is a list

of the national emblems of the United States of America, one of the oldest democracies in the world: The American bald eagle has long served as the country's emblematic bird. The Great Seal of the United States, which features a bald eagle holding 13 olive branches in one talon and 13 arrows in the other, was adopted by the Continental Congress in 1782. The olive branch stands for the power to make peace, while the arrows stand for the power to make war.

The bald eagle's appearance on the United States' Great Seal in 1782 led to its status as a national emblem. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams were tasked by the Continental Congress with creating the new country's official seal shortly after the Declaration of Independence was formally adopted on July 4, 1776. The three Founding Fathers, as well as two subsequent committees tasked with creating a design, were unable to produce one that was accepted by Congress.

In mid-June 1782, the work of all three committees was handed over to Charles Thomson, the secretary of Congress. Thomson chose what he thought were the best elements of the various designs and made the eagle—which had been introduced by artistically inclined Pennsylvania lawyer William Barton in a design submitted by the third committee—more prominent. (Since ancient times, the eagle has been considered a sign of strength; Roman legions used the animal as their standard, or symbol.)



Thomson also recommended that the small, white eagle used in Barton's design be replaced with an American bald eagle, and Congress adopted this design on June 20, 1782. (Contrary to legend, there's no evidence Ben Franklin protested to Congress about the choice of the bald eagle and lobbied for the turkey, although

in a 1784 letter to his daughter he did label the bald eagle “a bird of bad moral character.”)

As the design went on to appear on official documents, currency, flags, public buildings and other government-related items, the bald eagle became an American icon.

Despite its symbolic significance, America’s majestic national bird has faced a real-life threat of extinction. In the late-1800s, the country was home to 100,000 nesting bald eagles, but the number of birds soon dwindled due to such factors as habitat destruction and hunting.

In 1940, Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act, making it illegal to possess, kill or sell the birds. A new threat arose when they began eating prey contaminated with DDT, a pesticide that came into wide use following World War II. In the 1960s, there were only around 400 breeding pairs left in the continental U.S., and in 1978 the bald eagle was put on the endangered species list.

Thanks to federal protections as well as regulations involving DDT, in 1995 the bald eagle population had recovered enough for the bird’s status to be changed from endangered to threatened, and in 2007 it was removed completely from the list.

The Star-Spangled Banner, our national anthem, has a fascinating past. Following his observation of the British Navy shelling ships during the Battle of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key composed the poem that would become the National Anthem's lyrics in 1814. The melody was "stolen" from a well-known British song's melody. In 1931, the song replaced a number of other songs that were frequently sung at public ceremonies as the official national anthem. The picture of conflict in the song and the difficulty the music presents to singers make it rather divisive.

Uncle Sam is a representation of the American government that first appeared during the War of 1812. He is shown as an older, bearded man wearing attire that is reminiscent of the American flag. Uncle Sam is frequently depicted in political cartoons and commercials. Uncle Sam's use as a World War I army

recruitment tool is arguably his most well-known image. Uncle Sam is depicted sternly pointing at the viewer on a James Montgomery Flagg poster with the phrase, "I Want YOU for the U.S. Army."

The French people gave the United States the Statue of Liberty, formally known as Liberty Enlightening the World. The statue of Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom, was dedicated in 1886. The statue, which is in New York Harbor, is holding a torch in one hand and a law tablet in the other.

The tablet bears the date of the Declaration of Independence. At Liberty's feet is a broken chain. The statue is a well-known emblem of liberation. A replica of the statue was built in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, and protesters from all over the world have used it as inspiration in their battles for political freedom.



The 50 stars (representing the 50 states) and 13 stripes (representing the 13 colonies that rebelled against British authority and formed the first states of the Union) in red and white make up the national flag of the United States of America. As getting ready for the Battle of Baltimore, the flag's initial production was ordered. With 15 stars and 15 stripes in honor of the 15 states that made up the Union in 1812, it measured 42 feet in length and 30 feet in height. The stars on this flag were slightly tipped to the left and right, while the stars on the current national flag are all directed upward taken on in 1960.

National Motto: In God, We Trust. "In God, we trust" was adopted to be the motto of the United States in 1952 by a joint resolution of the Congress. It replaced the common but unofficial motto of 'E pluribus unum' (Latin for 'one out of many') that is inscribed on the great seal. It appeared on the country's coins in 1864. The

motto was printed on paper currency (one-dollar note) in 1957. It is also the motto of the Republic of Nicaragua and the American state of Florida.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives voted 396 to 9 to reaffirm the U.S. national motto: “In God We Trust.”

“Some public officials have stated incorrectly that there are different national mottoes. We heard the president make that mistake,” explained Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.), who sponsored the bill. Forbes was referring to a speech President Obama delivered in Indonesia last year in which said, “In the United States, our motto is E pluribus unum — out of many, one.” (Forbes and a number of other members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, including current presidential candidate Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) sent a letter (PDF) to the president, taking him to task for the error.)

As The Washington Post noted, Congress has reaffirmed the motto several times in recent years:

The motto has withstood legal challenges from groups that said it violated the separation of church and state. Courts have held that the motto is “ceremonial Deism,” not an official endorsement of religion.

Still, just to be sure, Congress voted to reaffirm the motto in 2002. In essence, it passed a new law that said the old law should not be changed one bit. “Make no change in Section 302, Title 36, United States Code,” it ordered then, citing the passage that created the motto.

Then, in 2006, the Senate voted another time, to reaffirm “the concept embodied in the motto.”

Last fall in *God in America*, our joint production with AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, we examined how “In God We Trust” came to be our national motto in 1956. At the heart of the story is an alliance between Rev. Billy Graham and Dwight Eisenhower, who together melded Christianity and patriotism into a weapon to be used against “godless Communism” during the Cold War. The motto, explains historian Frank Lambert, “reclaims this notion that we’re a chosen

people and that we were conceived under God and that we flourish under God, and we turn our backs on God at our own peril.”

Liberty Bell, a representation of freedom. The liberty bell, which can be found in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, is recognized as a universal emblem of freedom. It is constructed of copper and tin and weighs about 2000 pounds. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, and the bell had rung in 1774 to signal the start of the First Continental Congress. It requested that the people of Philadelphia read the Declaration of Independence. The words "Proclaim liberty throughout all the country unto all inhabitants thereof" are etched on it.



A well-known emblem of freedom in the United States is the Liberty Bell. In order to mark the 50th anniversary of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges, the Pennsylvania Legislature ordered it in 1751. It was scheduled to be put in the Pennsylvania State House, today known as Independence Hall, in 1752. After being cast in London, England, the bell was sent to Pennsylvania.

The English bell cracked not long after it arrived. In 1753, a new bell was cast from the metal of the England bell by local craftsmen John Pass and John Stow. On the bell are written their names and the year in Roman numerals, MDCCLIII. Moreover, it has the following Bible verse: "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all its inhabitants" (Leviticus 25:10).

On June 7, 1753, the bell was hung in the tower of Independence Hall. In 1777, during the American Revolution, British troops captured Philadelphia. For safekeeping, the bell was moved to Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown, PA. It was returned to Philadelphia in 1778.

Those who advocated for the abolition of slavery referred to it as the "Liberty Bell" and used it as a symbol for their cause in the early 1800s.

The bell was cracked again in 1846, and this time it was fixed. On February 23, 1846, it rang for George Washington's birthday before breaking once more. In order to fix the bell, a groove that stopped the bell's two sides from vibrating against one another was carved along the length of the crack. To manage the vibration of the two sides and improve the bell's tone, two rivets were placed in this slot.

After the Civil War (1861–1865), the bell toured the nation, but since 1915 it has remained in Philadelphia. Now, a visitor facility next to Independence Hall has the Liberty Bell on permanent exhibit.

Liberty Bell facts and figures:

The bell is an alloy, or a mix of metals; it is made of 70% copper, 25% tin, and also has zinc, lead, arsenic, silver, and even gold.

It is very heavy and weighs about 2000 pounds, or 1 ton.

The bell is suspended on what is believed to be its original yoke of American elm wood.

## **Questions**

1. What are symbols of the USA?
2. Who wrote the lyrics to the anthem of USA?
3. When did the image of Uncle Sam appear?
4. What's the meaning of the Statue of Liberty?
5. Who constructed the Statue of Liberty?
6. What is the National Motto of the USA?
7. How much does weigh The Liberty Bell?

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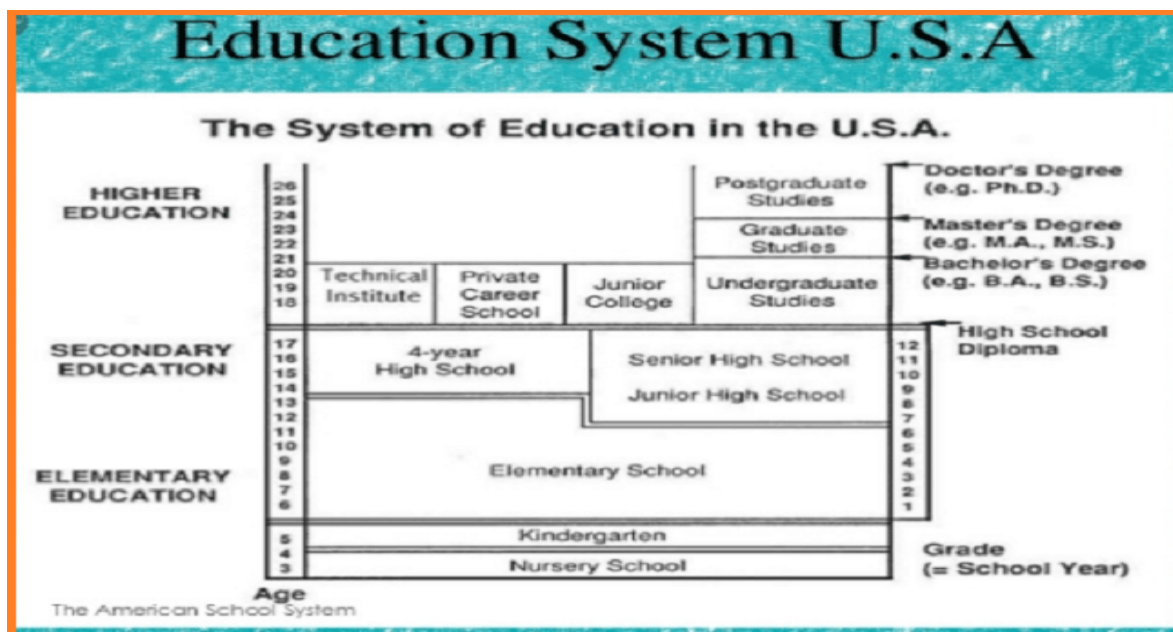
## **Theme: 11. The Education system in the USA**

- 1. Kindergarten and Middle school**
- 2. Higher education and professional education**
- 3. Studying at the University**

Government-approved subjects in the nation include science, math, English, and social sciences. First aid and sex education seminars are becoming required in several areas. Elsewhere, however, the activities and schedule are set by the schools themselves. Foreign language, art, ecology, and other courses can be added. Also, universities have a great deal of freedom in selecting their academic members and research areas.



**K-12.** The term "American school system" is used frequently. In the United States, students attend school for 13 years: one year of kindergarten (K) and 12 years of secondary education (primary and secondary levels together). K-14 (kindergarten + two-year college) and K-16 (kindergarten + bachelor's degree) are other terms that are occasionally used.



**Sport.** In the US educational system, physical development is heavily weighted. both at the university and outside of the classroom. Scholarships are generously offered to athletes by universities. Academic performance and athletic participation are the only two criteria used to grade students (athletics). Several clubs are available at schools, including those for basketball, football, rugby, volleyball, and other sports.

**Conditions for visitors.** Most international students attend private schools. This is owing to the fact that they are only permitted to join the state from grades 9 through 12 (high school) and only for one academic year, according the law. Universities frequently charge varying fees to

incoming students. Foreign nationals and residents of other states pay 2-3 times more for education than locals do.

**Orientation for practice.** The American educational system equips pupils with useful skills for everyday life. This is demonstrated, among other things, through teaching classes on nutrition, health, and other topics.

**Change of institution.** There is typically only one educational level represented in American schools. That is, there is a primary school in one structure, a middle school in another, and a high school in a third. Students may switch between two and three schools once every 12 years.

Since preschool is not seen as a required component of education, the federal government does not provide funding for it. However many states themselves make budgetary allocations and provide education at a modest cost (or even free). To run such apps, a particular license is not necessary in all states.

Pre-kindergarten is another name for this level. Children at preschool are those younger than five. Children typically attend classes for no longer than a half-day. They attend a variety of educational institutions, including private schools, public schools, community-funded schools, religious institutions, and special childcare facilities.



Preschoolers attend quite diverse classes. Their sociability and kindergarten readiness are the key objectives. Children learn through play. There is a lot of peer interaction. Standard set of lessons in preschool:

- mathematics;
- reading;
- drawing;
- cubes;
- a table for games with sand and water;
- pretend play.

Every item helps children acquire the life skills they will need. Reading and maths make things plain. Drawing develops creativity and imagination as well as abstract thinking. Constructing blocks improve fine motor abilities, attention to detail, and visual-figurative thinking. The initial introduction to physics is a table with water and sand. Moreover, role-playing games let you develop emotional intelligence and experiment on various roles.

Children start kindergarten at age five and progress through the K–12 system from there.

Kindergarten is the name given to the first year of elementary school. Therefore, calling it zero would be more appropriate. The phrase actually translates as "kindergarten," although prep classes are more like it. These take place in schools, and American kids often attend them for the entire school day. Typically, it runs from 8:30 till 13:30. Children only spend one year at these "kindergartens." Here, the curriculum is already more rigorous than in preschool education, and it gets students ready for entry into primary school.

In contrast to preschools, **kindergarten** is required in the US educational system. As a result, each state has an approved schedule and a list of disciplines that are necessary. Children must learn reading, speaking, and writing abilities throughout the course of a year in "kindergarten," including how to express themselves clearly, comprehend the meaning of the text, read aloud rapidly, and other skills. Kids also study counting and shape shapes, the fundamentals of algebra and geometry, and other subjects. Moreover, natural and social sciences, art, music, health, and safety are taught in "kindergartens."

Children finally start attending **primary school (also known as elementary school)** after kindergarten. It covers grades 1 through 6. All subjects are taught by the same teacher during this time. Main disciplines: English, mathematics, geography, history and natural sciences. Well-funded schools hire individual music, art, or foreign language teachers. On average, children stay at school until 6-7 pm. They study extra or do their homework during the after-school program.



The grading system for the first two years is very simple:

**E** (excellent);

**S** (satisfactory);

**N** (needs improvement);

**U** (unsatisfactory).

The typical American school grades of A, B, C, D, and F—where A is excellent and F is failure—are then gradually introduced. Children successfully complete their first standardized assessments as early as elementary school. They monitor students' progress and get them ready for the SAT, which will be used to enter institutions in the future. There are no primary school final exams.

### **Middle School / Junior High School**

Despite the fact that they were first developed as several types of high school, these ideas are frequently used interchangeably. Sixth through eighth graders attend middle school, while seventh through ninth graders attend junior high school. It is also thought that junior high is more like high school in that there is a concentration on mandatory studies, test preparation, and a set schedule. Middle school places a strong emphasis on kids' overall development, including their social and emotional health. Instructors allow kids more latitude to choose their

courses and hold small-group lessons. The distinctions between middle school and junior high are less pronounced today.

Several teachers, each an authority in their field, give lessons in high school in the United States. English, science, and mathematics are prioritized. These three topics, together with history and athletics, should not be missed. Yet, the choice of level—basic or advanced—remains with the pupils. The final option is for people who desire to learn a subject thoroughly. Furthermore required for all students are one or two other disciplines. They can range greatly, from STEM to debating. Because of the personalized schedules, there are no permanent classes in American schools; instead, all pupils "mix."

Regular tests and controls are performed. These determine the student's ultimate grade for the full high school academic year. Here, there are no final exams. It is enough to have “satisfactory” in all subjects.

High school is the last phase of secondary education. Youngsters as young as 14 are brought there. In mixed junior and senior high schools in America, students attend classes for six years before graduating. Also, there are distinct ones that are housed in various structures. 9th through 12th grades make up senior school. Also, this is the sole chance that foreigners have to attend a public exchange school (only one year). They can only access private institutions the remainder of the time. Nonetheless, even in public universities, foreign students must pay between \$3,000 and \$10,000 every year of study.

Throughout high school, every subject is geared on getting into the university. Students check their GPA average and get ready for the SAT or ACT. Compulsory disciplines:

- mathematics;
- English;
- story;
- natural sciences;
- sport;
- art.

Students have the option to enroll in Honors or Advanced Placement courses in addition to their core classes (AP). The former are classes at the university level, whereas the later are advanced subject areas. Six scientific fields are divided into a total of 33 disciplines. Even Japanese is available, along with macroeconomics and mechanics[5]. Students take an oral or written test at the conclusion of the course. The likelihood of admission to a prominent university increases with excellent grades in AP courses.

The importance of AP courses is most likely to rise sharply in the near future. The SAT Subject Test has been permanently discontinued by the College Board as of 2021. He assisted graduates in presenting their expertise in fields like physics or chemistry. For entry into particular specialties, they served as prerequisites. The SAT Subject Exam can be a fantastic substitute for advanced placement courses.

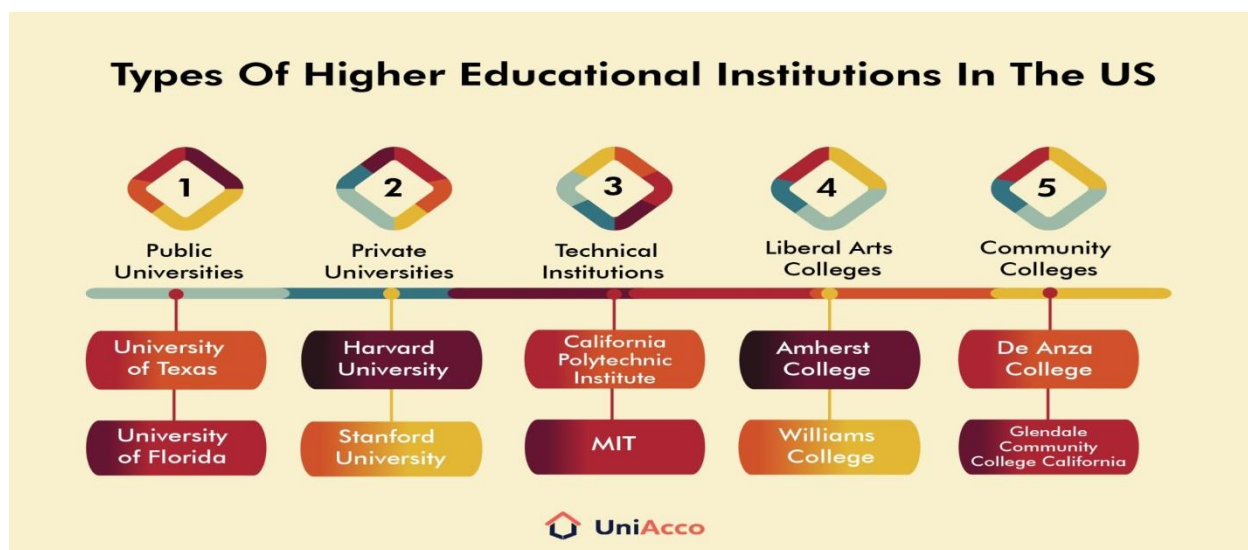
Final examinations are not given in senior schools. Instead, they take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) or ACT, which are standardized exams (American College Testing). For entry into American



universities, they are needed. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, several American universities—including those in the Ivy League—made the SAT and ACT optional in 2021. Maybe we'll stick with this choice in the future. In the US, standardized assessments have long drawn criticism.

## Higher education

In the United States, higher education is regarded as one of the most respected. The QS rating places five American universities among the top ten worldwide. Several overseas students choose to attend American universities each year in the hundreds. There were more than a million of them in 2019–2020.



## Professional education

Community colleges offer quick access to a professional education for recent graduates. They undergo two years of instruction. There, the emphasis is on practical skills, and the workload is a little bit lighter than at universities. In these, the student earns an associate's degree and is hired for a position in his field of study.

Another choice for the course of events after community college is to transfer right away to the university's third year. You need an overall



GPA of 3.5 and great grades in all core classes to be able to achieve this. Sometimes a TOEFL and SAT certificate is required for foreigners.

It won't work to transfer from a community college to Harvard or Yale, but there will be other mid-tier universities available. Guaranteed admission contracts are frequently signed between community colleges and universities. You can transfer, for instance, from Bergen Community College to New York University. Visit the College Transfer page for details on agreements between universities, where and for which programs there are transfers.

### **Studying at the University**

There are three levels in the US university system:

Bachelor's degree - 4 years.

Master's degree - 2 years.

Doctorate - 4-6 years.

At US universities, the educational process is adaptable. Students choose their own schedules and hold seminars and debates in place of lengthy lectures. After being accepted, applicants select their major, or primary speciality, and move on to their minor. The latter can be used to the primary occupation in a productive way. For instance, robotics is a minor and engineering is a major. As an example, biology as a major and French literature as a minor could reflect the student's personal interests. It makes sense for American universities to offer both alternatives.

In particular graduate and professional schools, instruction on master's and doctoral programs is provided. The former combine a number of academic disciplines, whilst the later are more intensely

specialized. They impart expertise in a particular field, such as nursing, law, or business. Along with research and the theoretical component, regular practice and work on the dissertation topic are also a part of the learning process. PhD degrees are most frequently given to PhD graduates. There are DBA, JD, MD, and other professional programs available.

20,000–50,000 USD per year are spent on education in the United States. Moreover, living expenses add another 10,000 USD per year. Fortunately, a lot of American universities offer grants and scholarships to students. Some of them, like the Ivy League, offer up to 100% tuition reimbursement.

Foreign applicants who wish to enroll in an American university must have a strong GPA, a TOEFL or IELTS certificate, have passed the SAT or ACT, have written a motivational letter, and have received recommendations.

## Questions

- 1.

## **Theme: 12. The Culture and Traditions of the USA and Canada**

1. American folk, jazz and popular music.
2. American holidays.
3. American customs and way of life.
4. Traditions and culture of Canada

It is not surprising that classical music and folk songs were transported to the United States from that continent given that Europeans made up a substantial portion of the population. European composers including Bach, Mozart, Bartok, Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Verdi, and Debussy are just a few of the names frequently found on orchestra or opera programs. Folk songs from England, Ireland, and Scotland are frequently sung in America and have been for so many generations that Americans aren't even aware that these songs are from outside.

Several folk tunes originated from labor. Worker-specific love songs and ballads exist. The Blacks in the South, however, have made the biggest impact on American music. The most priceless musical history of the country today includes racial songs.

Jazz is arguably the Negro people's greatest musical contribution to America. Following the Civil War, several brass instruments used by the Confederate military bands ended up in the hands of Black people, which led to a variety of rhythmic and lyrical experiments. Jazz was thus created without rules or written arrangements. American jazz has impacted composers like Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, and Ravel in America, as well as Stravinsky and Ravel in Europe.

The greatest creative contribution to American folk and popular music was made by the black people. Near the middle of the 19th century the New Orleans-born Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829-1869) who studied music in France and became an outstanding virtuoso pianist, created a number of little piano pieces treating Negro, Creole and Latin-American motifs with affectionate freshness and life.

In the 1890s the great Czech composer, Antonin Dvorak, then teaching in New York, declared that American composers should study their folk music, that the most beautiful American folk music he knew for this purpose was the Negro spirituals.

In the post-war period Walligford Piegger, Walter Piston, Roger Sessions, Virgil Thomson, Henry Cowell, Roy Harris and Aaron Copland struggled through their compositions, and in most cases through critical writing and teachings, to establish large-scale composition in American cultural life. They taught, each in his own way, to make it American.

US national holidays. The 50 American states each created their own holidays. Only federal employees and residents of the District of Columbia are legally allowed to have holidays designated by the federal government, through the President and Congress.

However, most states recognize the official federal holidays. As follows:

Christmas Day (December 25), the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King (third Monday in January), President's Day, also known as Washington's Birthday (third Monday in February), Veterans Day (last Monday in May), Day of Independence (July 4), Day of Labor (first Monday in September), November 2nd (second

Monday in October), Thanksgiving Day (November 11), Day of Thanksgiving (fourth Thursday in November), Thanksgiving Day (December 25).

Even if believers observe many religious holidays, such as Good Friday, Hanukkah, or Ramadan,, they are not recognized by the government or the legal system. As a result, each state is free to enact its own legislation, and labor agreements determine whether an employee is granted leave.

There are many traditional holidays, observed by a large number of Americans, which are also neither legal nor official. Among these are St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day (not just people with Irish roots celebrate it), Mother's Day and Halloween Day (the last day of October).

Thanksgiving and Independence Day on the Fourth of July are arguably the two "most American" holidays. The Declaration of Independence was ratified on July Fourth. It resembles a large national birthday celebration.

Parades with bands and flags are held in some towns and cities. The biggest summer party in the country takes place on the day the country was founded.

On Thanksgiving, families typically get together. For the meal, traditional fare such as turkey or ham, corn dishes, breads and buns, and pumpkin pie are cooked. Thanksgiving is also a sad occasion and a moment to recognize those who are less fortunate in America and around the world. American customs. Americans are very punctual. It is important to be on time at business, social and public events. If you must miss an appointment for any reason, telephone ahead to the person you were supposed to meet, saying that you won't be able to come. In some homes the atmosphere is quite formal. In others, it is informal and you may sit at the kitchen table to eat dinner. Informality is a way of taking you into the warmth of the family circle.

The Americans may have a party on one occasion in several houses at a time. The party starts in one house where they have some light wine and snacks, and then move on to another house and still another, travelling from house to house, taking drinks and food with them; and previous arrangements are made

about what food each family cooks. Normally three or four houses are involved. Such a party is called progressive dinner.

Generally Americans tend to be fairly informal. They often (but not always) address each other by their given names on first meetings. They also tend to abbreviate a lot. For example, Mass. means Massachusetts Avenue. Do not be surprised and ask what these abbreviations mean.

New Year's Day has traditionally been the occasion for starting new programs and giving up bad habits. People talk about "turning over a new leaf." Many Americans make New Year's resolutions, promising themselves and their families to improve their behaviour. The most common New Year's resolutions are to cut back on spending, quit smoking, start a diet, or have better self-control. The end of one year and the beginning of the next are important yet joyful occasions for Americans.

The American variant of the English language. Of all the many kinds of difference that exist among the myriad varieties of English, few give rise to fiercer discussion and greater speculation than those which differentiate British and American English. Both form part of the 'family' of English. Speakers of the one immediately recognizes speakers of the other as being fellow English-speakers, and yet also as members of a distinct culture.

It is customary to think of English before about 1700 as being one language with no specifically American characteristics yet visible, since the British settlements were so young and so small. It is after this date that the history and development of English in America began to diverge from that of English in

Great Britain, because of the geographical isolation of the settlers, their growing feelings of social and political independence, their intimate contact with American Indian, Spanish, and French cultures, and their assimilation of a large population of former slaves and of great numbers of immigrants of diverse linguistic and cultural origins. Undoubtedly this separate development and the distinctive

American culture which it produced were sufficient to ensure separate modes of speech and writing. But the rate of change of the language was greater than one would expect on the basis of contemporary experience, for two reasons: 1) there was no such thing as a single Elizabethan English, so that among the early settlers there existed a wide range of dialects and accents, reflecting the diversity of forms of Elizabethan English but offering no single form from which deviations could be charted; and 2) in the early eighteenth century there existed few of the pressures for standardization and conformity in speech and writing—such as universal literacy, a large literature, the media of press, radio, and television—which in Britain and North America today slow down the innate tendency for English, like all languages, to change.

During the first 200 years of separate development, one of the most striking features specific to English in America was the large number of borrowings from other cultures. For example: from the American Indian came hickory, hooch, totem, and squaw; from French came prairie, depot, cache, and rotisserie; from Spanish came bronco, rodeo, patio, and vigilante; from Dutch and German came boss, dumb (meaning stupid), and Santa Clous; and from African came gumbo, voodoo, and okra (see Marckwardt 1958; Mencken 1963).

The contemporary situation, then, is one of two distinct yet cognate cultures in Britain and America, each possessing a form of English as the mother tongue. The differences of vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, orthography, semantics, and usage between the two reflect both the similarities and the differences between the cultures.

The culture of Canada embodies the artistic, culinary, literary, humour, musical, political and social elements that are representative of Canada and Canadians. Throughout Canada's history, its culture has been influenced by European culture and traditions, especially British and French, and by its own indigenous cultures. Over time, elements of the cultures of Canada's immigrant populations have become incorporated to form a Canadian cultural mosaic. The

population has also been influenced by American culture because of a shared language, proximity, television and migration between the two countries.

Canada is a country of considerable diversity born from the immigrant heritage of its people. Canadian traditions were brought over the centuries by its millions of immigrants and their customs were mixed successfully with those already established by the indigenous peoples. The traditions of individual Canadian families can vary greatly based on which customs they've decided to import from their former homeland. Generally speaking, all different areas in Canada have their own traditions and customs. The different ethnic groups in Canadian districts have their own traditions. Some are shared with the USA, like the celebration of Thanksgiving, while some are shared with most countries across the world, like Christmas. Most of Canada's rituals and traditions involve commemorating significant dates in someone's life. Weddings, birthdays, funerals or school graduations are celebrated with some of the most well-known Canadian traditions.

Canadian couples generally announce their pregnancy with great pride to friends and family as soon as they're aware, and it's common for friends of the expecting mother to organize a baby shower – a small, lighthearted house party – to honour the new mom sometime before she gives birth. Shortly after the child is born, it's similarly customary for friends of the parents to visit and give at least one baby gift, usually a toy or clothes, to express congratulations. When it comes to naming baby, it's a relatively common Canadian tradition for children to be given names from within the family. A son might be named after his father or uncle, for instance; a daughter for her sister or grandmother. Middle names, which most Canadians have, are very often chosen this way. Children usually take the last name of their father. If children are born to parents who aren't married, or simply don't use the same last name, they are sometimes given a hyphenated last name combining the names of both parents.

## WEDDINGS



Most Canadians generally get married in a lavish public ceremony in a church or banquet hall before about a hundred or so close friends and family members. The bride typically wears a beautiful white wedding dress purchased especially for the ceremony, while everyone else wears their finest formal wear. Once the gang is assembled, a legally-certified wedding officiant, usually a religious leader or judge, publicly leads the bride and groom through special wedding vows expressing loyalty to one another, and then proclaims them officially married. The event usually concludes with an equally lavish, but more relaxed wedding reception, dinner, or after-party.

### **FUNERALS**

In most Canadian families, the moment someone dies their corpse is shipped to a mortician for embalming and preparation. Once that's done, there usually is a viewing — where close family can quietly look at the presented body in a special decorative casket — followed by a full funeral a few days after that. Depending on the religiosity of the family, funerals may be held in either a church or some manner of secular funeral parlour, and will feature dozens of guests who knew the deceased during life. A few short speeches, or eulogies, by close friends or family may be given, followed by another processional viewing of the body.

## **Canadian Holidays**

### **CHRISTMAS**

Christmas is by far the biggest holiday on the Canadian calendar. It's a religious celebration commemorating the birth of the Christian savior Jesus Christ. In the month-long leadup to the big day, most Canadians decorate their homes with traditional decorations, the centerpiece being a Christmas tree in the family living room. There may be Christmas parties with friends, family, or co-workers, as well as some traditional activities like baking special Christmas cookies, or watching Christmas-themed television shows or movies. The night before Christmas, Christmas Eve, is usually a quiet evening spent with family, while on Christmas Day family members exchange wrapped gifts with one another and dine on a lavish Christmas dinner.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve is a chance for Canadians to drink and party one final night before the year changes over. New Year's parties traditionally run until midnight or later, and usually feature fancy clothes, hors d'oeuvres and copious amounts of champagne. When midnight approaches, everyone loudly counts down the final few seconds, then kisses their romantic partner. New Year's Day begins the first second after midnight, but has no real customs or celebrations associated with it. Some may enjoy a leisurely breakfast or brunch with friends or family while others may simply savor a day to relax after so much late-night partying the night before.

## EASTER SUNDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

Easter is one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. According to Christian religion, Easter commemorates the day when Jesus Christ was resurrected, making it a particularly important day of recognition for those who believe in Christ's divinity. In the non-religious version, Easter is a mere celebration of things associated with spring, including daffodils, bunnies, baby chicks, and rolling hills of fresh green grass. Kids celebrate it by getting gifts of special seasonally-themed candies from the "Easter Bunny" and by hunting for decorated Easter eggs hidden around their house or backyard. Easter is celebrated on wildly different days in either March or April, since its schedule is based on the spring equinox (the day when the Sun passes Earth's equator). In addition to Easter itself, Canada also recognizes the Friday immediately preceding it as Good Friday, a statutory holiday in most provinces that commemorates Christ's crucifixion.

## VICTORIA DAY

During her final years of life, Britain's long-serving monarch, Queen Victoria (1819-1901), enjoyed quite an extensive cult of popularity across the Empire, and her death prompted the Canadian Parliament to declare her birthday (May 24) a national holiday. Regardless of its royal origins, in modern Canada Victoria Day is typically viewed as little more than a convenient long weekend (in

some provinces, the nickname is simply the “May Long”), and an excuse for short spring vacations and camping trips.

### CANADA DAY

July 1, 1867 was the date the Canadian Constitution was adopted and ever since, July 1 has been celebrated as the birthday of the Canadian nation, and the day “Canada became a country.” Held in early summer, Canada Day (known as “Dominion Day” until 1983) offers an opportunity for Canadians to have large parties outdoors, and is usually celebrated with neighbourhood or family barbecues, picnics, and fireworks. Many big Canadian cities organize a whole host of official Canada Day festivities for their community, including parades, live music, and outdoor festivals, ensuring the streets are packed with patriotic revelers from sunup to sundown.

### LABOUR DAY

First Monday in September In the late 19th century, when Canadian workers were not always afforded full rights and dignity from their employers, Canadian governments created a new holiday known as Labour Day to acknowledge the contribution of the nation’s labourers. Today Labour Day is mostly a generic day off work perhaps best known for signaling the beginning of the academic year for school-aged children. People very involved in the organized labour movement, sometimes stage parades or protests to raise awareness of contemporary issues relating to Canada’s working men and women.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11, 1918, World War I (1914-1918) formally came to a close when a truce was declared between the fighting nations, including Canada. On every November 11 since, Canadians have celebrated peace and remembered the horrors of war by observing Remembrance Day, the most sombre holiday of the year. At 11 o’clock on November 11, all Canadians are expected to stop what they’re doing and observe a moment of silence in memory of the soldiers who have given their lives in the various wars in which Canada has fought. Most cities organize a special public ceremony at the town hall or local war memorial as well,

at which representatives of various groups, such as the veterans' legion, the Boy Scouts, and the municipal, provincial and federal governments lay wreaths of commemoration.

## THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a uniquely North American holiday, celebrated in Canada and the United States to commemorate the traditional autumn harvest and give thanks for the wealth and bounty of the New World. The main event of Thanksgiving is an enormous, lavish Thanksgiving dinner composed of turkey, sweet potatoes, corn, Brussels sprouts, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. Next to Christmas, Thanksgiving is the most important family day of the year for most Canadians, and many travel great distances in order to dine with their relatives. Thanksgiving foods are unusual, many families put great effort into making them look extra beautiful and exotic on the table, with the creation of a Thanksgiving table centerpiece of flowers, candles, gourds, dried corn and more a popular holiday art project.

## HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a day to celebrate all things scary and ghoulish. The main event is trick-or-treating, where children dress up in costumes and walk from door to door in their neighbourhoods all night and are given candies from adults. In recent years, it's also become very popular for teenagers to celebrate the day by setting off fireworks and firecrackers and for adults to host late-night costume parties. In the lead-up to Halloween, spooky decorations of pumpkins, skeletons, witches, and other such creatures begin to pop up everywhere, particularly in schools, department stores, and bars. One of the oldest Halloween traditions is carving a pumpkin into a scary face — known as a jack-o'-lantern — and putting a lamp in it to greet trick-or-treaters.

## ST.VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is now a secular celebration of all things romantic. Canadian couples, either married or just dating, are expected to buy small gifts for each other, usually cards, chocolate or a special dinner out, and enjoy a romantic

evening together. The holiday has also become very popular with elementary school-aged children, who usually give their classmates cheap, mass-produced cards on February 14.

## LUNAR NEW YEAR

As Canada's Asian population grows, celebrations of the Lunar New Year (sometimes called "Chinese New Year") is starting to become a bigger event in many Canadian cities. Celebrated for six days straight from January 28 to February 2, traditional events include Asian cultural parades and gifts of money in red envelopes.

## GROUNDHOG DAY

One of Canada's least important, but nevertheless most famous, informal holidays is Groundhog Day (February 2). Every year, various zoos and parks across Canada stage a special event where a local groundhog is observed coming out of his burrow. If he "sees its shadow" then it's declared Canada will have "six more weeks of winter." If he doesn't, then an early spring awaits.

## TERRY FOX DAY

The Terry Fox Run is an annual non-competitive charity event held in numerous regions around the world in commemoration of Canadian cancer activist Terry Fox, and his Marathon of Hope, and to raise money for cancer research. It takes place on August, 3. The run is informal which means that the distance often varies, usually between 5 and 15 kilometres; participation is considered to be more important than completing the set distance. There are also runs set up by schools of every level, often with shorter distances than the "official" ones.

## CANADIAN LUCK TRADITIONS

Thirteen is considered an unlucky number and most Canadian apartments, hotels, storage units and parking lots do not have a 13th floor, locker, or stall. Friday the 13th in turn, is considered a uniformly unlucky day and people usually avoid scheduling important events, such as weddings or plane trips, on it. Christians associate the number 666 with Satan, while many Asian-Canadians associate the number four with death. A wide variety of odd actions are considered

unlucky. Opening an umbrella indoors, walking under an open ladder, knocking over a salt shaker, killing a ladybug, or having a black cat cross your path are all fairly common omens of bad luck, while finding a lone penny in the street, picking a four-leafed clover, spotting a shooting star, throwing money in a decorative fountain, or blowing a lone eyelash off your finger are considered as examples of good luck.

Questions:

1. What language is spoken as the national language in Canada?
2. What does the word "Canada" mean?
3. How many people live in Canada?
4. How does the climate in Canada and the USA differ?
5. The number of parties in Canada.
6. What city serves as Canada's capital?
7. What is Canada's biggest export?

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## **Theme: 13. General information of Australia and New Zealand**

- 1. General information about Australia, its geographical position, climate and population**
- 2. General information about New Zealand, its geographical position, climate and population**

Australia is the sixth largest country in the world in terms of land area. The Australian continent and its islands, the largest of which is Tasmania.

Australia is the only country in the world that controls the entire continent of the same name, as well as Tasmania and adjacent islands. The country is in the southern and eastern hemispheres, bordered by the Pacific and Indian oceans. The Timor, Arafura, and Torres Straits wash it in the north, the Coral and Tasman Seas in the east, the Bass Strait and the Indian Ocean in the south, and the Indian Ocean in the west. The coastline has a slight indentation.



Australia is a continent of deserts, semi-deserts and dry woodlands, occupying vast inland spaces, only on the east coast of the country does the low mountain range of the Great Dividing Range rise with the country's highest point - Mt. Kosciuszko (2228 m.). Along the east coast for almost 2000 km. stretched cluster of small islands, underwater hills and coral reefs - the Great Barrier Reef.

The relief of most of the country is low-lying plains, their average height is about 215 m. Vast territories are occupied by deserts: the Great Victoria Desert, the Great Sandy Desert, the semi-desert of the Great Artesian Basin. In the east rise old dilapidated mountains - the Great Dividing Range, a zone of ancient folding. Here is the highest point of the mainland of Australia - Mount Kosciuszko (2228 m), the highest point of the country - the active volcano Mawson (2750 m) on Heard Island in the subarctic zone of the Indian Ocean. The lowest point in the country is Lake Eyre (-15 meters below sea level)...

The significant ancient age of the continent, the variety of weather conditions and its long geographical isolation from the outside world contributed to the accumulation of the richness and diversity of the flora and fauna of Australia. More than 12 species of representatives of the animal and plant kingdoms live here, and 9 thousand of them are endemic. Woody vegetation is represented mainly by such evergreens as eucalyptus and acacia, adapted to survive in constant conditions of drought and high temperatures. In cool Tasmania with a temperate type of climate, in addition to the eucalyptus trees typical of Australia, evergreen southern beeches grow.

The total area of the country is about 7.7 million square meters. km. The capital of Australia is Canberra.

### **Climate**

Due to its vast size and unique geographic location, the country enjoys the widest variety of climates, from sub-equatorial regions in the north to temperate maritime regions in the south. The hot and humid northern parts of the country are replaced by semi-desert tropical central regions, while the southern and southeastern coasts already belong to the subtropical zone, with a rather pleasant



warm climate. Tasmania is the "coldest" region of the country with a temperate climate, but there are enough areas that are excellent for recreation. Therefore, you should carefully consider the choice of a vacation spot, taking into account the climatic features of the country.

The hottest time of the year is from November to January, at this time throughout the country the temperature ranges from +20 C to +32 C, and in the central regions it can reach + 38-42 C. At the same time, after 1.5 - 2 hours after sunset, the temperature can drop by 10-12 C. On the Pacific coast and the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, the weather is milder at this time.

Relatively cold in June - August, the temperature rises no higher than + 15-18 C, and in the temperate zone sometimes drops to 0 C. In winter, rains are frequent. From May to August is the ideal time for a trip, September - December is the peak of the yachting season.



### **Time**

The country has 3 time zones (ahead of Moscow by 6 - 8 hours). Time in Sydney is ahead of Moscow by 7 hours in winter, by 8 hours in summer. In addition, time also varies from state to state, where half an hour is sometimes added to standard time.

### **Population**

As of July 1, 2007, Australia's population is over 20 million. The population as of December 31, 2018 was estimated at 25,180,200, most of whom live in cities

on the east coast. The majority of the Australian population are descendants of 19th and 20th century immigrants, with most of these immigrants coming from Britain and Ireland.

The official language is English (a special variant known as Australian English). About 80% of the population of Australia have British roots, because since 1770 it was a colony of Great Britain, then the Australian type of English was formed. The intensive formation of Australian culture as such actively took place in the middle of the 19th century, when an influx of immigrants from various countries of the world (Germany, Spain, Greece, the Netherlands, the USA, Canada) poured here, which was associated with the discovery of gold deposits in the southeastern part of the country, the second influx of immigration from Europe and Asia was observed after the Second World War in the twentieth century. Thus, modern Australia is characterized by a multiculturalism based on the principles of equality and good neighborliness. Earlier in Australia there was a problem of oppression and infringement of the rights of the local population - the indigenous aborigines of Australia, whose culture is now one of the main values of this country.

At present, the descendants of the indigenous aborigines of Australia make up a little more than 1.5% of the total population of the country, who, in order to survive, have to assimilate with other residents of the country, many work in tourism, on various farms and ranches, some, like their ancient ancestors hunt and live in harmony with the wildlife that surrounds them.

One of the ancient traditions of the Australian Aborigines is the conduct of ritual dances and chants to the accompaniment of the unique Australian didgeridoo wind instrument. The Aborigines of Australia believed that the whole world around them was created by their ancestors in the sacred "Age of Dreams", with the help of their dances, songs, drawings on the bark of trees and fabric, each tribe told about the history of their ancestors and their deeds, which were passed down from generation to generation .

## **Holidays**

In addition to Christmas (December 25) and Easter, Australia celebrates: The Queen's Birthday - the second Monday of June, Australia Day - January 26, Labor Day - the first Monday of October, ANZAC Day - April 25, when veterans of all wars are honored, and the Day is also widely celebrated. Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May, and Father's Day is the first Sunday in September. There were no wars in Australia, so the country attaches particular importance to the battle of April 25, 1915 at Gallipoli, where the Australian and New Zealand military army corps stormed Turkish fortifications and many Australian soldiers died. World military encyclopedias define this battle as a local clash.

### **General information of New Zealand**

New Zealand is the relatively large North and South Islands, as well as almost 700 tiny islands of Polynesia, washed by the waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea. Despite the fact that, due to its remoteness, the country is considered one of the most inaccessible travel destinations, the tourism business here is at a decent level. If earlier a distant corner was strongly associated with herds of sheep and meditative green landscapes, today New Zealand is increasingly mentioned in conjunction with such concepts as extreme rides, ecotourism and water sports.

In the early 2000s, Peter Jackson presented his cult Lord of the Rings trilogy, which delighted fantasy fans and became the most expensive promotional video for New Zealand beauties. Actually, thanks to the cinema, the small island state survived its first tourist moment of glory - after the release of the film, every Tolkienist considered it his duty to mark himself in the regions where the adventures of Frodo and his associates were filmed.

In the past decade, New Zealand has been attracting foreign visitors not only with its connection to the epic saga, but also with endless opportunities for hiking, skiing and diving. And while for the Russians, due to the expensive flight, the direction remains rather experimental, almost 5 million tourists from other countries are ready to replenish the New Zealand budget annually in exchange for the opportunity to get acquainted with the nature and culture of the country.



It's hard to believe, but on the territory of such distant New Zealand, you can discover a second Europe and find almost Norwegian fjords, almost French vineyards and one to one Icelandic volcanoes and geysers. What is there! The country even has its own Alps, which complement the glacial lakes that overshadow the ultramarine expanse of the famous Austrian Wörthersee. If you want a calm contemplation of the surrounding reality and a million “juicy” photos from various natural areas, the Milford and Te Araroa trails, protected valleys with waterfalls and ideal beach landscapes are at your service.

The wildlife of the islands amazes and pleases. Funny kiwi is a living national symbol of the country, flightless kakapo parrots, thick-billed penguins, as well as dozens of other species of birds and animals that are not found anywhere else in the world, live in the vastness of New Zealand. Fans of photo hunting for blue whales, sperm whales and killer whales in these parts also have more chances than anywhere else - giant mammals visit the country's shores regularly.

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### **History of the country**

The first settlers reached New Zealand by the middle of the 13th century. Having dispersed over the islands, they formed several tribal unions, which either conflicted with each other, or entered into shaky truces, ending in new military skirmishes. In 1642, the Dutch landed in New Zealand, led by Abel Tasman, but the travelers failed to get along with the Maori tribes, so James Cook visited the islands next. The captain made his second round-the-world voyage 127 years after

the unsuccessful landing of Tasman, but with the same diplomatic results - angry natives with a fight expelled Cook's crew from their own territories.



LARGE MEETING OF SETTLERS AND MAORIS AT A NATIVE VILLAGE NEAR NAPIER, HAWKE'S BAY, NEW ZEALAND.—SEE PAGE 466.

Following the English navigator, this part of Polynesia was discovered by European businessmen who began to supply the indigenous population with potatoes and weapons in exchange for products made of precious metals and valuable wood species. As a result, already in 1788, New Zealand acquired the status of an English colony, territorially becoming part of New South Wales (Australia). Until the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, the Maori tribes were very aggressive about British attempts to take away their independence. But since the natives were unable to resist the troops of the empire, the islands quickly came under the rule of the British.

In the middle of the 19th century, New Zealand became a self-governing colony, and by 1907 it was called a dominion of the British Empire, which formally made it an independent state, which left England to decide its foreign policy issues. Today, the head of the country is the English Queen Elizabeth II - a symbolic figure in all respects, given the fact that the administration of the state is fully entrusted to the New Zealand Prime Minister and Governor General.

## **Questions**

1. When did New Zealand become a self-governing colony?
2. When did the first settlers reached New Zealand?
3. How many tourists visit New Zealand every year?
4. How many population had Australia in 2007?
5. What kind of holidays are celebrated in Australia?
6. What kind of continent is Australia?





*Sirojova Zarnigor Nasriddinovna*  
*Ubaydullayeva Dilafruz Fazliddinovna*

# FOR THE SUBJECT OF COUNTRY STUDY

## STUDY GUIDE

<i>Technical editor:</i>	<i>G.Samiyeva</i>
<i>Mercifulness:</i>	<i>M.Raximov</i>
<i>Pager:</i>	<i>M.Arslonov</i>



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