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В настоящее пособие включены наиболее интересные и актуальные материалы о жизни Великобритании, о ее политической системе, особенностях географического положения, государственного устройства, обычаях и традициях, спортивной жизни, культуре и искусстве.

Тексты пособия снабжены комментариями. В конце книги помещены ответы к кроссвордам и играм, хронологическая таблица, а также англо-русский словарь.

Книга адресована учащимся старших классов средних школ, школ с углубленным изучением английского языка, а также всем, кто изучает английский язык.

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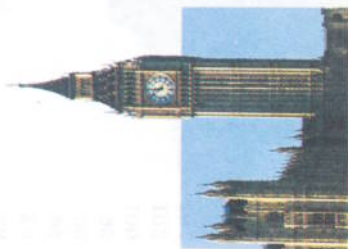
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GOVERNMENT

The British Monarchy Today

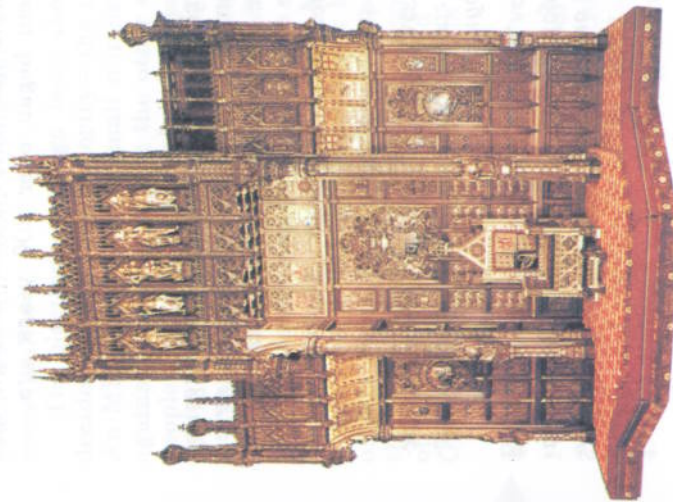
- The Monarchy and Its Powers
- The Formation of the Commonwealth¹
- The Queen—the Head of the Commonwealth
- Parliament and the Monarch

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. This means that it has a monarch (a king or a queen) as its Head of State. The monarch reigns with the support of Parliament. The powers of the monarch are not defined precisely. Everything today is done in the Queen's name. It is her government, her armed forces, her law courts and so on. She appoints all the Ministers, including the Prime Minister. Everything is done however on the advice of the elected Government, and the monarch takes no part in the decision-making process.

Once the British Empire included a large number of countries all over the world ruled by Britain. The process of decolonisation began in 1947 with the independence of India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Now, apart from a few small islands, there is no longer an empire. But the British ruling classes tried not to lose influence over the former colonies of the British Empire. An association of former members of the British Empire and Britain was founded in 1949. It is called the Commonwealth. It includes



*Irish Guards
on Sentry Duty*



The Palace of Westminster

In the House of Lords

*Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II*



many countries such as Burma, the Sudan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others. The Queen of Great Britain is also the Head of the Commonwealth, and so the Queen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand...

The Queen is very rich as are other members of the royal family. In addition, the government pays for her expenses as Head of State, for a royal yacht, train and aircraft as well as for the upkeep of several palaces. The Queen's image appears on stamps, notes and coins.

Parliament consists of two chambers² known as the House of Commons³ and the House of Lords⁴. Parliament and the monarch have different roles in the government of the country, and they only meet together on symbolic occasions such as the coronation of a new monarch or the opening of Parliament. In reality, the House of Commons is the only one of the three which has true power. It is here that new bills are introduced and debated. If the majority of the members are in favour of a bill it goes to the House of Lords to be debated and finally to the monarch to be signed. Only then it becomes law. Although a bill must be supported by all three bodies, the House of Lords only has limited powers, and the monarch has not refused to sign one since the modern political system began over 200 years ago.

References

1. the Commonwealth ['kɒmənweɪlθ] — Содружество (политическое и экономическое объединение, центром которого является Великобритания. Включает 49 независимых государств. В Содружество входят также зависимые территории Великобритании, Австралии и Новой Зеландии)
2. chamber ['tʃeɪmbə] — палата парламента
3. the House of Commons ['haʊsɒv'kɒmɒnz] — палата общин (нижняя палата парламента; играет главную роль в осуществлении его законодательных функций)
4. the House of Lords ['haʊsɒv'lɔ:dz] — палата лордов (верхняя палата парламента; невыборное учреждение; обладает правом отлагательного вето в отношении законопроектных актов, принятых палатой общин)
5. bill — билль, законопроект

The British Parliament and the Electoral System

- The Law-Making House of Parliament
- MPs¹
- Candidates in Elections
- Cabinet of Ministers
- 'Shadow Cabinet'²

The British Parliament consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons and the Queen as its head.

The House of Commons plays the major role in law-making. It consists of Members of Parliament (called MPs for short), each of whom represents an area in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. MPs are elected either at a general election³, or at a by-election⁴ following the death or retirement of an MP.

Parliamentary elections must be held every five years, but the Prime Minister can decide on the exact date within those five years. The minimum voting age is 18, and the voting is taken by secret ballot⁵.

The election campaign lasts about three weeks. The election is decided on a simple majority—the candidate with most votes wins. An MP who wins by a small number of votes may have more votes against him (that is, for the other candidates) than for him. Many people think that it is unfair because the wishes of those who voted for the unsuccessful candidates are not represented at all.

The British parliamentary system depends on political parties. The political parties choose candidates in elections. The party which wins the majority of seats forms the Government and its leader usually becomes Prime Minister. The Prime Minister chooses about 20 MPs from his or her party to become the Cabinet of Ministers. Each minister is responsible for a particular area of the government. The second largest party becomes the official opposition with its own leader and 'Shadow cabinet'. Leader of the Opposition⁶ is a recognized post in the House of Commons.

References

1. MP ['em 'pi:] сокр. от Member of Parliament — член парламента
2. 'Shadow cabinet' — «теневой кабинет» министров
3. general election ['dʒenrəl 'lekʃn] — всеобщие выборы
4. by-election ['baɪ,lekʃn] — дополнительные выборы

5. secret ballot ['sɪkrɪt 'bælət] — тайное голосование
 6. Leader of the Opposition [ˌoprə 'ziʃn] — лидер оппозиции

The House of Commons

- 'Front-Benchers' and
- 'Back-Benchers'
- MPs Address the House
- 3 Stages of a Bill
- A Bill Becomes an Act of Parliament¹
- The Decisive Political and Economic Power

The House of Commons is made up of 635 elected members, known as Members of Parliament (MPs). The House of Commons is presided over by the Speaker², a member acceptable to the whole House. MPs sit on two sides of the hall, one side for the governing party and the other for the opposition. The first two rows of seats are occupied by the leading members of both parties (called 'front-benchers')³, the back benches belong to the rank-and-file MPs ('back-benchers')⁴. Each session of the House of Commons lasts for 160–175 days. Parliament has intervals during its work. MPs are paid for their parliamentary work and have to attend the sittings. MPs have to catch the Speaker's eye when they want to speak, then they rise from where they have been sitting to address the House and must do so without either reading a prepared speech or consulting notes.

Although there is some space given to other than government proposals, the lion's share of parliamentary time is taken by the party in power. A proposed law, a bill, has to go through three stages in order to become an Act of Parliament. These are called readings. The first reading is a formality and is simply the publication of the proposal. The second reading involves debate on the principles of the bill, its examination by a parliamentary committee, and the third reading—a report stage, when the work of the committee is reported on to the House. This is usually the most important stage in the process. The third reading is often a formality too; if six members table a motion⁵, then there has to be a debate on the third reading. If the majority of MPs still vote for the bill, it is sent to the House of Lords for discussion. When the Lords agree, the bill is taken to the Queen for Royal assent⁶. All bills must pass through both houses before being sent for

signature by the Queen, when they become Acts of Parliament and the Law of the Land.

References

1. act of Parliament — парламентский акт, закон
2. the Speaker — спикер (старшее должностное лицо в палате общин; председательствует на заседаниях, следит за соблюдением правил парламентской процедуры и порядком дебатов)
3. 'front-benchers' [ˌfrʌnt 'bentʃəz] — букв. «переднескамеечники» (руководящие члены обеих парламентских партий, занимающие первые ряды в парламенте)
4. 'back-benchers' [ˌbæk 'bentʃəz] — букв. «заднескамеечники» (рядовые члены политических партий, представленных в парламенте)
5. to table a motion ['meɪʃn] — поставить предложение на обсуждение
6. Royal assent ['rɔɪəl ə'sent] — королевская санкция

The House of Lords

- Members of the Upper House
- Are Not Elected
- The Woolsack¹
- The Lords' Main Power

The other House of Parliament is the House of Lords. The House of Lords has more than 1,000 members, although only about 250 take an active part in the work of the House. This House consists of those lords who sit by right of inheritance² and those men and women who have been given life peerages³ which end with the life of their possessors. Members of this Upper House are not elected. They sit there because of their rank⁴. The chairman of the House of Lords is the Lord Chancellor⁵ and he sits on a special seat called the Woolsack.

The members of the House of Lords debate a bill after it has been passed by the House of Commons. Changes may be recommended, and agreement between the two Houses is reached by negotiation⁶. The Lords' main power consists of being able to delay non-financial bills for a period of a year, but they can also introduce certain types of bill. The House of Lords is the only non-elected second chamber in the parliaments of the world, and some people in Britain would like to abolish⁷ it.

The division of Parliament into two Houses goes back over some

700 years when a feudal assembly assisted the King. In modern times, real political power rests with the elected House although members of the House of Lords may occupy important cabinet posts.

References

1. **woolsack** ['wulsæk] — мешок с шерстью (*набитая шерстью красная подушка, на которой сидит лорд-канцлер; обычай сохранился с XIV в., когда шерсть была важнейшей статьей английского экспорта*)
2. **right of inheritance** [ɪn'heɪtəns] — наследное право
3. **peerage** ['piəɪdʒ] — парство, звание пэра
4. **rank** — ранг, служебное положение
5. **Lord Chancellor** ['fɑːnsələ] — лорд-канцлер
6. **negotiation** [niˌɡeɪʃɪ'eɪʃn] — переговоры
7. **to abolish** [ə'boʊlɪʃ] — устранить, ликвидировать

Political Parties

• The Main Political Groupings

• The Parties Represented in the Commons

Political parties first emerged in Britain at the end of the 17th century. The Conservative¹ and Liberal² Parties are the oldest and until the end of the 19th century they were the only parties elected to the House of Commons. The main British political groupings are the Conservative and Labour³ Parties and the Party of Liberal Democrats⁴. The Conservative Party is the present ruling party, the Labour Party—the opposition to the Conservative—and the party of Liberal Democrats is called 'conservatively orientated'. The Social Democratic Party⁵ was formed in 1981 and made an alliance with the Liberal Party in 1988.

There are also some other parties:



Mounted Lifeguard at
Whitethall

the Scottish National⁶ and Welsh Nationalist⁷ Parties, the Communist Party of Britain⁸ and the Communist Party of Great Britain⁹.

Because of the electoral method in use, only two major parties obtain seats in the House of Commons. People belonging to smaller political parties join one of the larger parties and work from within to make their influence felt. The exception to this are members of the Scottish National and Welsh Nationalist Parties, who, because their votes are concentrated in specific geographical areas, can manage to win seats although their total support is relatively small.

References

1. the **Conservative** [kən 'sɜːvətɪv] Party — Консервативная партия (основана в 1867 г.; одна из ведущих политических партий Великобритании; разг. the Tories)
2. the **Liberal** ['lɪbəɪl] Party — Либеральная партия (образовалась в 1877 г.; с 1988 г. выступает в альянсе с Социал-демократической партией под названием Liberal Democrats)
3. the **Labour** ['leɪbə] Party — Лейбористская партия (создана в 1900 г.; одна из двух крупнейших политических партий)
4. the **Party of Liberal Democrats** [ˌlɪbəɪl 'deməkræts] — Либерально-демократическая партия (создана в 1988 г. как партия центра в результате слияния Либеральной партии с частью Социал-демократической партии; разг. Lib Dems)
5. the **Social Democratic Party** [ˌsəʊʃldemə 'krætiːk] — Социал-демократическая партия (основана в 1981 г.; большая ее часть объединилась с Либеральной партией, образовав партию с названием the Social and Liberal Democrats; другая ее часть существовала в течение нескольких лет)
6. the **Scottish** ['skɒtɪʃ] **National** ['næʃnəl] Party — Шотландская национальная партия (основана в 1928 г.)
7. the **Welsh** [welʃ] **Nationalist** ['næʃnəlɪst] Party — Уэльсская националистическая партия (основана в 1925 г.)
8. the **Communist** ['kɒmjunist] **Party of Britain** — Коммунистическая партия Британии (образовалась в 1988 г.)
9. the **Communist Party of Great Britain** — Коммунистическая партия Великобритании (основана в 1920 г.)

The Conservative Party

- The Tory Party¹ — the Party of Big Business
- What Does the Word 'Tory' Mean?
- Foreign and Home Policy² of the Conservative Party

The Conservative Party, often called the Tory Party, is one of those which can trace its roots³ back to this early period. Today the Tory Party is that of big business, industry, commerce and landowners. Most of the money needed to run the party comes from large firms and companies. The party represents those who believe in private enterprise⁴ as opposed to state-owned undertakings⁵. There is some division within the party itself: the more aristocratic wing and the lower-middle-class group. The Tories are a mixture of the rich and privileged — the monopolists and landowners. The Conservative Party is the most powerful and is often called a party of business directors.

The word 'tory' means an Irish highwayman⁶ and was applied to the conservatives by their opponents but later they adopted the name to describe themselves. The Tories opposed the ideas of the French Revolution, Parliamentary Reform and the development of Trade Unionism. They represent colonial policy. In home policy they opposed the tendencies of the Labour Party to nationalize gas, electricity, coal and the railways. Today the Conservative Party can broadly be described as the party of the middle and upper classes.

References

1. the Tory Party — партия тори; то же что the Conservative Party
2. foreign ['fɔ:rn] and home policy ['pɒlsɪ] — внешняя и внутренняя политика
3. to trace roots — проследить начало
4. private enterprise ['entəpraɪz] — частное предпринимательство
5. state-owned undertakings — государственные предприятия
6. highwayman ['haɪweɪmən] — разбойник

The Liberal Party and the Labour Party

- Who Are the 'Whigs'?¹
- The History of the Liberal Party
- The History of the Labour Party

The Conservative Party and the Liberal Party are more than three hundred years old. The Tories called the Liberals 'Whigs'. A 'whig' was a Scottish preacher who could go on for 4 or 5 hours at a time preaching moralising sermons. In the middle of the 19th century the Liberal Party represented the trading and manufacturing classes. Its slogan at that time was 'Civil and Religious Liberty'². William Gladstone headed the first administration (1868—74) and for long periods the Liberals had a Parliamentary majority. During the second half of the 19th century many working people looked at the Liberal Party as an alternative to the Conservatives and their policy.

At the end of the 19th century and in the first two decades of this, the Liberals lost the support of working-class voters. In 1988 the Liberal Party made an alliance with Social Democrats and the Party of Liberal Democrats was formed.

The Labour Party, formed in 1900, was the one which drew away working people's support. It was founded by the Trades Unions. When the Labour Government was first elected in 1945 it showed a considerable change in policy from the Tories.

Since 1924 the Labour Party has been in and out of power four times with the Conservatives forming the government for the rest of the time. The social system has remained unchanged. As a result of divisions within the Labour Party its right-wing members broke away in 1981 to form a new organization, the Social Democratic Party. The latter fought the 1983 election in an alliance with the Liberals, but only a small number of their MPs were elected. They would like to change the electoral system because they think the present system unfair.

References

1. Whigs ['wɪgz] — 1) ист. виги (политическая партия 18 и начала 19 вв.; выступала за ограничение власти монарха и в

поддержку парламента, позднее ставшая Либеральной партией)

2. 'Civil and Religious Liberty' ['sɪvləndrɪ'libərti] — «Гражданская и религиозная свобода»

Newspapers

• Fleet street
• 'Quality' and 'Popular'
Newspapers

In Britain there are 11 national daily newspapers and most people read one of them every day. Daily newspapers are published on every day of the week except Sunday. Sunday newspapers are larger than daily newspapers. All the Sunday newspapers are national. Most national newspapers in Britain express a political opinion, most of them right-wing, and people choose the newspaper that they read according to their own political beliefs.

Fleet Street in London used to be the home of most national daily and Sunday newspapers and that is why people often say 'Fleet Street' to mean 'the press' even now.

British newspapers can be divided into two groups: quality and popular. Quality newspapers are more serious and cover home and foreign news while popular newspapers like shocking, personal stories. These two groups of papers can be distinguished easily because the quality newspapers are twice the size of the popular newspapers.

The quality daily papers are 'The Times', 'The Guardian', 'The Daily Telegraph' and the 'Financial Times'. The 'Times', founded in 1785, is considered to be the most authoritative newspaper voice in the country and is said to be the paper of the Establishment¹. The 'Guardian' appeals to well-educated readers interested in intellectual and social affairs. The 'Daily Telegraph' is bought by educated uppermiddle and middle-class readers. The 'Financial Times', printed on pink papers, is read by businessmen.

The 'popular' press consists of the 'Daily Mail', the 'Daily Express', the 'Daily Star' and the 'Sun'. In all newspapers there is a desperate fight to maintain or improve their circulations but it is worst among the 'popular' papers whose main weapons are sex, scandal and sport.

Apart from London-based papers, there are many local newspa-

pers. Most of these are evening papers (there is only one London evening paper) and many appear weekly.

Newspapers

Title and foundation date:

National dailies 'Populares'	National Sundays 'Populares'
Daily Express (1900)	News of the World (1843)
Daily Mail (1896)	Sunday Express (1918)
Daily Mirror (1903)	Sunday Mirror (1963)
Daily Star (1966)	Sunday Sport (1986)
The Sun (1964)	The Mail on Sunday (1982)
Today (1986)	The People (1881)
'Qualities'	'Qualities'
Financial Times (1886)	Sunday Telegraph (1961)
The Daily Telegraph (1885)	The Observer (1791)
The Guardian (1821)	The Sunday Times (1822)
The Independent (1986)	The Sunday Correspondent (1989)
The Times (1785)	

References

1. the Establishment [ɪs 'æblɪʃmənt] — истеблишмент, власть инушие, правящие круги

TV and Radio

• BBC¹, ITC², and IBA³
• University of the Air
• Top of the Pops⁴

Broadcasting in the United Kingdom is controlled by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Independent Television Commission (ITC). The BBC receives its income from the government, but the private companies are controlled by the ITC which replaced in 1991 the IBA.

National radio is controlled by the BBC, and listeners can

choose between four stations. Radio 1 is a pop-music station with news and magazine-style programmes. Radio 2 plays light music and reports on sport. Radio 3 plays classical music, and Radio 4 has news programmes, drama and general interest programmes. There are many local stations, some private and some run by the BBC. Their programmes consist mainly of music and local news.

The BBC has two TV channels. BBC 2 has more serious programmes and news features. There is a break for advertisements about every 15–20 minutes. The IBA is responsible for looking after the regional independent TV companies who broadcast their own programmes and those they have bought from other regions. The most recent independent channel is Channel 4, and it has more specialized programmes than the main channels. In general, people think the programmes offered on British television are of a very high standard. Some people, however, are becoming worried about the amount of violence on TV, and the effect this may have on young people.

TV and radio are also two of the main teaching channels used by the Open University. This 'university of the air' allows many thousands of students to study at home for degrees they never would have obtained in the main educational system. They also have to do without sleep as most of their programmes are broadcast early in the morning or late at night.

'Top of the Pops' is a programme that has been shown every week on BBC TV for many years. Each week computers in a number of record-shops throughout the United Kingdom show how many copies of a record have been sold that week. The new chart, issued each Tuesday evening, shows which singles have sold the most copies during the previous week. With this information, the show's producers decide which songs will be played. Usually it will be those moving up the charts, or the new releases which the disc jockeys (usually called DJs) think will be 'hits'. Of course, each week the show finishes with the number one single. Bands either appear live in the studio, or in a video recording made especially to sell the record. These videos have become so important in the last few years that they can help to make a record a hit.

References

1. BBC = British Broadcasting Corporation ['brɪtɪʃ 'brɔːdkɑːstɪŋ, kɔːpə'reɪʃn] — Би-би-си, Британская радиовещательная корпорация (радио- и телевещательная компания в Лондоне, находится под контролем правительства; ведет передачи на всю страну и большинство стран мира)
2. ITC [ˌaɪti: 'si:] сокр. от the Independent Television Commission — «Ай-Ти-Си» Комиссия независимого телевидения (осуществляет контроль за независимыми телевизионными каналами)

ми, которые финансируются за счет рекламы, а также подписки; имеет кодекс стандартов и практики показа рекламы. Создана в 1991 г.)

3. IBA [ˌaɪbi: 'eɪ] сокр. от the Independent Broadcasting Authority — «Ай-Би-Эй» Управление независимым радио- и телевидением (координировало деятельность коммерческих телекомпаний и радиостанций. Было заменено на «Ай-Ти-Си»)
4. 'Top of the Pops' ['tɒpɒvz 'pɒps] — «Самые популярные» (еже-недельная музыкальная телепрограмма с участием солистов и ансамблей поп-музыкантов)

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Is the Queen of the United Kingdom also the Queen of some other countries?
2. What are the powers of the monarch in the UK?
3. Who does the real power in the UK belong to?
4. What do the letters MP stand for?
5. What is the minimum voting age in the UK?
6. Who chooses candidates in elections in the UK?
7. Who chooses the Cabinet of Ministers?
8. Who are called 'front-benchers' and 'back-benchers'?
9. How long does a session of the House of Commons last?
10. What is 'a reading' in Parliament?
11. What is 'the Woolsack'?
12. Which political parties in the UK can you name?
13. Who are called 'the Tories' and who were called 'the Whigs'?
14. What are the two groups of British newspapers?
15. What do the letters BBC stand for?
16. What is 'Top of the Pops'?

What Do You Know About....

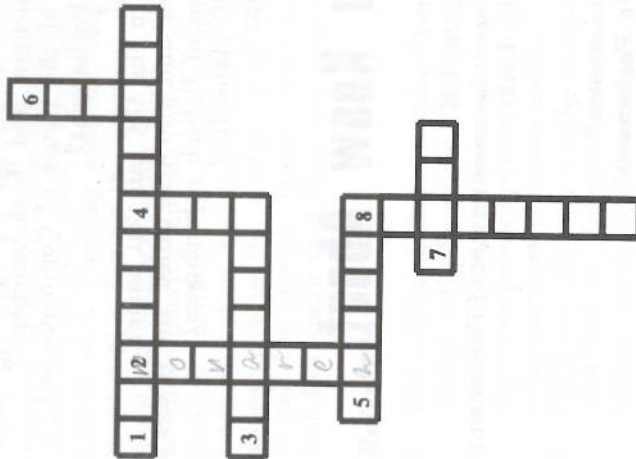
- 1) the Queen and her powers?
- 2) the election campaign in the UK?
- 3) the stages a bill passes before it becomes an Act of Parliament?
- 4) the political parties in the UK?
- 5) British newspapers?
- 6) the BBC programmes?
- 7) the House of Commons in session?
- 8) the parties represented in Parliament?



Do you collect coins and stamps?

Fun Spot

Crossword Puzzle



Across:

- 1) an association of former members of the British Empire and Britain
- 3) a stage through which a bill has to go before it becomes an Act of Parliament
- 5) the other name for the opposition leader, cabinet, etc.
- 7) a member of the Conservative Party

Down:

- 2) a king or a queen
- 4) a member of the Liberal Party of the 18-19 centuries
- 6) a proposal for a law
- 8) a special seat on which the Lord Chancellor sits

Part Two

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Countries of the UK¹ and Their Capitals

• Great Britain
• England
• The British Isles ² ; 5,500 Islands
• Two Main Islands
• Location

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) occupies most of the territory of the British Isles. It consists of four main parts which are: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capitals are London, Edinburgh³, Cardiff⁴ and Belfast⁵.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the official name of the state which is sometimes referred to as Great Britain or Britain (after its major isle), England (after its major historic part) or the British Isles.

The UK is an island state: it is composed of some 5,500 islands, large and small. The two main islands are Great Britain (in which are England, Wales and Scotland) to the east and Ireland (in which are Northern Ireland and the independent Irish Republic) to the west. They are separated by the Irish Sea.

The UK is one of the world's smaller countries.



Big Ben at night



A shopping street in London

tries (it is twice smaller than France or Spain), with an area of some 244,100 square kilometres. The UK is situated off the west coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the northwest and the North Sea on the east and is separated from the European continent by the English Channel⁶ (or La Manche) and the Strait of Dover⁷ (or Pas de Calais).

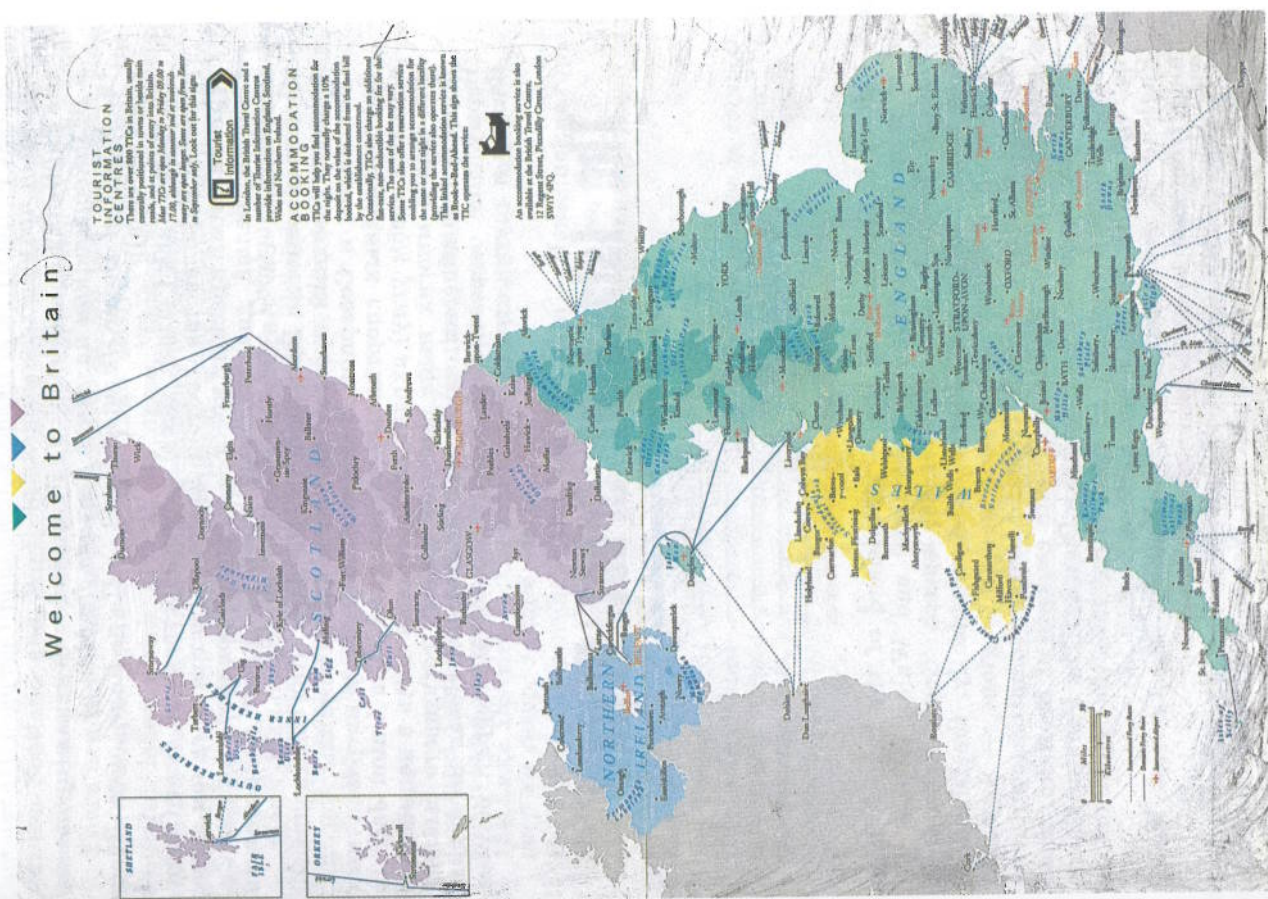
The population of the United Kingdom is over 57 million people. There are fourteen other countries in the world with more people.

English is not the only language which people use in the UK. English is the official language. But some people speak Gaelic in western Scotland, Welsh—in parts of northern and central Wales.

The flag of the United Kingdom, known as the Union Jack⁸, is made up of three crosses. The upright red cross is the cross of St. George, the patron saint of England. The white diagonal cross is the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. The red diagonal cross is the cross of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

References

1. the UK = the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland — Соединенное Королевство Великобритании и Северной Ирландии (официальное название Соединенного Королевства с 1922 г.)
2. the British Isles ['brɪtɪʃ 'aɪləz] — Британские острова
3. Edinburgh ['edɪnbərg] — г. Эдинбург (столица Шотландии; крупный культурный центр)
4. Cardiff ['kɑːdɪf] — г. Кардифф (столица Уэльса; крупный промышленный центр и порт)



5. Belfast [bəl'fɑ:st] — г. Белфаст (столица Северной Ирландии; крупный промышленный центр)
6. the English Channel ['ɪŋɡlɪʃ 'tʃænl] Английский канал (принятое в Великобритании название пролива Ла-Манш)
7. the Strait of Dover ['streɪtəv'dəʊvə] — Па-де-Кале (бухта. Дуврский пролив)
8. the Union Jack ['juːnjən 'dʒæk] — государственный флаг Соединенного Королевства, состоит из трех крестов на синем фоне: вертикальный красный крест — крест покровителя Англии Св. Георгия, белый диагональный крест — крест покровителя Шотландии Св. Андрея и красный диагональный крест — крест покровителя Ирландии Св. Патрика. Под собственными флагами (с одним крестом на синем фоне) команды Англии, Шотландии и Северной Ирландии выступают на различных международных спортивных состязаниях. The Union Jack (в верхнем левом углу) входит как составная часть в национальные флаги многих ныне самостоятельных государств бывшей Британской империи, таких как Австралия, Новая Зеландия, Бермудские острова, Каймановы острова, Монсеррат, острова Фиджи и других стран.

The Island of Great Britain

- Lowland and Highland Britain¹
- Mountains and Hills
- The Chief Rivers
- The Lake District²
- The Largest Cities

Great Britain is the name of the largest island of the British Isles and it is made up of England, Scotland and Wales, it does not include Northern Ireland. In everyday speech 'Great Britain' is used to mean the United Kingdom. Geographically, the island of Great Britain is subdivided into two main regions — Lowland Britain and Highland Britain. Lowland Britain comprises southern and eastern England. Highland Britain consists of Scotland, most of Wales, the Pennines³, and the Lake District. The Pennine Chain extends southward from the Cheviot Hills⁴ into the Midlands⁵, a plains region with low hills and valleys.

England is separated from Scotland by the Cheviot Hills, running from east to west.

The chief rivers of Great Britain are: the Severn⁶, flowing along the border between England and Wales, tributaries of which include the Avon, famed by Shakespeare; the Thames, which flows eastward to the port of London and some others. The swiftest

flowing river in the British Isles is the Spey. Part of the border between Scotland and England is along the lower reaches of the Tweed⁷, near which is made the woollen fabric that bears its name.

There are many lakes in Great Britain. On the northwest side of the Pennine system lies the Lake District, containing the beautiful lakes which give it its name. This district is widely known for its association with the history of English literature and especially with the name of William Wordsworth (1770—1859), the founder of the Lake School⁸ of poets.

The largest cities of Great Britain are: London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds, Edinburgh. The most important ports are: London, Liverpool, Southampton⁹, Belfast, Glasgow and Cardiff.

References

1. Lowland ['ləʊlənd] and Highland ['haɪlənd] Britain ['brɪtɪn] — низменная и гористая части Великобритании
2. the Lake District — Озерный край (живописный район гор и озер на северо-западе Англии)
3. the Pennines ['penaɪnz] = the Pennine Chain — Пеннинские горы
4. the Cheviot Hills ['tʃeɪvɪət 'hɪlz] — Чевиот-Хилс (горы)
5. the Midlands ['mɪdləndz] — Мидлендз, центральные графства Англии
6. the Severn ['severn] — р. Северн
7. the Tweed [twɪd] — р. Твид
8. the Lake School — «Озерная школа» (литературное сотрудничество поэтов-романтиков начала XIX в.; названа по Озерному краю, где жили поэты)
9. Southampton [saʊθ'æm(p)tən] — г. Саутгемптон

England

- The Largest Part of the UK
- Population
- Location
- The Sea in the History of England
- Rivers
- Dales¹
- Industries



Of the four parts which make up Great Britain England is the largest, the industrial and most densely populated part of the United Kingdom. Over 46 million people of the population of the UK live in England.

The greatest concentrations of population are in London, Birmingham and northwest industrial cities. The coasts of England are washed by the North Sea, the Irish Sea, the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. No part of England is more than 120 kilometres from the sea.

It is interesting to note that the sea has been important in the history of England. It was a good protection against the attacks of outside peoples. Fishing has always been an important industry, especially in the east. The sea also has a great effect on England's climate.

There are many rivers in England. The longest is the Severn (388 km), the most important is the Thames (354 km). The rivers are of great importance for communication and especially for carrying goods.

England is mostly a lowland country. There are upland regions in the north and the southwest, but the rest of England is almost flat.

Northern England, Midlands and Southern England—each part of England is different. The Lake District in Northern England with its lakes, mountains and valleys is a favourite holiday area. On either side of the Pennines the plains of Yorkshire² and Lancashire³ stretch to the sea. In Yorkshire swift rivers flow down from the hills into valleys called 'dales'.

The wool industry is centred in Leeds and Bradford⁴, the cotton industry in Manchester, iron ore goes to the steel, heavy machinery and shipbuilding industries of Newcastle and other cities. The industries of the Midlands, with Birmingham as its chief city, produce metal goods, from motor cars and railway engines to pins and buttons. The Midland plain makes good farm land.

In Southern England are found some of the oldest British settlements and traces of ancient monuments such as Stonehenge⁵.

References

1. dale — горная речка (букв. «желоб»)
2. Yorkshire ['jɔ:kʃɪə] — Йоркшир (графство в Англии)
3. Lancashire ['læŋkəʃɪə] — Ланкашир (графство в Англии)
4. Bradford ['brædfəd] — г. Брадфорд (крупный промышленный город)
5. Stonehenge ['stəʊn'hendʒ] — Стоунхендж (один из самых больших и известных в мире кромлехов; сооружен в 1900—1600 гг. до н.э.; состоит из огромных отдельно стоящих каменных глыб в виде круглых или квадратных оград; использовался для астрономических наблюдений и определения времени года)

London

- Location
- Population
- Its Importance in the Life of Britain
- The City¹, the West End and the East End
- The Best-Known Streets and Sights

When we think of Paris, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon and other European capitals, we think of them as 'cities'. When we think of the whole of modern London, the capital city of England and the United Kingdom, that great area covering several hundred square kilometres, we do not think of it as 'a city', not even as a city and its suburbs. Modern London is not one city that has steadily become larger through the centuries; it is a number of cities, towns, and villages that have, during the past centuries, grown together to make one vast urban area.



Tower Bridge

London is situated upon both banks of the River Thames, it is the largest city in Britain and one of the largest in the world. Its population is about 7 million people.

London dominates the life of Britain. It is a big port and most important commercial, manufacturing and cultural centre. There is little heavy industry in London, but there is a wide range of light industry in Greater London².

The City extends over an area of about 2.6 square kilometres in the heart of London. About half a million people work in the City but only less than 6000 live here. It is the financial centre of the UK with many banks, offices and the Stock Exchange³. But the City is also a market for goods of almost every kind, from all parts of the world.

The West End can be called the centre of London. Here are the historical palaces as well as the famous parks. Hyde Park with its Speaker's Corner⁴ is also here. Among other parks are Kensington Gardens⁵, St. James's Park⁶. In the West End is Buckingham Palace⁷ which is the Queen's residence, and the Palace of Westminster⁸ which is the seat of Parliament.

The best-known streets here are Whitehall⁹ with important Government offices, Downing Street¹⁰, the London residence of the Prime Minister and the place where the Cabinet meets, Fleet Street¹¹ where most newspapers once had their offices, Harley Street¹² where the highest-paid doctors live, and some others.

The name 'West End' came to be associated with wealth, luxury, and goods of high quality. It is the area of the largest department stores, cinemas and hotels. There are about 40 theatres, several concert halls, many museums including the British Museum¹³, and the best art galleries.

It is in the West End that the University of London is centred with Bloomsbury¹⁴ as London's student quarter.

Visitors with plenty of money to spend and who come chiefly for enjoyment are likely to pass most of their time in the West End.

The port of London is to the east of the City. Here were kilometres and kilometres of docks, and the great industrial areas that depended upon shipping. This is the East End of London, formerly unattractive in appearance, but now changing because of the introduction of new industries and very expensive housing.

References

1. the City — 1) Сити (исторический центр Лондона; один из крупнейших финансовых и коммерческих центров мира);
2) перен. английский финансовый капитал, финансовая олигархия

Piccadilly
Circus



In Trafalgar
Square



The Royal
Albert
Hall —
setting for
anything
from
'The
Proms'
to rock
concerts



2. Greater London — Большой Лондон (административно-территориальная единица, включает сам город и пригороды)
3. Stock Exchange ['stɒk ɪks, ʃeɪndʒ] — Лондонская фондовая биржа (основана в 1773 г.; современное двадцатишестизэтажное здание построено в 1970 г.)
4. Speaker's Corner ['spɪkəz 'kɔ:nə] — «Уголок оратора» (место в Гайд-Парке, где по субботам и воскресеньям с импровизированной трибуны выступают ораторы на различные темы; в наст. вр. превратился в одну из туристических достопримечательностей Лондона)
5. Kensington Gardens ['kenzɪŋtən 'gɑ:dnz] — Кенсингтон-Гарденз (большой парк в Лондоне, примыкает к Гайд-Парку)
6. St. James's Park [snt 'dʒeɪmzɪz 'pɑ:k] — Сент-Джеймс-парк (расположен в центральной части Лондона)
7. Buckingham Palace ['bʌkɪŋəm 'pælɪs] — Букингемский дворец (главная королевская резиденция в Лондоне с 1837 г.)
8. the Palace of Westminster ['rælɪsəv 'westmɪnstə] — 1) Вестминстерский дворец (с середины XIV в. в нем проходят заседания парламента); 2) здание английского парламента; английский парламент
9. Whitehall [waɪt 'hɔ:l] — 1) Уайтхолл (улица в центральной части Лондона, на которой находятся некоторые важнейшие министерства и др. правительственные учреждения); 2) перен. английское правительство
10. Downing Street ['daʊnɪŋ 'stri:t] — 1) Даунинг-Стрит (небольшая улица в центральной части Лондона, на которой в доме № 10 находится лондонская резиденция премьер-министра); 2) Даунинг-Стрит, английское правительство
11. Fleet Street ['fli:t 'stri:t] — 1) Флит-Стрит (улица в Лондоне, на которой находились редакции большинства крупнейших газет); 2) перен. пресса и мир журналистики
12. Harley Street ['hɑ:lɪ 'stri:t] — 1) Харли-Стрит (улица в Лондоне, где находятся приемные ведущих частных врачей-консультантов); 2) перен. медики, медицинский мир
13. the British Museum — Британский музей (один из крупнейших музеев мира; находится в Лондоне)
14. Bloomsbury ['blʊmzɪzbəri] — Блумзбери (район в центральной части Лондона, где находятся Британский музей и Лондонский университет)

Scotland

• Location
• Three Main Regions
• Population and Its Distribution
• Lochs
• Aberdeen ¹ and Glasgow
• Edinburgh and Edinburgh Festival ²



Although Scotland takes up one third of the territory of the British Isles, its population is not very big. It is the most northern part of the island of Great Britain and is not far away from the Arctic Circle³.

That's why it is not densely populated: its population is a little over 5 million people. The Cheviot Hills mark the boundary between England and Scotland. Apart from this land link with England, Scotland is surrounded by sea.

Scotland includes the Hebrides⁴ off the west coast, and the Orkney⁵ and Shetland Islands⁶ off the north coast. It is bounded by the North Sea on the east.

Scotland is divided into three regions: the Highlands, which is the most northern and the most underpopulated area with a harsh climate, the Lowlands, which is the industrial region, with about three quarters of the population, and the Southern Uplands, with hills, which border on England.



A piper



The Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh

The Highlands of Scotland are among the oldest mountains in the world. They reach their highest point in Ben Nevis (1343 m). Many valleys between the hills are filled with lakes, called lochs. The best-known is Loch Ness⁷ where some people think a large monster lives. The most important city here is Aberdeen which is the oil centre of Scotland. Ships and helicopters travel from Aberdeen to the North Sea oil rigs. Work on an oil rig is difficult and dangerous.

Most of the population of Scotland is concentrated in the Lowlands. Here, on the Clyde⁸, is Glasgow, Scotland's biggest city.



Edinburgh
from
the Castle

Shipbuilding is one of its most important industries, other industries are iron and steel, heavy and light engineering and coal-mining. It is the centre of the working-class movement and has glorious revolutionary traditions.

Glasgow was a grim city because of the greyness of the houses many of which were not suitable for living and needed repairs or rebuilding. But now this city is rapidly changing, turning into an important cultural centre. Glasgow is sometimes called 'the friendly city'.

Scotland had been an independent state and was joined into the UK in 1707, after a long struggle for its independence.

One of the things that people associate with Scotland is the kilt⁹. The kilt is a relic of the time when the clan¹⁰ system existed in the Highlands. Everybody in the clan had the same family name, like MacDonald or MacGregor (Mac means 'son of'). The clan had its own territory and was ruled by a chieftain. Each clan had its own tartan¹¹.

Edinburgh has been the capital since the 15th century, when its fortified castle was the centre of Scotland's resistance to its enemies. Edinburgh is the cultural centre of Scotland. It is associated with the names of George Gordon Byron¹² and Walter Scott¹³, Robert Louis Stevenson¹⁴, Robert Burns¹⁵ and Arthur Conan Doyle¹⁶, creator of Sherlock Holmes. It is also associated

with the world-famous Edinburgh Festival of Music and Drama. The Festival was first held in 1947 and has been held annually ever since. Its emblem is a thistle¹⁷. The Edinburgh International Festival of 1987 was devoted to the Soviet Union. Our musicians, dancers and singers were a great success.

References

1. Aberdeen [ˌæbəˈdiːn] — г. Абердин (находится в Шотландии на Северном море)
2. Edinburgh Festival [ˈedinbərə ˈfestival] — Эдинбургский фестиваль (ежегодный международный музыкальный и театральный фестиваль в г. Эдинбурге в августе—сентябре. Проводится с 1947 г.)
3. the Arctic Circle [ˈɑːktɪk ˈseːkl] — Северный полярный круг
4. the Hebrides [ˈhebrɪdɪz] — Гебридские острова (включают около 500 островов)
5. the Orkney Islands [ˈɔːkni ˈaɪləndz] — Оркнейские острова (около 70 островов)
6. the Shetland Islands [ˈʃetlənd ˈaɪləndz] — Шетландские острова (включают около 100 островов)
7. Loch Ness [ˈlɒk ˈnes] — озеро Лох-Несс (56 км², длина около 40 км, глубина до 275 м)
8. the Clyde [klaɪd] — р. Клайд (на юге Шотландии; длина 170 км)
9. kilt — килт, юбка шотландского горца (в складку, из шерстяной шотландки; часть шотландского костюма)
10. clan — клан (родовая община у шотландцев и ирландцев; в наст. вр. лица, носящие общую родовую фамилию)
11. tartan [ˈtɑːtən] — тартан (традиционный шотландский рисунок из перекрещивающихся узких и широких разноцветных полос; каждый клан имеет свой тартан)
12. George Gordon Byron — Джордж Гордон Байрон (1788—1824), английский поэт-романтик, приверженец просветительских идеалов и эстетики классицизма. Пафос его жизни и творчества — в борьбе против тирании. Среди его самых известных поэм — «Паломничество Чайлда Гарольда» и «Дон Жуан»
13. Walter Scott [ˈwɔː(ɪ)ltə ˈskɒt] — Вальтер Скотт (1771—1832), шотландский писатель и поэт. Романтизм в его творчестве своеобразно сочетается с ярко выраженными реалистическими тенденциями. Многие романы посвящены истории Шотландии. Ключевыми в его творчестве считаются романы «Роб Рой» и «Айвенго»
14. Robert Louis Stevenson [ˈrɒbət ˈluː ˈstɪvənsən] — Роберт Луис Стивенсон (1850—1894), шотландский писатель, неоромантик, часто изображал необычные драматические ситуации с элементами фантастики. Среди его приключенческих романов —

«Остров сокровищ», «Похищенный», «Черная стрела», «Владеть Баллантраэ»

15. Robert Burns ['rɒbət 'bɜːnz] — Роберт Бернс (1759—1796), шотландский поэт. Создал самобытную поэзию, в которой прославил труд, народ и свободу, бескорыстную и самоотверженную любовь и дружбу

16. Arthur Conan Doyle ['ɑːθə 'kɒnən 'dɔɪl] — Артур Конан Дойл (1859—1930), английский писатель, автор фантастических и исторических романов. Наиболее известны его детективные повести и рассказы о сыщике Шерлоке Холмсе, такие, как «Приключения Шерлока Холмса», «Собака Баскервилей» и др.

17. thistle ['θɪsl] — чертополох (национальная эмблема Шотландии, а также эмблема Эдинбургского фестиваля)

Wales

• Landscape
• The Welsh
• Minerals
• Industries
• Cardiff
• Swansea ¹
• Culture



Another constituent country of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is Wales. It became part of England in 1536 by the Act of Union. Until then it had been regarded as a separate principality but a dependency of England. The Welsh call their country Cymru², and themselves they call Cymry³, a word which has the same root as 'comrade' (friend, or comrade). The population of Wales is over 3 million people. About 75 per cent of the people of Wales live in towns and urban districts.

The living standards of people in Wales are lower than in England, the unemployment rate is higher. South Wales has a rich tradition of struggle for more jobs and better working conditions in mines.

Wales is a highland country of old, hard rocks. North Wales is a country of mountains and deep valleys, South Wales is a land of high hills and wide valleys. The pride of Wales in scenery is Snow-

In South Wales



donia⁴, a region of high mountains. Snowdon⁵ is the highest mountain in England and Wales.

Except for coal, mineral resources are limited, and include gold, silver, lead and copper. South Wales is more developed: coal-mining, steel production, electronics, electrical engineering can be found here.

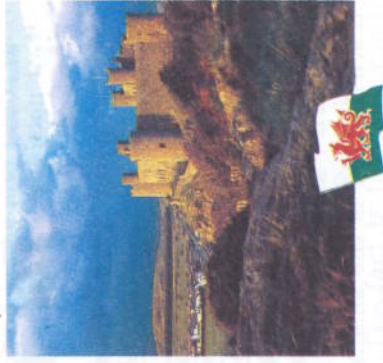
The capital of Wales is Cardiff, the largest city of Wales. Cardiff is situated near the mouth of the Taff River⁶. It is an important industrial city and a port. It is also an administrative and educational centre.

The second largest city in Wales is Swansea where mainly steel production can be found. Since World War II there has been intensive development in the metals industries especially in the south and southeast.

The Welsh people, especially in rural areas, are fond of folk music, singing, poetry and drama. Welsh literature is one of the oldest in Europe. There are many choirs in Wales, the standard of singing is high and the love of good music is widespread. Now there is a growing movement of revival of Welsh culture from which sprang the revival of Eisteddfod⁷. Eisteddfod in the form of a gathering of bards had occasionally been held in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. Now Eisteddfod is a festival of Welsh culture. It includes competitions in prose, poetry and singing.

Wales has its own flag called the Welsh dragon.

The 13th century castle in Wales



References

1. Swansea ['swɒnzɪ] — Суонси (второй по величине и значению город юго-восточной части Уэльса, порт и промышленный центр)
2. Cymru ['kɑmɪ] — валл. Уэльс
3. Cymry — валл. уэльсцы, валлийцы
4. Snowdonia [snəu 'dɒniə] — Сноудония (национальный парк в живописном горном районе на севере Уэльса)
5. Snowdon ['snəʊdn] — гора Сноудон
6. the Taff [tæf] River — р. Тафф
7. Eisteddfod [ais 'tedfəd] — айстетдвод, состязание бардов (фестиваль валлийских певцов, музыкантов и поэтов; проводится ежегодно в Уэльсе)

Northern Ireland

- Location
- History
- Struggle for Reunification
- Scenery
- Industries
- Belfast



Northern Ireland is the smallest component of the United Kingdom. It occupies the northeast of the island of Ireland, only one-sixth of its territory. Northern Ireland contains six of the nine counties of the historic province of Ulster¹ and that is why the name 'Ulster' is sometimes used as equivalent to Northern Ireland. Its capital city is Belfast.



The Giant's Causeway, a mass of stone columns standing very near together

For seven centuries Ireland was a colony of Britain. Due to the colonial policy of Great Britain the Irish nation was forcefully partitioned. As a result of the hard struggle of the Irish people for independence the larger part of Ireland (26 counties) gained the status of a British dominion² in 1921. Much later, in 1949 it was officially proclaimed an independent state, the Irish Free State or Eire³. The industrial northeast (Northern Ireland with its 6 counties) was retained by Great Britain as its smallest component. But certain forces of both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland are for the reunification of the country, against social deprivation which is at its worst among Catholics. They believe that British withdrawal from Ireland is the only way to achieve peace.

Since trouble started in Northern Ireland in the late 1960s there have been a number of attempts to find a political solution to the Northern Ireland problem.

In November 1985, the British and Irish governments made a new political agreement on Northern Ireland, the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

It gives the Republic of Ireland a voice in the administration of Northern Ireland, and the Irish government recognizes that there will only be a united Ireland, if a majority of people in Ulster agree to it. The two governments are still working together toward a solution.

If one asks an Irishman away from home what he misses most about Ireland, he will probably tell you 'the greenness'. Irish poets put it is a different way when they call Ireland 'the Emerald Isle'⁴. Is the grass really greener in Ireland? The fact is that the winds usually blow in from the Atlantic Ocean and make the air and soil warm and damp. Grass grows well in such a climate and it makes the island look so beautiful.

There are low hills and peaks of rocks in the northwest, while the northeast sector of the island is a plateau. The Mourne Mountains⁵ in the southeast slope down to Lough Neagh⁶, the largest lake in the British Isles. The rivers of Ireland are short, but deep. The largest river is the Shannon⁷.

The population of Northern Ireland is about 1.5 million people. 53 per cent of the total population live in urban areas. The whole economy of Northern Ireland is closely integrated with that of Great Britain. It has its roots in three basic industries—agriculture, textiles and shipbuilding. The large industry is agriculture conducted for the most part on small family farms. It occupies about 72 per cent of the land area.

Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland is the leading industrial centre and a large port. Its chief industries are the production of linen and other textiles, clothing, shipbuilding, engineering.

In Ireland the national musical instrument is the harp.

References

1. Ulster ['ʌlstə] — Ольстер (историческая область на севере о-ва Ирландия; большая ее часть после раскола страны в 1921 году была включена в качестве автономной провинции в состав Соединенного Королевства как Северная Ирландия)
2. dominion [də'mɪnjən] — доминион (название стран Британской империи, формально суверенных и имевших равные права с Великобританией, фактически находившихся в разной степени экономической и политической зависимости; признавали в качестве главы государства британского монарха)

3. Eire ['eɪə] — Эйре (другое название Ирландской Республики)
4. the Emerald Isle ['emərəld'aɪl] — Изумрудный остров (так называют Ирландию из-за ярко-зеленого цвета растительности, особ. травы)
5. the Mourne Mountains ['mɔːn 'maʊntɪnz] — горы Морн
6. Lough Neagh [ˌlɒk 'neɪ] — озеро Лох-Ней в Северной Ирландии
7. the Shannon ['ʃænən] — р. Шеннон

Population

• Early Inhabitants
• The British Nation
• Distribution of the Population
• National Minorities
• Languages

The population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is over 57 million people. The population lives mostly in towns and cities and their suburbs. Four out of every five people live in towns.

The distribution of the population is rather uneven. Over 46 million people live in England, over 3 million in Wales, a little over 5 million in Scotland and about 1.5 million in Northern Ireland.

Greater London, the south and the southeast are the most densely populated areas. London's population is nearly 7 million. Most of the mountainous parts of the UK including much of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Pennine Chain in northern England are very sparsely populated.

The UK is inhabited by the English¹, the Scots², the Welsh³, and the Irish⁴ who constitute the British nation. The British⁵ are the descendants of different peoples who settled in the British Isles at different times.

The earliest known people of Britain were of Iberian⁶ origin. Then followed a long succession of invaders including the Celts⁷, the Romans⁸, the Anglo-Saxons⁹, the Danes¹⁰ and at last in 1066 the Normans¹¹. It was the last time Britain was invaded.

Now there are also many people of all colours and races in the UK. These are mostly former inhabitants of the former British colonies. These people, called 'the coloureds', came to the UK in search of better living standards.

English is the official language of the UK. Besides standard literary English there are many regional and social dialects. A well-known example is the cockney¹² of East Londoners. The Scot-

tish and Irish forms of Gaelic¹³ survive in some parts of Scotland and Ireland.

Wales is officially bilingual, Welsh is spoken by about a fifth of its population. Welsh is the first language in most of the western counties of Wales and at least formally has the same status as English. Nowadays there is a growing movement in Wales and Scotland for a revival of national culture and languages.

References

1. the English — англичане
2. the Scots [skɒts] — шотландцы
3. the Welsh [welʃ] — валлийцы, уэльсцы (уроженцы Уэльса)
4. the Irish ['aɪrɪʃ] — ирландцы
5. the British — англичане, британцы
6. Iberian [aɪ'beɪən] — иберийский (иберийцы — древнейшее население Британских островов)
7. the Celts [kelts] — кельты (потомки древних кельтов; большая часть ныне живет в Уэльсе, Шотландии, Северной Ирландии, Корнуолле и на о-ве Мэн)
8. the Romans ['rəʊmən] — римляне (завоевавшие Британию в I—IV вв. н. э.)
9. the Anglo-Saxons ['æŋgləʊ'sæksənz] англосаксы (общее название древнегерманских племен — англов, саксов, ютов и фризов, завоевавших в V—VI вв. Британию и образовавших в VII—X вв. одну народность)
10. the Danes — ист. датчане
11. the Normans ['nɔːmən] — норманны («северные люди», викинги, вторгшиеся в Англию во главе с герцогом Нормандии Вильгельмом, который после победы при Гастингсе стал королем Англии. Нормандское завоевание Англии в 1066 году способствовало завершению процесса ее феодализации. Сложила английская народность)
12. cockney ['kɒkni] — кокни, лондонское просторечие
13. Gaelic ['geɪlɪk] — гаэльский язык (относится к кельтской группе индоевропейских языков; к V—VI вв. вытеснен латинским языком)

Climate

- Temperate Climate
- Dry or Wet?
- Winds
- Changeable Weather
- Rainfall

The climate in the UK is generally mild and temperate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream. The southwestern winds carry the warmth and moisture into Britain. The climate in Britain is usually described as cool, temperate and humid.

The weather is so changeable that the English often say that they have no climate but only weather. Therefore it is natural for them to use the comparison 'as changeable as the weather' of a person who often changes his mood or opinion about something. The weather is the favourite topic of conversation in the UK. As the weather changes with the wind, and Britain is visited by winds from different parts of the world, the most characteristic feature of Britain's weather is its variability.

The English also say that they have three variants of weather: when it rains in the morning, when it rains in the afternoon or when it rains all day long. Sometimes it rains so heavily that they say 'It's raining cats and dogs'.

Rainfall is more or less even throughout the year. In the mountains there is heavier rainfall than in the plains of the south and east. The driest period is from March to June and the wettest months are from October to January. The average range of temperature (from winter to summer) is from 5 to 23 degrees above zero. During a normal summer the temperature sometimes rises above 30 degrees in the south. Winter temperatures below 10 degrees are rare. It seldom snows heavily in winter, frost is rare. January and February are usually the coldest months, July and August the warmest. Still the wind may bring winter cold in spring or summer days. Sometimes it brings whirlwinds or hurricanes. Droughts are rare.

So, we may say that the British climate has three main features: it is mild, humid and changeable. That means that it is never too hot or too cold. Winters are extremely mild. Snow may come but it melts quickly. In winter the cold is a humid cold, not dry.

This humid and mild climate is good for plants. Trees and flowers begin to blossom early in spring.

References

1. It's raining cats and dogs. — Дождь льет как из ведра.

Vegetation and Wildlife

- Flowers
- Trees and Woods
- Animals
- Birds
- Symbols and National Emblems
- Threats to Wildlife

The humid and mild climate of Great Britain is good for plants and flowers. Some of them have become symbols in the UK. Probably you know that the poppy¹ is the symbol of peace, the red rose² is the national emblem of England, the thistle is the national emblem of Scotland and the Edinburgh International Festival. The daffodils³ and the leek⁴ are the emblems of Wales, the shamrock⁵ (a kind of clover⁶) is the emblem of Ireland.

The UK was originally a land of vast forests, mainly oak and beech⁷ in the Lowlands and pine and birch in the Highlands, with great stretches of marshland and smaller areas of moors⁸. In the course of time, much forest land was cleared and almost all the Lowlands outside the industrial areas were put under cultivation. Today only about 6 per cent of the total land area remains wooded.

Extensive forests remain in eastern and northern Scotland and in southeastern and western England. Oak, elm, ash, and beech are the commonest trees in England, while Scotland has much pine and birch. The Highlands with thin soil are largely moorland with heather⁹ and grasses. In the cultivated areas that make up most of Britain there are many wild flowers, flowering plants and grasses.

The fauna or animal life of the UK is much like that of northwestern Europe, to which it was once joined. Many larger mammals such as bear and wolf have been hunted to extinction, others are now protected by law. About 50 land mammals are still found in the UK. There are many foxes. Otters are common along rivers and streams, and seals live along parts of the coast. Hedgehogs, hares, rabbits, rats and mice are numerous. Deer live in some of the forests in the Highlands of Scotland and in England. There are several small lizards, two or three kinds of snakes, and several kinds of frogs and toads.

You may think that there are crocodiles in the British Isles if you read that '... a traditional jazz band led the three-mile crocodile in a musical protest to 10 Downing Street'. But it is not

the capital Cardiff, or may come from Dafydd, the Welsh form of David.

Years ago, all Irish people spoke Gaelic, and this language is still spoken in some parts of Ireland, although today all Irish people speak English also. Evidence of Gaelic is still found in place-names, for example 'bally'—town, 'slieve'—mountain, 'lough'—lake, 'inis'—island, 'drum'—mountain top, 'glen'—valley.

The influence of Irish Gaelic is also found in the names of people. Here are some typical Gaelic first names:

- Sean [ʃɔ:n]—same as John;
- Seamus [ˈʃeɪmʊs]—same as James;
- Liam [ˈlɪəm]—same as William;
- Seanna [ˈʃɔ:nə]—same as Joanna.

Paddy (short for Patrick) and Micky (short for Michael) are not Gaelic names but they are found so often in Ireland that these two names are sometimes used jokingly to mean 'an Irishman'. Many Irish surnames begin with:

- O'... meaning 'from the family of';
- Fitz... meaning 'son of';
- Mac... meaning 'son of';
- Kil... meaning 'son of';
- Gil... meaning 'son of'.

Here are some examples.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| O'Brien [əu'braɪən] | MacMahon [mək'mæhən] |
| O'Neil [əu'niəl] | MacHugh [mək'hju:] |
| Fitzwilliam [fɪts'wɪljəm] | Kilmartin [kɪl'mɑ:tɪn] |
| Fitzgerald [fɪts'dʒɛrəld] | Gilmurray [gɪl'maɪ] |

Part Three

EDUCATION

Schooling

- Free of Fee-Paying?
- Class-divided and Selective
- General Education Subjects
- Options
- The Main Stages

G

reat Britain does not have a written constitution, so there are no constitutional provisions for education. The system of education is determined by the National Education Acts¹.

Schools in England are supported from public funds paid to the local education authorities². These local education authorities are responsible for organizing the schools in their areas.

Let's outline the basic features of public education in Britain. Firstly, there are wide variations between one part of the country and another. For most educational purposes England and Wales are treated as one unit, though the system in Wales is a little different from that of England. Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own education systems.

Secondly, education in Britain mirrors the country's social system: it is class-divided and selective. The first division is between those who pay and those who do not pay. The majority of schools in Britain are supported by public funds and the education provided is free. They are maintained schools³, but there is also a considerable number of public schools⁴. Parents have to pay fees to send their children to these schools. The

fees are high. As a matter of fact, only very rich families can send their children to public schools. In some parts of Britain they still keep the old system of grammar schools, which are selective. But most secondary schools in Britain which are called comprehensive schools are not selective — you don't have to pass an exam to go there.

Another important feature of schooling in Britain is the variety of opportunities offered to schoolchildren. The English school syllabus is divided into Arts (or Humanities) and Sciences, which determine the division of the secondary school pupils into study groups: a Science pupil will study Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics (Maths), Economics, Technical Drawing, Biology, Geography; an Art pupil will do English Language and Literature, History, foreign languages, Music, Art, Drama.⁵ Besides these subjects they must do some general education subjects like Physical Education (PE), Home Economics for girls, and Technical subjects for boys, General Science. Computers play an important part in education. The system of options⁶ exists in all kinds of secondary schools.

The National Education Act of 1944⁷ provided three stages of education: primary, secondary and further education.⁸ Compulsory schooling in England and Wales lasts 11 years, from the age of 5 to 16. British schools usually have prayers and religious instruction.

The National Curriculum which was introduced in 1988 sets out in detail the subjects that children should study and the levels of achievement they should reach by the ages of 7, 11, 14, and 16, when they are tested. Until that year headmasters and headmistresses⁹ of schools were given a great deal of freedom in deciding what subjects to teach and how to do it in their schools so that there was really no central control at all over individual schools. The National Curriculum does not apply in Scotland, where each school decides what subjects it will teach.

After the age of 16 a growing number of school students are staying on at school, some until 18 or 19, the age of entry into higher education in universities, Polytechnics¹⁰ or colleges. Schools in Britain provide careers guidance¹¹. A specially trained person called careers advisor, or careers officer helps school students to decide what job they want to do and how they can achieve it.

Education in Britain

class	school	age
	nursery school	3
	playgroup or kindergarten	4
reception class		5
year 1	infant school } primary school	6
year 2		7
year 3		8
year 4		9
year 5		10
year 6		11
year 7	junior school } primary school	12
year 8		13
year 9		14
year 10		15
year 11		16
year 12	sixth form college	17
year 13		18
first year (fresher)	University or Polytechnic	19
second year		20
third/final year		21
postgraduate	University	22
		23

British university courses are rather short, generally lasting for 3 years. The cost of education depends on the college or university and speciality which one chooses.

References

1. National Education Acts — государственные акты об образовании
2. local education authorities ['ləukl'edju'keɪz] — местные органы народного образования (отвечают за деятельность)

- школ и колледжей на определенной территории и выплачивают заработную плату учителям этих учебных заведений)
3. **maintained school** [meɪn'teɪnd 'sku:lz] — субсидируемые школы (находятся полностью в ведении местных органов народного образования)
 4. **public schools** ['pʌblɪk 'sku:lz] — паблик школз (высокоприимчивые частные школы, платные, закрытые, чаще школы-интернаты)
 5. **Drama** ['drɑ:mə] — драматизация; уроки по основам драматического мастерства
 6. **system of options** ['ɒpʃənz] — система выбора предметов для изучения (ученики с помощью консультанта выбирают предметы в зависимости от склонностей и планов на будущее)
 7. **the National Education Act of 1944** — Акт 1944 года об образовании (определил структуру системы народного образования в Англии)
 8. **further education** — дальнейшее, послешкольное образование (дневное или вечернее; иногда с освобождением от работы; не включает обучение в университете. Как правило, рассчитано на подготовку к практической работе)
 9. **headmasters and headmistresses** — директора и директрисы (школ)
 10. **Polytechnics** [ˌpɒlɪ'teknɪks] — политехнический институт (многопрофильное высшее учебное заведение; готовит специалистов по техническим, гуманитарным и др. наукам)
 11. **careers guidance** [kə'pɜːz 'gaɪdənz] — профессиональная ориентация; тж. careers advice

Pre-primary and Primary Education

•Nurseries
•Primary School ¹
•Streaming
•The Eleven-Plus
Examination ² —No More of it?

In some areas of England there are nursery schools³ for children under 5 years of age. Some children between two and five receive education in nursery classes or in infants classes⁴ in primary schools. Many children attend informal pre-school play-groups organized by parents in private homes. Nursery schools are staffed with teachers and students in training. There are all kinds of toys

to keep the children busy from 9 o'clock in the morning till 4 o'clock in the afternoon—while their parents are at work. Here the babies play, lunch and sleep. They can run about and play in safety with someone keeping an eye on them.

For day nurseries which remain open all the year round the parents pay according to their income. The local education authority's nurseries⁵ are free. But only about three children in 100 can go to them: there aren't enough places, and the waiting lists are rather long.

Most children start school at 5 in a primary school. A primary school may be divided into two parts—infants and juniors. At infants school reading, writing and arithmetic are taught for about 20 minutes a day during the first year, gradually increasing to about 2 hours in their last year. There is usually no written timetable. Much time is spent in modelling from clay or drawing, reading or singing.

By the time children are ready for the junior school⁶ they will be able to read and write, do simple addition and subtraction of numbers.

At 7 children go on from the infants school to the junior school. This marks the transition from play to 'real work'. The children have set periods⁷ of arithmetic, reading and composition which are all Eleven-Plus subjects. History, Geography, Nature Study, Art and Music, Physical Education, Swimming are also on the timetable.

Pupils are streamed⁸, according to their ability to learn, into A, B, C and D streams. The least gifted are in the D stream. Formerly towards the end of their fourth year the pupils wrote their Eleven-Plus Examination. The hated 11+ examination was a selective procedure on which not only the pupils' future schooling but their future careers depended. The abolition of selection at Eleven-Plus Examination brought to life comprehensive schools⁹ where pupils can get secondary education.

References

1. primary ['praɪməɪ] school — общая начальная школа (для детей от 5 до 11 лет в Англии и от 5 до 12 лет в Шотландии; государственная; включает первую ступень младшей и начальную школу)
2. Eleven-Plus Examination — отборочные экзамены в 11 с половиной лет (включают интеллектуальные тесты на проверку умственных способностей учащегося, его сообразительности, знания английского языка и арифметики; по результатам экзаменов определяют, в каком типе школы учащегося следует продолжать образование: в классической, технической или средней)

ней современной школе; в большинстве школ эти экзамены были отменены с введением единой средней школы)

3. nursery ['nɜːsəri] school — дошкольное учреждение; старшая группа детского сада
4. infants ['ɪnfənts] classes — классы первой ступени начальной школы (от 5 до 7 лет)
5. local education authority's nursery — дошкольное учреждение, находящееся в ведении местных органов образования
6. junior ['dʒuːniə] school — начальная школа (для детей от 7 до 11 лет; государственная; существует самостоятельно или в составе общей начальной школы)
7. set periods ['set 'piəriədz] — фиксированные в расписании уроки
8. to stream [striːm] распределять по потокам (в зависимости от результатов интеллектуальных тестов: streaming — распределение по «потокам»; сравните: grouping — распределение по группам для изучения предметов на разных уровнях и в зависимости от успехов)
9. comprehensive [,kɒmpri'hensɪv] school — единая средняя школа (соединяющая три типа школ: классическую, среднюю современную и техническую)

Secondary Education

- Comprehensive Schools
- Grammar Schools¹
- Secondary Modern Schools²
- The Sixth Form
- No More Inequality?
- Cuts on School Spending

After the age of 11, most children go to comprehensive schools of which the majority are for both boys and girls.

About 90 per cent of all state-financed secondary schools are of this type. Most other children receive secondary education³ in grammar and secondary modern schools.

Comprehensive schools were introduced in 1965. The idea of comprehensive



sive education, supported by the Labour Party, was to give all children of whatever background the same opportunity in education.

At 16 students in England and Wales take GCSE⁴ examinations. In 1988 these examinations replaced the GCE⁵ and O-levels⁶ which were usually passed by about 20 per cent of school students. GCSE examinations are taken by students of all levels of ability in any of a range of subjects, and may involve a final examination, and assessment of work done by the student during the two-year course, or both of these things.

Some comprehensive schools, however, do not have enough academic courses for sixth-formers. Students can transfer either to a grammar school or to a sixth-form college⁷ to get the courses they want.

At 18 some students take A-level⁸ examinations, usually in two or three subjects. It is necessary to have A-levels in order to go to a university or Polytechnic.

But some pupils want to stay on at school after taking their GCSE, to prepare for a vocational course or for work rather than for A-level examinations. Then they have to take the CPVE examination which means the Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education.

In Scotland students take the SCE examinations⁹. A year later, they can take examinations called Highers¹⁰ after which they can go straight to a university.

Secondary education in Northern Ireland is organized along selective lines according to children's abilities.

One can hardly say that high quality secondary education is provided for all in Britain. There is a high loss of pupils from working-class families at entry into the sixth form. If you are a working-class child at school today, the chance of your reaching the second year of a sixth-form course is probably less than one-twelfth of that for the child of a professional¹¹ parent. Besides, government cuts on school spending caused many difficulties.

References

1. grammar school — классическая школа (государственная или частная; предаматрируется изучение классических языков)
2. secondary modern school — средняя современная школа (государственная; имеет практическую направленность)
3. secondary education — среднее образование (для учащихся от 11 до 16 или 18 лет)
4. GCSE [ˌdʒiːsɪz 'iː] сокр. от the General Certificate of Secondary Education — общий аттестат о среднем образовании (введен в практику в 1988 г.; предполагает не только сдачу учащимися соответствующих экзаменов, но и оценку их текущей учебы за два года)
5. GCE [ˈdʒiːsi 'iː] сокр. от the General Certificate of Education —

Общий аттестат о школьном образовании (экзамены на получение такого аттестата существовали до 1988 г.)

6. O-level ['əʊ,levl] сокр. от Ordinary level — 1) на обычном, пониженном уровне 2) экзамены на Общий аттестат о школьном образовании, существовавшие до 1988 г.)
7. sixth-form college — подготовительный колледж (среднее учебное заведение для молодежи старше 16 лет; государственное или частное)
8. A-level ['eɪ,levl] сокр. от Advanced level 1) повышенный уровень; 2) экзамен на повышенном уровне по программе средней школы
9. SCE ['essi:'i] сокр. от the Scottish Certificate of Education — аттестат о среднем образовании на территории Шотландии
10. Highers ['haɪəz] — экзамены на повышенном уровне на получение аттестата о среднем образовании в Шотландии
11. professional [prə'feʃnəl] — человек умственного труда (адвокат, врач, архитектор, преподаватель и др.).

Life at School

• Three Terms ¹
• Breaks and Holidays
• Bell Times
• The School Building
• School Uniform
• Punishments and Rewards

The school year is divided into terms, three months each, named after seasons: autumn term, winter term and spring term.

The autumn term starts on the first Tuesday morning in September. In July schools break up for eight weeks.

Life at school is more or less similar everywhere. Each group of 30 pupils is the responsibility of a form tutor². Each schoolday is divided into periods³ of 40–50 minutes, time for various lessons with 10–20 minutes' breaks between them. It might be interesting for you to see the 'Bell Times' at Lawnswood school in Leeds.

Bell Times

- 8.40 a.m.—School begins
- 8.45 a.m.—Registration⁴
- 8.50 a.m.—Assembly⁵ bell

- 9.00 a.m.—Pupils move to lessons
- 9.05 a.m.—Lesson 1
- 9.45 a.m.—Lesson 2
- 10.25 a.m.—Lesson 3
- 11.05 a.m.—Break
- 11.25 a.m.—Pupils move to lessons
- 11.30 a.m.—Lesson 4
- 12.10 p.m.—Lesson 5
- 12.50 p.m.—Lunch time
- 1.40 p.m.—Afternoon school begins
- 1.45 p.m.—Registration
- 1.50 p.m.—Lesson 6
- 2.30 p.m.—Lesson 7
- 3.10 p.m.—End of normal lessons
- 3.10 p.m.—Start of additional lessons, clubs, societies, team practice, detentions⁶, etc.



On important occasions such as end of term or national holiday, called in English schools speech-days⁷ pupils are gathered in the assembly area or hall⁸.

Most of the pupils' time is spent in a classroom equipped with desks and a blackboard, nowadays often called chalkboard because normally it is brown or green. The desks are arranged in rows, the space between the rows is called an aisle.

In addition to classrooms there are laboratories for Physics,

Chemistry and Biology. Technical rooms are for Woodwork, Metalwork, Technical Drawing. There are rooms for computer studies. Many young people use them for school exercises. They are now able to write their own games as well. The Physical Education lessons are conducted at the gymnasium, games hall or at the playground in front of the school building. There are also language laboratories and housecraft rooms. Every school has a library and a school canteen. In student common room⁹ boys and girls can relax during the breaks and lunchtime. The Staff common room¹⁰ is for teachers. In case of illness a schoolchild may go to the sick room¹¹.



Pupils at many secondary schools in Britain have to wear a school uniform. This usually means a white blouse for girls (perhaps with a tie), with a dark-coloured skirt and pullover. Boys wear a shirt and tie, dark trousers and dark-coloured pullovers. Pupils also wear blazers—a kind of jacket—with the school badge on the pocket. They often have to wear some kind of hat on the way to and from school—caps for boys, and berets or some other kind of hat for girls. Shoes are usually black or brown. And no high heels!

Young people in Britain often don't like their school uniform, especially the hats and shoes. Sometimes they do not wear the right clothes. Schools will often give them a warning the first time that this happens but then will punish them if they continue not to wear the correct uniform. Senior students don't have to wear their school uniform.

It sounds logical to say that the school's function is to train a pupil's mind and his character should be formed at home. Teachers would be pleased if the problem could be solved so easily. But children don't leave their characters at home when their minds go to school. Many of them have personality problems of one kind or another.

The pupils who violate various school regulations may be punished in the following ways: for lateness, truancy they may be reported to the Headmaster or named in school assembly. They may be detained in school after ordinary hours.

Corporal punishment¹² has recently been banned in state schools. But in most public schools it is still allowed. Caning¹³ is the usual punishment for serious misbehaviour in class, damage and vandalism. Many teachers remark that standards of discipline have fallen since corporal punishment was banned by the government.

You may want to know whether there are any rewards and

prizes for the best pupils. Of course, there are. Each school has its system of rewards: medals and prizes.

References

1. term — семестр, триместр (*длится три месяца в школе и два месяца в университете*)
2. form tutor — руководитель класса учащихся или группы студентов
3. period — академический час, урок, занятие
4. registration [ˌredʒɪs'treɪʃn] — регистрация явившихся в школу учащихся
5. assembly [ə'sembli] — собрание, сбор учеников и учителей в школе (*проводится перед занятиями для чтения молитв или оглашения объявлений по школе*)
6. detentions [dɪ'tenʃnz] — дополнительные занятия после уроков
7. speech-day — актовый день (*торжественное собрание в конце учебного года в школе, колледже, на котором в присутствии родителей почетный гость произносит речь и вручает аттестаты и награды учащимся*)
8. assembly area or hall — зал для собраний, актовый зал
9. student common room — комната для старшеклассников (*т.ж. common room for senior pupils*)
10. staff [stɑːf] common room — комната для штатного персонала, учительская
11. sick room — медпункт
12. corporal punishment ['kɔːpərəl 'pʌnɪʃmənt] — телесное наказание
13. caning ['keɪnɪŋ] — наказание плетью или розгами

'Do's' and 'Don'ts'

- Basic Rules
- Procedures

A school, like any other organized group or community, must have basic rules and procedures if it is to function effectively.

Here are some of the regulations functioning at Lawnswood school in Leeds.

Rules

1. Appropriate school dress must be worn on all school occasions.

2. Bicycles shall not be ridden in the school grounds.
3. Ball games may not be played in areas close to unprotected windows.
4. Radios and tape-recorders of any type must not be brought to school.
5. No pupil is allowed to smoke on the school premises¹ or on school visits, or to bring cigarettes, matches or lighters onto school premises. Chewing-gum is not allowed in school.
6. Pupils must move about the corridors and staircases in an orderly manner; running in corridors and on staircases is forbidden.

Procedures

1. *Punctuality.* Pupils must be in form rooms by 8.45 a.m. and before 1.45 p.m.
2. *Lates.* Pupils arriving late for registration will obtain a late form from their Form Tutor. Pupils arriving after 9.00 a.m. must report immediately to the Office² in their building.
3. *Notices.* Notices may be displayed on school notice boards only with the permission of a member of Staff.
4. *Classes left unsupervised.* If a member of Staff does not arrive to take a lesson, the class will wait no longer than five minutes and then report the non-arrival to the Staff room.
5. *Safe-keeping.* Pupils should never bring valuable articles or large sums of money to school: money must be kept on one's person. In general, pupils are responsible for the safe-keeping of their own property.
6. *Lost property.* All personal property should be named. A pupil discovering the loss of any article of value will report the fact immediately and those finding property should hand it to a member of Staff.
7. *Absences.* If pupils are absent, their parents should inform the school by letter, otherwise a card will be sent to their home after two days. On returning to school after any absence, pupils must give to their Form Tutor a note from their parents explaining their absence. Leave of absence can only be granted under certain circumstances (e.g. careers interviews³, non-school examinations, family holiday) and should be requested in advance by letter from the parents to the Head of House⁴.
8. *Breakages.* Any pupil responsible for damage to school property (furniture, windows, etc.) will inform the Deputy Head or Head of House immediately.

These rules and procedures are very much like the rules of your school, aren't they?

Many children in Britain earn pocket money. But it is against the law for children in Britain to work more than two hours on a

school day. Jobs such as delivering daily newspapers or working in shops and supermarkets on Saturdays (when they can work longer hours) are popular with children.

References

1. school premises ['premisiz] здание школы с прилегающей территорией
2. Office — офис, канцелярия
3. careers interviews [kə'piəz 'intəvjuz] — консультации по профессиональной ориентации
4. Head of House — старший воспитатель группы учащихся разных классов, на которые делятся все учащиеся дневной школы

Public Schools—for Whom?

- Preparatory Schools
- Common Entrance
- Public Schools
- The Old School Tie¹
- Educating the Ruling Class

About 5 per cent of children are educated privately in what is rather confusingly called public schools. These are the schools for the privileged. There are about 500 public schools in England and Wales, most of them single-sex. About half of them are for girls.

These schools, such as Eton², Harrow³, Rugby⁴ and Winchester⁵, are famous for their ability to lay the foundation of a successful future by giving their pupils self-confidence, the right accent, a good academic background and, perhaps most important of all, the right friends and contacts. People who went to one of the public schools never call themselves school-leavers. They talk about 'the old school tie' and 'the old boy network'⁶. They are just old boys or old girls. The fees are high and only very rich families can afford to pay so much. Public schools educate the ruling class of England. One such school is Gordonstoun, which the Prince of Wales, the elder son of the Queen, left in 1968. Harrow School is famous as the place where Winston Churchill⁷ was educated, as well as six other Prime Ministers of

Social, Cultural and Sporting Life

- School Council¹
- Boy Scouts²
- Girl Guides³
- Cadets
- YCND⁴

Each school or sixth-form college has its School or College Council. It helps to plan the policy for the whole school. It organizes the social and cultural life at the school.

School Councils in many schools and colleges are chaired by a student and have a majority of student members. They run discos and parties, stage drama productions and decorate the student common room. Music-making is part of school life. Some students help in local hospitals, homes for the handicapped and elderly people.

There are many clubs and societies. Very popular, especially with senior pupils, is a school debating society⁵.

Most clubs meet regularly: daily, weekly or monthly, at lunch time or after school. Extracurricular activities include various outings, visits to places of interest and dances. School choirs and orchestras give regular concerts. Sports are very popular too: running, jogging, swimming, self-defence, football, soccer, badminton, aerobics, rugby, etc.

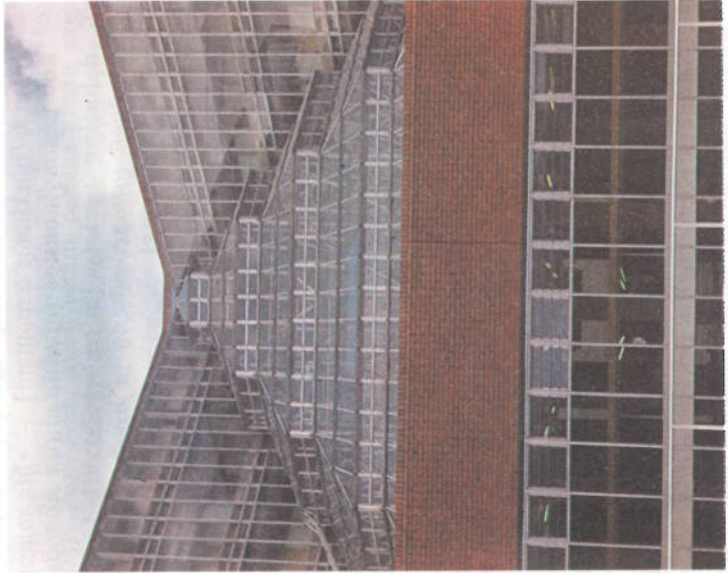
There are many national voluntary youth organizations in Britain. You have probably read about the Scout and Girl Guides Associations⁶. There are some clubs run by the churches. The three pre-service organizations (the Sea Cadet Corps⁷, Army Cadet Force⁸ and Air Training Corps⁹) are not very large. Their activities are related to the work of the armed forces.

But the largest youth organizations, as you probably know, are the associations of the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides. There are about 1,300,000 boys and girls in them. The movement of Boy Scouts was founded by General Baden-Powell in 1908 and began to spring up in almost every town and village of the British Isles. Its aim is to help a Scout (a boy from 8 to 18) to develop into a good man and a useful citizen. He must be able to handle sails, to use a compass, to lay and light a fire out of doors, he must know first aid and develop his interest in music, literature, drama, arts, and films. A Scout is a friend to animals, he is 'clean in thought, word and deed'. He must obey the Scout Law.

The Girl Guides Association was founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1910. It is divided into three sections: Brownies¹⁰ (from 7.5 to 11), Guides¹¹ (age 11–16), and Rangers¹² (age 16–21).



*King's
College,
Cambridge*



*The University
Library
in Cambridge*

The programme of training is planned to develop intelligence and practical skills including cookery, needlework and childcare. The training and the Law are much the same as those of the Scouts. Like a Scout a Girl Guide must be a friend to animals. She must be 'pure in thought, word and deed'. She must be loyal to God and the Queen.

There are several youth organizations associated with political parties. The Youth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (YCND) unites thousands of young people of Great Britain. It co-operates with the National Union of Students and many other youth organizations. It organizes mass rallies and meetings, demonstrations, marches of protest, festivals.

References

1. School Council ['kaʊnsəl] — школьный совет учащихся
2. boy scout — бойскаут (мальчик — член ассоциации бойскаутов); бойскаут средней дружины (от 11 до 15 лет)
3. girl guide — герл-гайд (член организации герл-гайдов)
4. YCND = Youth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament ['juθkənt-'reɪn fə 'njuːklɪədɪs'ætmənt] — «Молодежное движение за ядерное разоружение» (организация молодых сторонников мира)
5. debating society [dɪ'beɪtɪŋsə'saɪətɪ] — дискуссионный клуб (в средней школе, обычно в привилегированной частной, или в университете)
6. the Scout and Girl Guides Associations [ə'saʊsɪ'eɪ[nz] — ассоциация бойскаутов и организация герл-гайдов (девочек-скаутов)
7. Cadet Corps [kə'detkɔː] — организация военной подготовки (обычно в привилегированной частной школе)
8. Army Cadet Force ['ɑːmtɪkə'det'fɔːs] — военная организация в английских школах (готовит юношей 14—18 лет для службы в армии)
9. Air Training Corps ['ɛə 'treɪnɪŋ 'kɔː] — военная организация в английских школах (готовит юношей 14—18 лет для вступления в ВВС)
10. Brownies ['braʊnɪz] = brownie guides — брауни-гайды (младшая дружина девочек-скаутов от 7,5 до 11 лет в организации герл-гайдов)
11. guide — гайд, девочка-скаут средней дружины
12. Rangers ['reɪndʒəz] = ranger guides — рейнджер-гайды (старшая дружина девочек-скаутов от 16 до 21 года)

Life at College and University

- The Oldest Universities
- University Degrees
- Redbrick Universities¹
- Polytechnics
- Colleges of Education²
- Further Education Colleges
- The Open University³

The academic year in Britain's universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education is divided into three terms, which usually run from the beginning of October to the middle of December, from the middle of January to the end of March, and from the middle of April to the end of June or the beginning of July.

There are 46 universities in Britain. The oldest and best-known universities are located in Oxford, Cambridge, London, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Southampton, Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham.

Good A-level results in at least two subjects are necessary to get a place at a university. However, good exam passes alone are not enough. Universities choose their students after interviews. For all British citizens a place at a university brings with it a grant⁴ from their local education authority.

English universities greatly differ from each other. They differ in date of foundation, size, history, tradition, general organization, methods of instruction, way of student life.

After three years of study a university graduate will leave with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts⁵, Science, Engineering, Medicine, etc. Later he may continue to take a Master's Degree⁶ and then a Doctor's Degree⁷. Research is an important feature of university work.

The two intellectual eyes of Britain—Oxford and Cambridge Universities—date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

The Scottish universities of St. Andrews⁸, Glasgow, Aberdeen⁹ and Edinburgh date from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

In the nineteenth and the early part of the twentieth centuries the so-called Redbrick universities were founded. These include London, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield¹⁰, and Birmingham. During the late sixties and early seventies some 20 'new' universities were set up. Sometimes they are called 'concrete and glass' universities. Among them are the universities of Sussex¹¹, York¹², East Anglia¹³ and some others.

During these years the Government set up thirty Polytechnics. The Polytechnics, like the universities, offer first and higher

degrees. Some of them offer full-time and sandwich courses¹⁴. Colleges of Education provide two-year courses in teacher education or sometimes three years if the graduate specializes in some particular subject.

Some of those who decide to leave school at the age of 16 may go to a further education college where they can follow a course in typing, engineering, town planning, cooking, or hairdressing, full-time or part-time. Further education colleges have strong ties with commerce and industry.

There is an interesting form of studies which is called the Open University. It is intended for people who study in their own free time and who 'attend' lectures by watching television and listening to the radio. They keep in touch by phone and letter with their tutors and attend summer schools. The Open University students have no formal qualifications and would be unable to enter ordinary universities.

Some 80,000 overseas students study at British universities or further education colleges or train in nursing, law, banking or in industry.

References

1. Redbrick universities — «Краснокирпичные» университеты (разговорное название университетов, появившихся в XIX — начале XX в.)
2. College of Education — педагогический колледж (трехгодичный педагогический институт; в 1965 г. такие колледжи получили статус университета)
3. Open University — Открытый университет, университет для всех (функционирует с 1971 г.)
4. grant [grɑnt] — стипендия (обычн. выплачивается студентам из средств государственного бюджета или местных органов власти)
5. Bachelor of Arts ['bæʃələɪtʃ 'ɑ:ts] — бакалавр искусств (обладатель степени бакалавра по одной из гуманитарных или математических наук в университете)
6. Master's Degree — ученая степень магистра (присуждается университетом лицам, успешно завершившим по крайней мере год учебы и исследовательской работы после окончания университета)
7. Doctor's Degree — ученая степень доктора
8. St. Andrews [snt'ændru:z] — Сент-Андрус (приморский город-порт в графстве Файф, Шотландия, где расположен старейший университет)
9. Aberdeen [æbə'di:n] — г. Абердин (порт на Северном море в Шотландии)
10. Sheffield ['ʃelfi:ld] — г. Шеффилд (важный центр тяжелой промышленности)

11. Sussex ['sʌsɪks] — Суссекс (графство на юго-востоке Англии)
12. York [jɔ:k] — Йорк (важный транспортный узел на севере Англии; сохранил планировку средневекового крепостного города)

13. East Anglia ['æŋɡljə] — Восточная Англия (район Англии к востоку от Лондона; включает графства Кембриджшир, Эссекс, Норфолк и Суффолк)

14. sandwich course ['sænwɪdʒkɔ:s] — курсы «сэндвич» (для работающих; обычно при техническом колледже, где занятия чередуются с работой на предприятии)

Oxbridge

• At Oxbridge
• Oxford—the Golden Heart of Britain
• A College in Oxbridge
• Cambridge—Its Past and Present

Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest and most prestigious universities in Great Britain. They are often called collectively Oxbridge. Both universities are independent. Only the education elite go to Oxford or Cambridge. Most of their students are former public schools leavers.

The normal length of the degree course is three years, after which the students take the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (B.A.). Some courses, such as languages or medicine, may be one or two years longer. The students may work for other degrees as well. The degrees are awarded at public degree ceremonies¹. Oxford and Cambridge cling to their traditions, such as the use of Latin at degree ceremonies. Full academic dress² is worn at examinations.

Oxford and Cambridge universities consist of a number of colleges. Each college is different, but in many ways they are alike. Each college has its name, its coat of arms³. Each college is governed by a Master. The larger ones have more than 400 members, the smallest colleges have less than 30. Each college offers teaching in a wide range of subjects. Within the college one will normally find a chapel, a dining hall, a library, rooms for undergraduates⁴, fellows⁵ and the Master⁶, and also rooms for teaching purposes.

Oxford is one of the oldest universities in Europe. It is the second largest in Britain, after London. The town of Oxford is first

mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle⁷ in 911 AD⁸ and it was popular with the early English kings (Richard Cœur de Lion⁹ was probably here). The university's earliest charter¹⁰ is dated to 1213.

There are now twenty-four colleges for men, five for women and another five which have both men and women members, many from overseas studying for higher degrees. Among the oldest colleges are University College¹¹, All Souls¹² and Christ Church¹³.

The local car industry in East Oxford gives an important addition to the city's outlook. There's a great deal of bicycle traffic both in Oxford and Cambridge.

Cambridge University started during the 13th century and has grown until today. Now there are more than thirty colleges.

On the banks of the Cam¹⁴ willow trees drown their branches into the water. The colleges line the right bank. There are beautiful college gardens with green lawns and lines of tall trees. The oldest college is Peterhouse, which was founded in 1284, and the most recent is Robinson College, which was opened in 1977. The most famous is probably King's College¹⁵ because of its magnificent chapel, the largest and the most beautiful building in Cambridge and the most perfect example left of English fifteenth-century architecture. Its choir of boys and undergraduates is also very well-known.

The University was only for men until 1871, when the first women's college was opened. In the 1970s, most colleges opened their doors to both men and women. Almost all colleges are now mixed.

Many great men studied at Cambridge, among them Desiderius Erasmus¹⁶, the great Dutch scholar, Roger Bacon¹⁷, the philosopher, Milton, the poet, Oliver Cromwell¹⁸, the soldier, Newton, the scientist, and Kapitza, the famous Russian physicist.

The universities have over a hundred societies and clubs, enough for every interest one could imagine. Sport is part of students' life at Oxbridge. The most popular sports are rowing and punting.

References

1. degree ceremony [di'grɪ: 'serɪməni] — церемония вручения учебных степеней, званий
2. full academic [ˌæks 'demɪk] dress — парадная форма одежды
3. coat of arms — герб
4. undergraduate [ˌʌndə 'grædjʊnt] — студент университета (обычн. Оксфордского или Кембриджского)
5. fellow — младший научный работник колледжа или университета (занимается исследованием в какой-л. области)

6. Master — мастер (титул главы некоторых колледжей в Оксфордском и Кембриджском университетах)

7. Anglo-Saxon Chronicle ['æŋgləʊ 'sæksən 'krɒnɪkl] — «Англосаксонский Хроникл» (вестник)

8. AD = Anno Domini [ˌæno 'dɒmɪni] — лат. нашей эры

9. Richard Cœur de Lion — Ричард Львиное Сердце (1157—1199) (английский король с 1189 г.; последний из династии Плантагенетов; англ. the Lionheart)

10. charter ['ʃɑ:tə] — хартия, грамота; устав

11. University College — Университи-Колледж (основан в 1249 г.)

12. All Souls — Олл-Соулз, Колледж Всех Душ (основан в 1438 г.)

13. Christ Church ['kraɪst 'ʃʊ:tʃ] — Крайст-Черч (один из самых крупных аристократических колледжей Оксфордского университета; основан в 1525 г.)

14. the Cam — р. Кэм (на которой стоит г. Кембридж)

15. King's College — Кингз-Колледж, Королевский колледж (один из крупнейших колледжей Кембриджского университета; основан в 1441 г.)

16. Desiderius Erasmus [i'gæzməs] — Дезидерий Эразм Роттердамский (1469—1536), гуманист эпохи Возрождения

17. Roger Bacon ['beɪkən] — Роджер Бэкон (ок. 1214—1292), английский философ; профессор в Оксфорде

18. Oliver Cromwell ['krɒmwəl] — Оливер Кромвель (1599—1658), деятель английской буржуазной революции XVII в.

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. What are the basic features of education in Great Britain?
2. What are the main stages of education in Britain?
3. What pre-school institutions do children under 5 go to?
5. When does selection usually take place? What do you think about selection procedures?
6. What do you think are the advantages of school uniform in Britain and other countries?
7. Do you think that computers could replace teachers in school?
8. How do public schools differ from comprehensive ones?
9. Do you think British schoolchildren have equal opportunities in getting high quality education? Why?
10. What institutions of higher education in Britain do you know? What did you learn about Oxford and Cambridge?
11. What voluntary youth organizations, political and non-political, do you know?

CULTURE

Artistic and Cultural Life in Britain

The Main Stages

- Traces of Past Greatness
- What the British Are Proud of
- The British Council

Artistic and cultural life in Britain is rather rich. It passed several main stages in its development. The Saxon King Alfred¹ encouraged the arts and culture. The chief debt owed to him by English literature is for his translations of and commentaries on Latin works.

Art, culture and literature flowered during the Elizabethan² age, during the reign of Elizabeth I³; it was the period of English domination of the oceans.

It was at this time that William Shakespeare lived.

The empire, which was very powerful under Queen Victoria⁴, saw another cultural and artistic heyday as a result of industrialization and the expansion of international trade.

But German air raids caused much damage in the First World War and then during the Second World War. The madness of the wars briefly interrupted the development of culture.

Immigrants who have arrived from all parts of the Commonwealth since 1945 have not only created a mixture of nations, but have also brought their cultures and habits with them.

Monuments and traces of past greatness are everywhere. There are buildings of all styles and periods. A great number of museums and galleries display precious and interesting finds from all parts of the world and from all stages in the development of nature, man and art.

London is one of the leading world centres for music, drama,



The National Theatre

The Tate Gallery



opera and dance. Festivals held in towns and cities throughout the country attract much interest. Many British playwrights, composers, sculptors, painters, writers, actors, singers and dancers are known all over the world.

The British Council⁵ promotes knowledge of British culture and literature overseas. It organizes British participation in international exhibitions and encourages professional interchange in all cultural fields between Britain and other countries.

References

1. Alfred ['ælfɹəd] — саксонский король Альфред (849—901)
2. Elizabethan [i,lɪzə'bi:ən] — елизаветинский (обычн. об архитектурном стиле, литературе, музыке)
3. Elizabeth I [i'lɪzəbɪθ] — королева Елизавета I (правившая в Англии с 1558 по 1603 г.)
4. Queen Victoria ['kwɪnɪk'tɔ:riə] — королева Виктория (правившая с 1837 по 1901 г.)
5. British Council ['brɪtɪʃ 'kaʊnsɪl] — Британский совет (независимая организация по развитию культурных связей с зарубежными странами. Создана в 1934 г.)

Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren

• The Italian Renaissance in Britain

• Inigo Jones' Masterpieces

• Classical Design

• Architecture and Industrial Revolution

Inigo Jones was the first man to bring the Italian Renaissance style² to Great Britain. He had studied in Italy for some years, and in 1615 became Surveyor-General of the works³.

The style he built in was pure Italian with as few modifications as possible. His buildings were very un-English in character, with regularly spaced columns along the front.

His two most revolutionary designs were the Banqueting House⁴ in Whitehall and the Queen's House at Greenwich⁵. The plan of the latter, completely symmetrical, with its strict classical details and the principal rooms on the first floor, influenced architecture in Britain. But not during the lifetime of Inigo Jones. All those who followed him had to adapt this new foreign building

The portrait of William Shakespeare by G. Soest



Shakespeare's birthplace





The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

technique to English ways and English climate, English building materials and English craftsmen.

Christopher Wren⁶ was the man who did it. He was a mathematician, an astronomer, and, above all, an inventor. He invented new ways of using traditional English building materials, brick and ordinary roofing tiles, to keep within the limits of classical design. He, like Inigo Jones, was appointed Surveyor-General to the Crown when he was about thirty years old, and almost immediately he started rebuilding the churches of London, burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666. Wren's churches are chiefly known by their beautiful spires which show in their structure the greatest engineering cunning.

But Ch. Wren also influenced the design of houses, both in town and in the country.

The best-known buildings designed by Ch. Wren are St. Paul's Cathedral in London and the Sheldonian Theatre⁷ in Oxford.

The period of the Industrial Revolution⁸ had no natural style of its own. Businessmen wanted art for their money. The architect was to provide a façade in the Gothic style, or he was to turn the building into something like a Norman castle, or a Renaissance palace, or even an Oriental mosque. For theatres and opera houses the theatrical Baroque style was often most suitable. Churches were more often than not built in the Gothic style. The twentieth century has seen great changes in Britain's architecture.

References

1. Inigo Jones ['ɪnɪɡəʊ'dʒəʊnz] — Иниго Джоунз (1573—1652), выдающийся английский архитектор
2. Italian Renaissance [p'neɪsəns] style — стиль итальянского Ренессанса

3. Surveyor-General [sə'veɪə'dʒenərəl] of the works — главный руководитель строительных работ с неограниченными полномочиями

4. the Banqueting ['bæŋkwɪtɪŋ] House — Банкетинг-Хаус (расположен на улице Уайтхолл в Лондоне; построен в классическом стиле в 1612—1622 гг. Иниго Джоунзом)

5. Greenwich ['ɡrɪniɪdʒ] — Гринвич (район на юго-востоке Лондона)

6. Christopher Wren ['krɪstəfə'ren] — Кристофер Рен, величайший английский архитектор (1632—1723)

7. the Sheldonian Theatre [ʃel'dʒənɪən'thiətə] — букв. Шелдонский театр (красивое здание в центре Оксфорда; сооружено Кристофером Реном в 1664—69 гг. на средства архиепископа Шелдона, бывшего в то время ректором Оксфордского университета. Используется для проведения церемоний и торжественных заседаний)

8. the Industrial Revolution — промышленный переворот в Великобритании во второй половине XVIII — первой половине XIX в.

Westminster Abbey

• History

• Architecture

• The Chapel of Henry VII

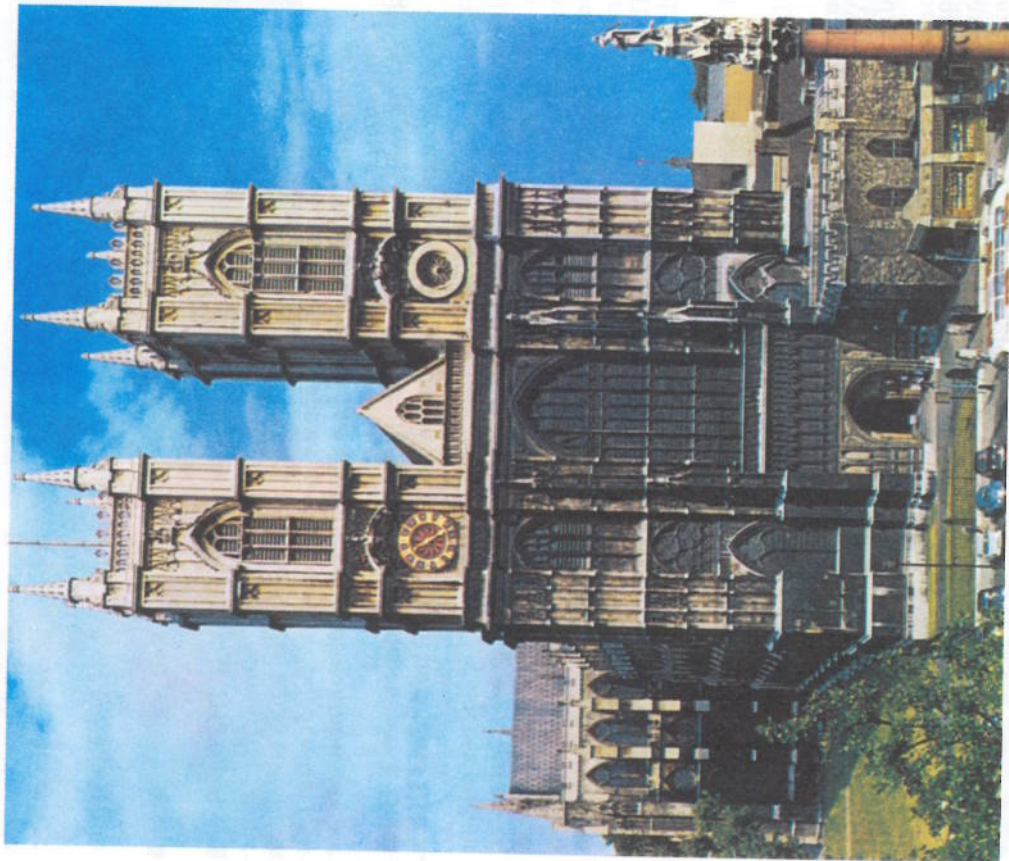
• Tombs and Memorials

• Poets' Corner

• Memorials of Warriors

It is safe to say that the three most famous buildings in England are Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Westminster Abbey is a fine Gothic building, which stands opposite the Houses of Parliament. It is the work of many hands and different ages. The oldest part of the building dates from the eighth century. It was a monastery—the West Minster. In the 11th century Edward the Confessor¹ after years spent in France founded a great Norman Abbey. In 200 years Henry III² decided to pull down the Norman Abbey and build a more beautiful one after the style then prevailing in France. Since then the Abbey remains the most French of all English Gothic churches, higher than any other English church (103 feet) and much narrower. The towers were built in 1735—1740. One of the greater glories of the Abbey is the Chapel of Henry VII³, with its delicate fan-vaulting⁴.



Westminster Abbey

The Chapel is of stone and glass, so wonderfully cut and sculptured that it seems unreal. It contains an interesting collection of swords and standards of the 'Knights of the Bath'.⁵ The Abbey is famous for its stained glass.⁶

Since the far-off time of William the Conqueror Westminster Abbey has been the crowning place of the kings and queens of

England. The Abbey is sometimes compared with a mausoleum, because there are tombs and memorials of almost all English monarchs, many statesmen, famous scientists, writers and musicians.

If you go past the magnificent tombstones of kings and queens, some made of gold and precious stones, past the gold-and-silver banners of the Order of the Garter⁷, which are hanging from the ceiling, you will come to Poets' Corner. There many of the greatest writers are buried: Geoffrey Chaucer⁸, Samuel Johnson⁹, Charles Dickens, Alfred Tennyson¹⁰, Thomas Hardy¹¹ and Rudyard Kipling¹². Here too, though these writers are not buried in Westminster Abbey, are memorials to William Shakespeare and John Milton¹³, Burns and Byron, Walter Scott, William Makepeace Thackeray¹⁴ and the great American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow¹⁵.

Here in the Abbey there is also the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, a symbol of the nation's grief. The inscription on the tomb reads: 'Beneath this stone rests the body of a British Warrior unknown by name or rank brought from France to lie among the most illustrious of the land...'

In the Royal Air Force¹⁶ Chapel there is a monument to those who died during the Battle of Britain¹⁷, the famous and decisive air battle over the territory of Britain in the Second World War.

References

1. Edward the Confessor ['edwəððəkən'fəsə] — король Эдуард Исповедник (умер в 1065 г.)
2. Henry III ['henrɪð'θɜ:d] — Генрих III (1207—1272), английский король с 1216 г. (при Генрихе III создан первый английский парламент)
3. Chapel of Henry VII ['tʃæpəlɒv'henrɪð'sevnθ] — часовня Генриха VII (сооружена в 1503—1513 гг.; один из лучших образцов перпендикулярного архитектурного стиля)
4. fan-vaulting ['fæn'vɔ:ltɪŋ] — нервюры, ребристый свод (характерная черта перпендикулярного архитектурного стиля)
5. 'Knights of the Bath' — кавалеры ордена Бани (один из высших орденов; учрежден в 1425 г.)
6. stained glass ['steɪnd 'glɑ:s] — витраж (цветные стекла в окнах, дверях, составляющие орнаментальную композицию)
7. the Order of the Garter ['gɑ:tə] — орден Подвязки (Высший орден. Число награжденных, не считая иностранцев, не должно превышать 24. Учрежден в 1348 г.)
8. Geoffrey Chaucer ['tʃɔ:sə] — Джеффри Чосер (1340—1400), поэт, прозаик, «отец английской поэзии»; автор «Кентерберийских рассказов» — одного из первых памятников на общепонятном литературном языке

за ощущение англиканской церкви от остатков католицизма; отличаются строгостью нравов и религиозной нетерпимостью)

5. Nell Gwynn [ɡwɪn] — Нелл Гуин (1650—1687), первая английская актриса
6. David Garrick ['deɪvɪd'ɡærɪk] — Дейвид Гаррик (1717—1779), английский драматург и актер, один из реформаторов сцены и основоположник просветительского реализма в европейском театре
7. Henry Irving ['henrɪ'ɜ:vɪn] — Генри Ирвинг (настающее имя Генри Бродрибб) (1838—1905), английский актер и режиссер, ставил пьесы У. Шекспира
8. Sir Gerald du Maurier [dʒɜ:'mɔ:liə] — сэр Д. Дю Морье (1873—1934), английский актер
9. Peter Hall — Питер Холл (р. 1930), английский режиссер
10. Peter Brook — Питер Брук (р. 1925), английский режиссер-новатор, работал в Мемориальном Шекспировском театре в Стратфорде-на-Эйвоне, Королевском Шекспировском театре

British Drama Theatre Today

- Famous Theatres and Artists
- Amateur Dramatic Societies
- Theatres for Young People
- The National Youth Theatre

Britain is now one of the world's major theatre centres. Many British actors and actresses are known all over the world. They are Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Glenda Jackson, Laurence Olivier¹, John Gielgud² and others.

Drama is so popular with people of all ages that there are several thousand amateur dramatic societies.

Now Britain has about 300 professional theatres. Some of them are privately owned. The tickets are not hard to get but they are very expensive. Regular seasons of opera and ballet are given at the Royal Opera House³, Covent Garden in London. The National Theatre⁴ stages modern and classical plays, the Royal Shakespeare Company⁵ produces plays mainly by Shakespeare and his contemporaries when it performs in Stratford-on-Avon, and modern plays in its two auditoria in the City's Barbican Centre⁶.

Shakespeare's Globe Playhouse, about which you have probably

read, was reconstructed on its original site. Many other cities and large towns have at least one theatre.

There are many theatres and theatre companies for young people: the National Youth Theatre⁷ and the Young Vic Company⁸ in London, the Scottish Youth Theatre in Edinburgh. The National Youth Theatre, which stages classical plays mainly by Shakespeare and modern plays about youth, was on tour in Russia in 1989. The theatre-goers warmly received the production of Thomas Stearns Eliot's⁹ play 'Murder in the Cathedral'. Many famous English actors started their careers in the National Youth Theatre. Among them Timothy Dalton, the actor who did the part of Rochester in 'Jane Eyre' shown on TV in our country.

References

1. Laurence Olivier ['lɔ:ɪnsə'ɒvɪə] — Лоренс Оливье (1907—1989), (английский актер, режиссер; играл на сцене с 1922 г.; один из лучших исполнителей ролей шекспировских персонажей в театре и кино)
2. John Gielgud ['dʒɒn'ɡi:lgud] — Джон Гилгуд (р. 1904, английский актер, режиссер; традиции английского сценического искусства сочетал с системой К. С. Станиславского; удостоен премии Оскара в 1981 г.)
3. the Royal Opera House (Covent Garden) — Королевский оперный театр в Лондоне (основан в 1732 г.)
4. the National Theatre — Национальный театр в Лондоне (создан в 1963 г. под руководством Лоренса Оливье)
5. the Royal Shakespeare Company — Королевская Шекспировская труппа, сокр. the RSC
6. Barbican Centre ['bɑ:bɪkən'sentə] — культурный центр Барбикан в районе лондонского Сити
7. the National Youth Theatre — Национальный молодежный театр (возник на базе школьных шекспировских спектаклей. В его составе молодежь в возрасте от 14 до 21 года)
8. the Young Vic Company — «Янг Вик», молодежный театр (основан в 1970 г.; назван по аналогии с Old Vic)
9. Thomas Stearns Eliot ['elɪət] — Томас Стернс Элиот (1888—1965), английский поэт, автор пьес в стихах, эссе, статей о культуре и поэзии; оказал влияние на развитие англоязычной поэзии XX в.; наиболее известное произведение «Бесплодная земля»; лауреат Нобелевской премии (1948)

Music and Musicians

• The Promenade Concerts¹

• Rock and Pop Music

• Musicals and Rock Operas

• Jazz Music

• Gilbert and Sullivan

The people living in the British Isles are very fond of music, and it is quite natural that concerts of the leading symphony orchestras, numerous folk groups and pop music are very popular.

The Promenade concerts are probably the most famous. They were first held in 1840 in the Queen's Hall², and later were directed by Sir Henry Wood³. They still continue today in the Royal Albert Hall⁴. They take place every night for about three months in the summer, and the programmes include new and contemporary works, as well as classics. Among them are symphonies and other pieces of music composed by Benjamin Britten⁵, the famous English musician.

Usually, there is a short winter season lasting for about a fortnight. The audience may either listen to the music from a seat or from the 'promenade', where they can stand or stroll about, or, if there is room, sit down on the floor.

Concerts are rarely given out-of-doors today except for concerts by brass bands and military bands who play in the parks and at seaside resorts during the summer.

Folk music is still very much alive. There are many folk groups. Their harmony singing and good humour win them friends everywhere.

Rock and pop music is extremely popular, especially among younger people. In the 60s and 70s groups such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Who, Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd became very popular and successful.

The Beatles, with their style of singing new and exciting, their wonderful sense of humour became the most successful pop group the world has ever known. Many of the famous songs written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney are still popular.

Some of the more recent rock groups are Eurhythmics, Dire Straits, Black Sabbath, and many others.

British groups often set new trends in music. New stars and styles continue to appear. One of the most popular contemporary musicians and composers is Andrew Lloyd Webber⁶. The musicals and rock operas by A. L. Webber have been a great success both in Britain and overseas.

The famous English composer of the 19th century was

Arthur Sullivan⁷. Together with William Gilbert⁸, the writer of the texts, he created fourteen operettas of which eleven are regularly performed today. In these operettas the English so successfully laugh at themselves and at what they now call the Establishment that W.S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan will always be remembered.

References

1. Promenade concerts ['prɒmɪnəd'kɒnsəts] — «Променад-концерты» <от слова *promenade* — прогулка> (музыкальные концерты; проводятся в залах с небольшим количеством мест, где большинство присутствующих слушают музыку стоя; первоначально публика во время концерта могла прогуливаться. С 1895 г. в течение нескольких недель летом в зале Ройял-Алберт-Холл в Лондоне проводятся традиционные концерты классической музыки; разг. the Proms)
2. the Queen's Hall — Куинз-Холл, концертный зал (разрушен в 1941 г. фашистской бомбой)
3. Henry Wood ['henrɪ'wʊd] — Генри Вуд (1869—1944), английский дирижер, пропагандировал русскую и советскую музыку; руководитель и организатор «Променад-концертов» с 1895 г.
4. the Royal Albert Hall ['rɔɪəl'ælbət'hɔ:l] — Ройял-Алберт-Холл (большой концертный зал в Лондоне на 8 тыс. мест. Построен в 1867—1871 гг.)
5. Benjamin Britten ['ben(d)z(ə)mɪn'brɪtn] — Бенджамин Бриттен (1913—1976), выдающийся английский композитор, пианист, дирижер; сочетал национальные музыкальные традиции XVII—XVIII вв. с современными направлениями в музыке; сочинил музыку к операм «Питер Граймс», «Сон в летнюю ночь»
6. Andrew Lloyd Webber ['ændru:'lɔɪd'webə] — Эндрю Ллойд Уэбер, современный английский композитор, автор мюзиклов «Эвита», «Кошки» и др.
7. Arthur Sullivan ['ɑ:θə'salɪvən] — Артур Салливан (1842—1900), английский композитор, органист и дирижер; наиболее известные его оперы «Буря» (1862) и «Золотая легенда» (1886)
8. William Gilbert ['wɪljəm'gɪlbət] — Уильям Гилберт (1836—1911), английский поэт, либреттист и профессиональный режиссер

Art Galleries

- The National Gallery
- The Tate Gallery
- Turner's Paintings
- Modern Collection



The National Gallery

If you stand in Trafalgar Square with your back to Nelson's Column, you will see a wide horizontal front in a classical style. It is the National Gallery¹. It has been in this building since 1838 which was built as the National Gallery to house the collection of Old Masters Paintings (38 paintings) offered to the nation by an English private collector, Sir George Beaumont.

Today the picture galleries of the National Gallery of Art exhibit works of all the European schools of painting which existed between the 13th and 19th centuries. The most famous works among them are 'Venus and Cupid' by Diego Velazquez², 'Adoration of the Shepherds' by Nicolas Poussin³, 'A Woman Bathing' by Harmensz van Rijn Rembrandt⁴, 'Lord Heathfield' by Joshua Reynolds, 'Mrs Siddons' by Thomas Gainsborough⁵ and many others.

In 1897 the Tate Gallery⁶ was opened to house the more modern British paintings. Most of the National Gallery collection of British paintings were transferred to the Tate, and only a small collection of a few masterpieces is now exhibited at Trafalgar Square. Thus, the Tate Gallery exhibits a number of interesting collections of British and foreign modern painting and also modern sculpture.

The collection of Turner's⁷ paintings at the Tate includes about 300 oils and 19,000 water-colours and drawings. He was the most traditional artist of his time as well as the most original: traditional in his devotion to the Old Masters and original in his creation of new styles. It is sometimes said that he prepared the way for the Impressionists.

The modern collection includes the paintings of Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall and Salvador Dalí⁸, Francis Bacon and Graham Sutherland, Peter Blake and Richard Hamilton⁹, the chief pioneers of pop art¹⁰ in Great Britain. Henry Moore¹¹ is a famous British sculptor whose works are exhibited at the Tate too. One of the sculptor's masterpieces—the 'Reclining Figure'—is at the Headquarters of UNESCO¹² in Paris.

References

1. National Gallery — Национальная галерея (одно из лучших в мире собраний западноевропейской, в том числе английской живописи)
2. Diego Velazquez ['v'leskwiz] — Диего Веласкес (1599—1660), испанский живописец
3. Nicolas Poussin ['p'kolas'ru:sen] — Никола Пуссен (1594—1665), французский живописец, представитель классицизма
4. Harmensz van Rijn Rembrandt ['rembrant] — Харменс ван Рейн Рембрандт (1606—1669), голландский живописец
5. Thomas Gainsborough ['geinzba:ro] — Томас Гейнсборо (1727—1788), английский живописец; наиболее известные картины — «Миссис Сиддонс», «Водопад», «Утренняя прогулка»; они полны одухотворенности и лиризма
6. Tate Gallery ['teit'ge:leri] — Национальная галерея живописи Великобритания (имеет богатое собрание западноевропейской живописи и скульптуры конца XIX—XX в.)
7. J. M. W. Turner ['tɜ:na] — Уильям Тернер (1775—1851), английский живописец и график, представитель романтизма; известен своими выразительными и аллегорическими морскими пейзажами; его творчество отличается пристращением к необычным эффектам — «Снежная буря», «Дождь, пар и скорость»
8. Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí — Анри Матисс, Пабло Пикассо, Марк Шагал, Сальвадор Дали, всемирно известные художники модернистского направления

9. Francis Bacon, Graham Sutherland, Peter Blake, Richard Hamilton — Франсис Бэкон, Грэхем Сазерленд, Питер Влейк, Ричард Хамилтон, современные английские художники, представители модернистского направления, характеризующегося разрывом с традициями реализма
10. pop art — поп-арт (направление в модернистском изобразительном искусстве, черпающее образы и формы из «коммерческого искусства», т. е. рекламных плакатов, объявлений и т. д.)
11. Henry Moore — Генри Мур (1898—1986), английский скульптор, создал пластически мощные жизненные образы («Мать и дитя», 1943—1944), а также фантастически-изопренные произведения
12. UNESCO [ju'nesku:] — ЮНЕСКО (Организация Объединенных Наций по вопросам образования, науки и культуры (сокр. от United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation))

The Art of Acting

• The Birth of English Theatre
• Acting the Theatre in the Elizabethan Age
• The Puritans and the Theatre
• From Artificial to Naturalistic Acting
• David Garrick
• Acting in Modern Theatre

From the fall of the Roman Empire until the 10th century, acting hardly existed as an art in Western Europe; only the wandering minstrels gave entertainments in castles and at fairs. In England, the first real actors were amateurs who performed Miracle and Morality plays¹ which were religious in character.

In the Elizabethan age, the first professional theatres were opened. At the time of Shakespeare there were at least six companies of actors. Shakespeare himself joined the Earl² of Leicester's company, which under James I³ became known as the 'King's Men'. There were also companies of boy actors. All the women's parts were played by boys. It was very difficult for most actors to earn a living on the stage, even in a London company, and many of them fell into debt. When Shakespeare arrived in

London in 1586, the acting was very crude and conventional. There was almost no scenery, and the actors were dressed in the costumes of their day. But when 'The Globe' was opened to the public in 1599, it was the golden age of the theatre in England.

In the first half of the 17th century the influence of the Puritans⁴ was bad for the popular theatre, and it was not before the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 that theatre-going again became a popular habit. The most popular plays were comedies. The first part played by an actress was that of Desdemona. Nell Gwynn⁵ was the first English actress.

By the beginning of the 18th century the most popular type of play was the sentimental comedy. The acting was artificial probably due to the influence of French actors.

But, later, under the influence of David Garrick⁶ and some other actors, acting became much more naturalistic.

David Garrick was one of the greatest actors known. But even at his time acting was not very popular. An actor whose acting had offended the audience had to ask pardon on his knees before a full house before he could continue in his profession.

During the 19th century acting became more and more naturalistic. Like in Shakespeare's time, the best actors understood the importance of the team work of the company. One of the most famous actors of that time was Henry Irving⁷. He was the first actor to be knighted.

By the 1920s naturalistic acting reached a peak in the performance of Sir Gerald du Maurier⁸. He hardly appeared to be acting at all.

At present most acting still continues to be naturalistic. Designers make the settings as realistic as possible. Modern producers and directors Peter Hall⁹, Peter Brook¹⁰ and others are trying out new styles of acting. Some go back to Greek methods, with a revival of the chorus; others are making use of the audience in helping to interpret the play.

References

1. Miracle and Morality plays ['mɪrəkləndmɔ'relɪtɪ] — миракль и моралитэ (религиозно-нравоучительные представления в средневековом западноевропейском театре, нравоучительные пьесы с персонажами, олицетворяющими различные добродетели и пороки)
2. Earl [ɜ:l] — граф (титул, степенъ сословия пэров, ниже маркиза и выше виконта)
3. James I ['dʒeɪmzðə'fɜ:st] — Яков I (король Англии с 1603 по 1625; вел борьбу против пуритан, не признававших, в частности, театр; сын Марии Стюарт; род. в 1566 г.)
4. the Puritans ['pjʊərɪtənz] — пуритане (движение XVI—XVII вв.

HABITS AND WAYS

Holidays and Customs

• Morris Dancers
• Punch, Judy and Toby
• Maypoles' Decorations
• Three Weeks Paid Holiday
per Year
• Bank Holidays
• The Patron Saints Days

I imagine you are in a medium-sized English town. It is Saturday morning in April and the market place is full of noise. You hear the sound of music, at least one accordion, a drum, tin whistle and fiddle. As you come closer you see an interesting sight. There are some men dressed in white clothes but decorated in the strangest way with bright ribbons, flowers and small bells. They dance, leaping into the air, stamping their feet, and perform the most complicated pattern of movements. They perform a morris dance and what they are doing is anything up to eight hundred years old. Now you are at the seaside. It is the end of July and the school holidays have just begun. There is a strange little red and white stripped tent, and sitting in front of it on the sand, a whole crowd of little children laughing and shouting. They are watching a puppet theatre, Punch and Judy². Mr. Punch in his bright red clothes is, as usual, hitting Judy over the head with a stick, while Toby³, the dog, patiently watches. These are just two examples of customs which, despite television and other social changes, are alive and well in England. There are many, many more, some of them so local that they are only known in the villages where they take place. Many villages have maypoles which are decorated in early summer and around which children dance. In the matter of holidays the British are less well-off than other Europeans. Most people have only three weeks paid holiday per year,

and the bank holidays put Britain at the bottom of the list of Common Market countries as far as public holidays are concerned. British 'bank holidays'⁴ are New Year's Day⁵, Good Friday⁶, Easter Monday⁷, May Day⁸, Spring Bank Holiday⁹, Summer Bank Holiday¹⁰, Christmas Day¹¹ and Boxing Day¹². Only when the UK joined the EC did New Year's Day become a public holiday. The patron saints days¹³ are not celebrated with a holiday. They are St. David's Day¹⁴ (March 1st) in Wales, St. George's Day¹⁵ (April 23rd) in England and St. Andrew's Day¹⁶ (November 30th) in Scotland. Only Ireland, both North and South, has a holiday on St. Patrick's Day¹⁷, (March 17th).

References

1. morris ['mɒrɪs] dance — моррис (народный театрализованный танец; исполняется во время майских праздников, мужчины в средневековых костюмах с колокольчиками, трещотками и т. п. изображают легендарных героев)
2. Punch and Judy ['pʌntʃ and 'dʒʊdi] — «Панч и Джуди» (традиционное уличное кукольное представление типа русского Петрушки. Его главные действующие лица: горбун Панч с крючковатым носом — воплощение отрицательных черт характера, и нескладная)

May Day celebrations



May Day celebrations

3. Toby ['təubi] — Тоби (кличка собаки, одного из главных действующих лиц в представлении «Панч и Джуди»)
4. bank holiday — официальный выходной день (общий день отдыха, помимо воскресенья, а именно: см. сноски 5—12)
5. New Year's Day — Новый год
6. Good Friday — великая пятница
7. Easter ['i:stə] Monday — первый понедельник после Пасхи
8. May Day — день первого мая
9. Spring Bank Holiday — весенний день отдыха (в мае или начале июня)
10. Summer Bank Holiday — летний день отдыха (в августе или сентябре)
11. Christmas ['krɪsməs] Day — Рождество (25 декабря)
12. Boxing ['bɒksɪŋ] Day — день рождественских подарков (26 декабря)
13. the patron saints ['peɪtrən 'seɪnts] days — дни святых, считающихся покровителями той или иной части Великобритании
14. St. David's [snt'deɪvɪdz] Day — день св. Давида (национальный день Уэльса, 1 марта)
15. St. George's [snt'dʒɔ:dʒɪz] Day — день св. Георгия (национальный день Англии, 23 апреля)
16. St. Andrew's [snt'ændrʊz] Day — день св. Андрея (национальный праздник Шотландии, 30 ноября)
17. St. Patrick's [snt'pætrɪks] Day — день св. Патрика (национальный праздник Ирландии, 17 марта)

Ghosts and Witches

Hallowe'en' means 'holy evening', and takes place on 31st October. Although it is a much more important festival in the United States than Britain, it is celebrated by many people in the UK. It is particularly connected with witches and ghosts.

At parties people dress up in strange costumes and pretend they are witches. They cut horrible faces in potatoes and other vegetables and put a candle inside, which shines through the eyes. People may play difficult games such as trying to eat an apple from a bucket of water without using their hands.

In recent years children dressed in white sheets knock on doors at Hallowe'en and ask if you would like a 'trick' or a 'treat'. If you give them something nice, a 'treat', they go away. However, if you don't, they play a 'trick' on you, such as making a lot of noise or spilling flour on your front doorstep!

References

1. Hallowe'en ['hæləu'ɪn] — канун дня всех святых (31 октября, в некоторых местах сохраняется традиция ходить с фонарями, сделанными из картофеля, турнепса и др. овощей со вставленной в них свечкой)
2. trick or treat — проказа или угощение

Guy Fawkes' Night

In 1605 King James I was on the throne. As a Protestant, he was very unpopular with Roman Catholics. Some of them planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament on 5th November of that year, when the King was going to open Parliament. Under the House of Lords they stored thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, which were to be exploded by a man called Guy Fawkes. However, one of the plotters spoke about these plans and Fawkes was discovered, arrested and later hanged. Since that day the English traditionally celebrate 5th November by burning a dummy, made of straw and old clothes, on a bonfire, at the same time letting off fireworks.

This dummy is called a 'guy' (like Guy Fawkes) and children can often be seen on the pavements before 5th November saying, 'Penny for the guy'. If they collect enough money they can buy some fireworks.

Reference

1. Guy Fawkes' ['gaɪ 'fɔ:ks] Night — ночь Гая Фокса (вечер 5 ноября, когда по традиции отмечают раскрытие «порохового заговора» сожжением пугала [guy] и фейерверком)

Christmas

- Christmas Day, 25th December
- Most Families Decorate Christmas Tree
- The Tradition of Giving Gifts
- Children Leave a Long Sock or Stocking for Presents, Fruit and Nuts
- Boxing Day, 26th December

If you try to catch a train on 24th of December you may have difficulty in finding a seat. This is the day when many people are

travelling home to be with their families on Christmas Day, 25th December. For most British families, this is the most important festival of the year, it combines the Christian celebration of the birth of Christ with the traditional festivities of winter.

On the Sunday before Christmas many churches hold a carol¹ service where special hymns are sung. Sometimes carol-singers can be heard on the streets as they collect money for charity². People are reminded of Charles Dickens' story 'Christmas Carol'. Most families decorate their houses with brightly-coloured paper or holly³, and they usually have a Christmas tree⁴ in the corner of the front room, glittering with coloured lights and decorations.

There are a lot of traditions connected with Christmas but perhaps the most important one is the giving of presents. Family members wrap up their gifts and leave them at the bottom of the Christmas tree to be found on Christmas morning. Children leave a long sock or stocking at the end of their beds on Christmas Eve, 24th December, hoping that Father Christmas⁵ will come down the chimney during the night and bring them small presents, fruit and nuts. They are usually not disappointed! At some time on Christmas Day the family will sit down to a big turkey dinner followed by Christmas pudding⁶. They will probably pull a cracker⁷ with another member of the family. It will make a loud crack and a coloured hat, small toy and joke will fall out!

Later in the afternoon they may watch the Queen on television as she delivers her traditional Christmas message to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. If they have room for even more food they may enjoy a piece of Christmas cake or eat a hot mince pie⁸. 26th December is also a public holiday, Boxing Day, and this is the time to visit friends and relatives or watch football.

References

1. carol ['kærl] — карол (рождественская песня религиозного содержания, славящая рождение Христа)
2. charity ['tʃærɪ] — благотворительность
3. holly ['hɒli] — остролист (вечнозеленое растение с красными ягодами)
4. Christmas tree — рождественская (новогодняя) елка
5. Father Christmas — Рождественский дед, Дед Мороз
6. Christmas pudding ['krɪsməs 'puɪdɪŋ] — рождественский пудинг (с изюмом, цукатами и пряностями)
7. to pull a cracker ['krækə] — запустить хлопушку
8. mince pie ['mɪns 'paɪ] — сладкий пирожок (круглый, со сладкой начинкой)

Hogmanay and First Footing

- 'For Auld Lang Syne' — 'In Memory of Past Times'
- 'The First Person on New Year's Day—the First Footer'
- 'A Piece of Coal, a Piece of Bread, and a Silver Coin'

At midnight on 31st December throughout Great Britain people celebrate the coming of the new year, by holding hands in a large circle and singing the song:

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,

For auld lang syne,

We'll take a cup of kindness yet,

For auld lang syne!..

'For auld lang syne' means 'in memory of past times' and the words were written by Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns. He wrote much of his poetry in the Scots dialect of English.

New Year's Eve is a more important festival in Scotland than it is in England, and it even has a special name. It is not clear where the word 'Hogmanay'² comes from, but it is connected with the provision of food and drink for all visitors to your home on 31st December.

It was believed that the first person to visit one's house on New Year's Day could bring good or bad luck. Therefore, people tried to arrange for the person of their own choice to be standing outside their houses ready to be let in the moment midnight had come. Usually a dark-complexioned man was chosen, and never a woman, for she would bring bad luck. The first footer was required to carry three articles: a piece of coal to wish warmth, a piece of bread to wish food, and a silver coin to wish wealth. In parts of northern England this pleasing custom is still observed.

References

1. first footer — первый новогодний гость (переступивший порог после 12 часов ночи)
2. Hogmanay ['hɒgməneɪ] — хогманей, канун Нового года

Easter

Although the Christian religion gave the world Easter¹ as we know it today, the celebration owes its name and many of its customs and symbols to a pagan² festival called Eostre. Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of springtime and sunrise, got her name from the word *east*, where the sun rises. Every spring northern European peoples celebrated the festival of Eostre to honour the awakening of new life in nature. Christians related the rising of the sun to the resurrection of Jesus and their own spiritual rebirth.

Many modern Easter symbols come from pagan times. The egg, for instance, was a fertility symbol³ long before the Christian era. The ancient Persians, Greeks, and Chinese exchanged eggs at their spring festivals. In Christian times the egg took on a new meaning symbolizing the tomb from which Christ rose. The ancient custom of dyeing eggs at Easter time is still very popular.

The Easter bunny also originated in pre-Christian fertility lore. The rabbit was the most fertile animal our ancestors knew, so they selected it as a symbol of new life. Today, children enjoy eating candy bunnies⁴ and listening to stories about the Easter bunny, who supposedly brings Easter eggs in a fancy basket.

References

1. Easter — Пасха
2. pagan ['peɪɡən] — языческий
3. a fertility [fɜː'tɪlɪti] symbol — символ плодородия
4. bunny ['bʌni] — ласк. кролик, мж. rabbit

May Day Celebrations

- Morris Men Dance All Day Long
- On May Day a New Life Begins

The beautiful springtime festival of May Day is observed in every nation, each according to its own customs and traditions. In most countries on May 1st a new life begins for both nature and man.

May Day is more important in Northern Europe than in warmer countries farther south. People grow tired of snow and

ice and short winter days to which May Day signifies an end. The people of Belgium welcome spring with parades and fairs. Holland celebrates with tulip festivals and in Switzerland people offer up special May Day prayers. In France people buy flowers at sidewalk stands. They wear them and give them to their friends for luck.

As summer comes, Britain likes to celebrate the end of winter. Much of this celebrations is connected with dancing, which is performed to encourage life and growth and drive away harmful spirits. Children may be seen dancing round the Maypole on village greens, weaving their brightly-coloured scarves into a beautiful pattern. Morris men dance all day long on May 1st waving their white handkerchiefs to drive away the evil spirits and welcome in the new ones.

The Eisteddfod

- The Most Moving Ceremony in Wales
- The Tournament of Singers and Poets
- The Choosing of the Winning Poet

Llangollen¹ is indeed a fine place for a romantic scene. Surrounded by tree-covered hills it lies in a valley of the River Dee. Its charm is very mild. Many visitors come here to the International Eisteddfod held each year.

The annual National Eisteddfod is certainly the most picturesque and most moving ceremony in Wales. Here the love of song and poetry of the Welsh is organized to make a spectacle unique in the world. Presided over by white-robed druids with their attendant blue-robed bards, the Eisteddfod calls upon the people of Wales each year to send forth its singers and poets to participate in this colourful tournament. The most important event is the choosing of the winning poet, and so great is the nationwide interest in this ceremony that special newspaper editions are read by those, who, unable to go to the Eisteddfod, follow it with the interest that in England is shown to dog races and football matches.

And the Welsh sing at Eisteddfod for days. The National Eisteddfod takes place at some place in South Wales (even years) and North Wales (uneven years).

Reference

1. Llangollen [læn'gɒlən] — Лланголлин

Clans and Tartans

The Gaelic word 'clan' means 'family' or 'descendants' and the great clans of the 16th and 17th centuries were indeed very similar to enormous families, ruled by powerful chiefs. Sometimes there were fierce battles between different clans but nowadays the McDonalds and the McKenzies, the Campbells and the Lindsays all live in peace with each other. It is possible to find people with these surnames in many English-speaking countries, and they all feel they share the same background.

The wearing of tartans or coloured checks was common in the Highlands before the defeat by the English in 1745. Originally, the tartan was worn as a single piece of cloth, drawn in at the waist and thrown over the shoulder. The kilt did not become popular until the beginning of the 18th century. Each clan has its own tartan and, since the first international gathering of the clans in 1972, many people have become interested in traditional forms of Scottish dress. Tartans are now part on international fashion.

Many people in Scotland have the name McDonald or McKenzie. 'Mac' means 'son of' and people with this name usually feel they belong to the same family or clan. Campbell or Cameron are other common surnames. Common boys' names are Angus, Donald or Duncan, and girls' names are Morag, Fiona or Jean. The names Jimmy and Jock are so common that many English people call a man from Scotland 'a Jimmy' or 'a Jock'.

Tea

The English know how to make tea and what it does for you. Seven cups of it wake you up in the morning; nine cups will put you to sleep at night.

If you are hot, tea will cool you off, and if you are cold, it will warm you up.

If you take it in the middle of the morning, it will stimulate you for further work; if you drink it in the afternoon, it will relax you for further thought. Then, of course, you should drink lots of it in off-hours. In England they say jokingly: 'The test of good

tea is simple. If a spoon stands up in it, then it is strong enough; if the spoon starts to wobble, it is a feeble makeshift'.

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. When is morris dance performed?
2. What is a 'bank holiday'?
3. What do children usually say at Hallowe'en?
4. When is Guy Fawkes Night celebrated?
5. What do children leave at the end of their beds on Christmas Eve and why?
6. What three articles was the first footer required to carry?
7. What is the name for New Year's Eve in Scotland?
8. What song do people usually sing at midnight on 31st December throughout Great Britain?
9. What are the symbols of fertility used in Christian times?
10. What does May Day signify?
11. Where do the celebrations of songs, poetry and literature take place?
12. How is 'dd' pronounced in the word 'Eisteddfod'?

What Do You Know About...

- 1) the most important festival of the year for most British families?
- 2) traditions connected with Christmas in Britain?
- 3) a morris dance?
- 4) Hogmanay and its traditions?
- 5) the festivals connected with the beginning of spring?
- 6) the Eisteddfods, the Welsh tournaments of singers and poets?
- 7) clans and tartans in Scotland?
- 8) the habit of tea drinking in Britain?

Fun Spot

1. Crossword Puzzle

Across:

- 1) a Scottish name for New Year's Eve
- 3) a single piece of cloth, a part of Scottish dress

A Gentleman in the Sea

Two Englishmen were struggling against the waves about 200 yards from the shore.

It was summertime, the sun was shining and lots of people were spending their holidays at the seaside.

And so there was nothing unusual or irregular about the two gentlemen in the water, except for one little thing... one of them was wearing full evening dress. He had an orchid in his buttonhole and a tall hat on... The other fellow, who had his bathing trunks on, kept looking at the man in the evening dress. He was about to jump to the conclusion that the fellow was not in his right mind. At any rate, his curiosity was aroused.

— I wish I'd been introduced to the chap,—he murmured under his breath.

— What's that?—asked the other.—I didn't quite catch what you said.

— What makes you wear full evening dress while swimming?

— Er, well, you see, I'm not swimming, you are swimming.

— And what about you? What are you doing?

— Er, well, I'm drowning,—was the answer.

Part Six

SPORT AND RECREATION

National Sports

• All Work and No Play

Makes Jack a Dull Boy

• It's Not Cricket

• Close Connection of

Sporting Life with Social

Class of Players or

Spectators

• National Kinds of Sport in

Great Britain

IN

any kinds of sport originated from England. The English have a proverb, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy'. They do not think that play is more important than work; they think that Jack will do his work better if he plays as well, so he is encouraged to do both. Association football, or soccer¹ is one of the most popular games in the British Isles played from late August until the beginning of May. In summer the English national sport is cricket. When the English say: 'that's not cricket' it means 'that's not fair', 'to play the game' means 'to be fair'.

Golf is Scotland's chief contribution to British sport. It is worth noting here an interesting feature of sporting life in Britain, namely, its frequently close connection with the social class of the players or spectators except where a game may be said to be a 'national' sport. This is the case with cricket in England which is played and watched by all classes. This is true of golf, which is everywhere in the British Isles a middle-class activity. Rugby² Union, the amateur variety of Rugby football, is the Welsh national sport played by all sections of



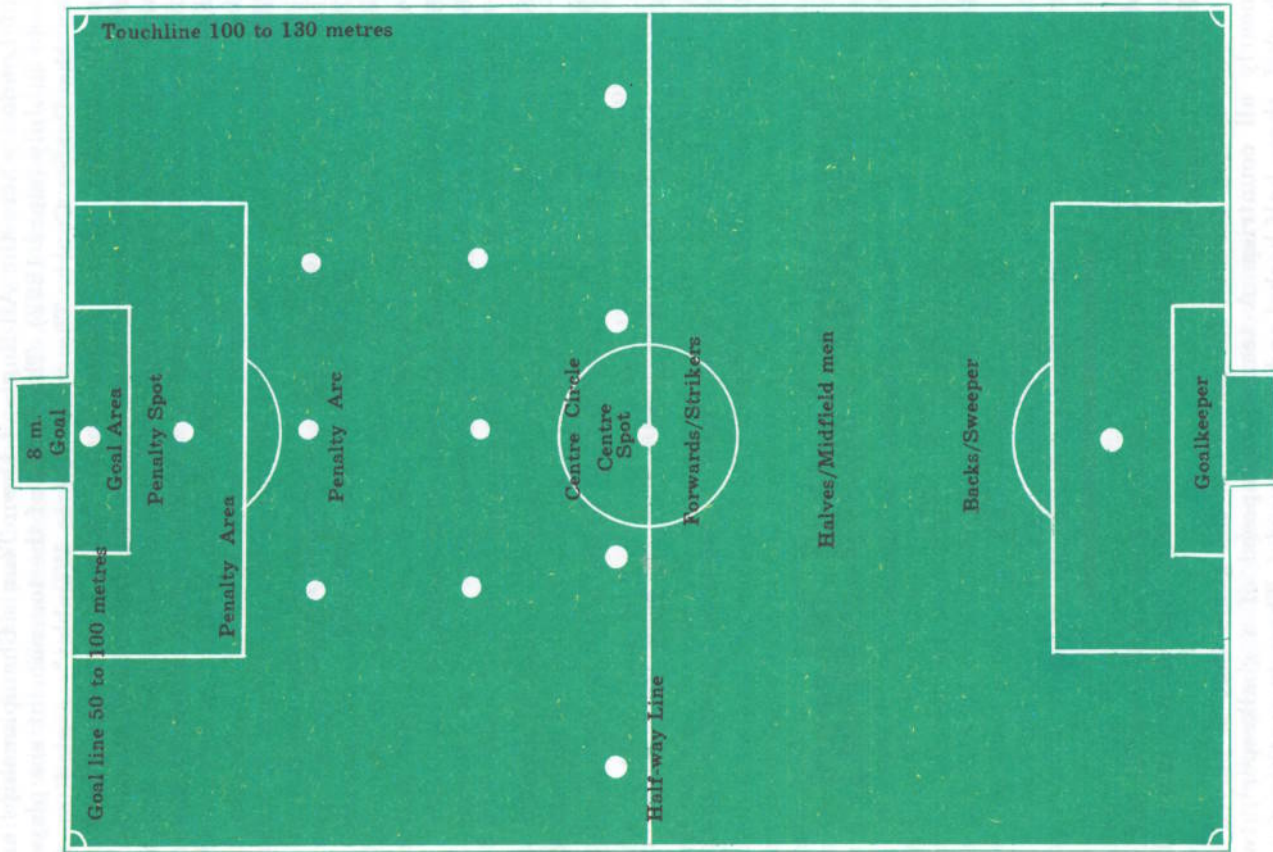


society whereas, elsewhere, it too is a game for the middle classes. Association football is a working-class sport as are boxing³, wrestling⁴, snooker⁵, darts⁶ and dog-racing. As far as fishing is concerned it is, apart from being the most popular British sport from the angle of the number of active participants, a sport where what is caught determines the class of a fisherman. If it is a salmon or trout it is upper-class, but if it is the sort of fish found in canals, ponds or the sea, then the angler⁷ is almost sure to be working-class.

Walking and swimming are the two most popular sporting activities, being almost equally undertaken by men and women. Snooker (billiards), pool and darts are the next most popular sports among men. Aerobics (keep-fit exercises) and yoga, squash⁸ and cycling are among the sports where participation has been increasing in recent years.

There are several places in Britain associated with a particular

A football field or pitch



kind of sport. One of them is Wimbledon—a suburb to the south of London where the All-England Lawn Tennis Championships are held in July (since 1877). The finals of the tournament are played on the Centre Court. The other one is Wembley⁹—a stadium in north London where international football matches, the Cup Finals¹⁰ and other events have taken place since 1923. It can hold over 100,000 spectators. The third one is Derby, the most famous flat race in the English racing calendar, which has been run at Epsom¹¹ near London since 1780.

References

1. soccer ['sɒkəl] — футбол, *син. association football*
2. Rugby ['rʌɡbi] — регби (*м.ж. Rugby football*)
3. boxing ['bɒksɪŋ] — бокс
4. wrestling ['reslɪŋ] — борьба
5. snooker ['snʊkəl] — снукер (*игра на бильярде*)
6. darts [dɑ:ts] — игра «метание стрелок»
7. angler ['æŋɡlə] — рыбак (рыболов-удильщик)
8. squash [skwɔ:] — сквош (*род упрощенного тенниса; играют на закрытом корте ракетками и мягким резиновым шариком*)
9. Wembley ['wembli] — знаменитый футбольный стадион Уэмбли в Лондоне
10. the Cup Final — финальная игра на розыгрыш Кубка по футболу
11. Epsom ['epsəm] — Эпсом (*город в графстве Суррей, где находится ипподром «Эпсом-Даунс»*)

Association Football (Soccer)

• The Most Popular Game in the World
• Terminology of Football
• Violence at and around Football Grounds
• Description of a Match

Football has been called the most popular game in the world, and it certainly has a great many fans in Britain. But do you know the English terminology?

Association football (or soccer) is the game that is played in nearly all countries. A team is composed of a goalkeeper¹, two backs², three half-backs³ and five forwards⁴. There is another game

called rugby football, so called because it originated at Rugby, a well-known English public school. In this game the players may carry the ball. There is also an American kind of football, different from the other two. The captain of the team is usually the oldest or best player.

Association football, or soccer, remains one of the most popular games played in the British Isles. Every Saturday from late August until the beginning of May, large crowds of people support their sides in football grounds⁵ up and down the country⁶, while an almost equally large number of people play the game in club teams of every imaginable variety and level of skill. Over the last 20 years though, the attendance at football matches has fallen away⁷ sharply. This is because of changing lifestyles and football hooligans. As violence at and near the football grounds increased, there was an ever-increasing tendency for people to stay away, leaving the grounds to football fans.

After serious disturbances involving English supporters at the European Cup Finals in Brussels in 1985 which led to the deaths of 38 spectators, English clubs were withdrawn from European competitions for the 1985—1986 season by the Football Association. Today, many people are only interested in football because of the pools⁸ and the chance of winning a lot of money. The Cup Final at Wembley remains, though, an event of national importance. Here is a drawing of a football field, or 'pitch', as it is usually called.

The football pitch should be between 100 and 130 metres long and between 50 and 100 metres wide. It is divided into two halves by the halfway line⁹. The sides of the field are called the touch-lines and the ends are called the goal-lines. In the middle of the field there is a centre circle and there is a goal at each end. Each goal is 8 metres wide and between 2½ and 3 metres high. In front of each goal is the goal area and the penalty area¹⁰. There is a penalty spot inside the penalty area and a penalty arc outside it. A game of football usually lasts for one and a half hours. At half-time¹¹, the teams change ends¹². The referee¹³ controls the game. The aim of each team is obviously to score¹⁴ as many goals as possible. If both teams score the same number of goals, or if neither team scores any goals at all, the result is a draw¹⁵.

The final of the football competition takes place every May at the famous Wembley stadium in London. Some of the best known clubs in England are Manchester United, Liverpool and the Arsenal. In Scotland either Rangers, Celtic or Aberdeen usually win the cup or the championship.

References

1. goalkeeper ['ɡəʊl,ki:pə] — вратарь, голкипер
2. back — защитник

3. half-back ['hɑːfbæk] — полузащитник
4. forward ['fɔːwəd] — нападающий игрок
5. football ground (or pitch) — футбольное поле
6. up and down the country — по всей стране
7. to fall away — уменьшаться, спадать, ослабевать
8. pool — пул (заключение пари перед спортивными соревнованиями, установление ставок)
9. halfway line — средняя линия
10. penalty ['penəlti] area — штрафная площадка
11. half-time ['hɑːf'taɪm] — перерыв между таймами
12. to change ends — поменяться половинами поля, площадками
13. referee [ˌrefə'reɪ] — судья
14. to score [skɔː] — забивать голы;
a score — счет
15. draw — «ничья»

Football Pools¹

- Gambling and Betting
- A Printed Form with a List of the Week's Matches
- Filling the Form with the Forecasts of the Results of the Matches
- The Form is Posted to the Pools Firms
- Waiting for the Results of the Matches

The English have never been against a gamble² though most of them know where to draw the line³ and wisely refrain from betting⁴ too often. Since the war the most popular form of gambling is no doubt that of staking⁵ a small sum on the football pools. (The word 'pool' is connected with the picture of streams of money pouring into a common fund, or 'pool' from which the winners are paid after the firm has taken its expense and profit). Those who do so receive every week from one of the pools firms a printed form; on this are listed the week's matches. Against each match, or against a number of them, the optimist puts down a 1, a 2 or an x to show that he thinks the result of the match will be a home win⁶, an away win⁷ or a draw. The form is then posted to the pools firm, with a postal order or cheque for the sum staked (or, as the firms say, 'invested'). At the end of the week the results of the matches are announced on television and published in the newspapers and

the 'investor' can take out his copy of his coupon and check his forecast⁸.

References

1. football pools — футбольный тотализатор (проводится еженедельно рядом специальных фирм; участникам предлагается угадать результаты нескольких матчей; размер выигрыша зависит от количества правильных предсказаний)
2. gamble ['gæmbəl] — азартная игра
3. to draw the line — знать меру, поставить точку
4. betting — заключение пари
5. staking — ставка на
6. home win — в пользу команды болельщика
7. away win — в пользу команды противника
8. forecast ['fɔːkɑːst] — предсказание, прогноз

Cricket

- English People Love Cricket
- Every Sunday Morning from May to September
- The Games Are Very Long
- A Test Match
- A Match of Cricket
- The Most English of All Sports

Do you know how to play cricket? If you don't live in England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa or the West Indies you won't learn it at school. English people love cricket. Summer isn't summer without it. Even if you do not understand the rules, it is attractive to watch the players, dressed in white playing on the beautiful green cricket fields. Every Sunday morning from May to the end of September many Englishmen get up very early, and take a lot of sandwiches with them. It is necessary because the games are very long. Games between two village teams last for only one afternoon. Games between counties last for three days, with 6 hours play on each day. When England plays with one or other cricketing countries such as Australia and New Zealand it is called a test match and lasts for five days. Cricket is played in schools, colleges and universities and in most towns and villages by teams which play weekly games. Test matches with other cricketing countries are held annually.



Cricket is also played by women and girls. The governing body is Women's Cricket Association, founded in 1926. Women's cricket clubs have regular weekend games. Test matches and other international matches take place. The women's World Cup is held every four years.

Cricket is played by two teams of 11 each. One team must bat¹ and the other team must field. When the first team finished batting², the second team must begin.

The batsman³ must all the time guard his 'wicket'⁴, three rather ridiculous pieces of wood which are pushed into the ground. The game is very slow.

In many ways this is the most English of all sports. It is a game for a hot June day with a slight breeze and the feeling that there is no hurry in the world.

References

1. bat — бита (*в крикете*), бить битой
2. batting — подача
3. batsman — игрок с битой, отбивающий мяч
4. wicket ['wɪkt] — ворота в крикете

Wimbledon—an Unusual Club

- The Centre of Lawn Tennis
- The All-England Croquet Club
- The First World Lawn Tennis Championship
- The First Women's Singles Championship
- On the Monday Nearest to June 22

People all over the world know Wimbledon¹ as the centre of lawn tennis². But most people do not know that it was famous for another game before tennis was invented. Wimbledon is now a part of Greater London. In 1874 it was a country village, but it had a railway station and it was the home of the All-England Croquet Club. The Club had been there since 1864. A lot of people played croquet in England at that time and enjoyed it, but the national championships did not attract many spectators. So the Club had very little money, and the members were looking for ways of getting some. 'This new game of lawn tennis seems to have plenty of action, and people like watching it', they thought. 'Shall we allow people to play lawn tennis on some of our beautiful croquet lawns?'

In 1875 they changed the name of the Club to the 'All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club', and that is the name that you will still find in the telephone book. Two years later, in 1877, Wimbledon held the first world lawn tennis championship (men's singles)³. The winner was S. W. Gore, a Londoner. There were 22 players, and 200 spectators, each paid one shilling. Those who watched were dressed in the very latest fashion—the men in hard top hats and long coats, and the ladies in dresses that reached to the ground! The Club gained £ 10. It was saved.

Wimbledon grew. There was some surprise and doubt, of course, when the Club allowed women to play in the first women's singles championship in 1884. But the ladies played well—even in long skirts that hid their legs and feet.

The Wimbledon championships begin on the Monday nearest to June 22, at a time when England often has its finest weather. It is not only because of the tennis that people like to go there. When the weather is good, it is a very pleasant place to spend an

afternoon. The grass is fresh and green, the players wear beautiful white clothes, the spectators are dressed in the latest fashion, there may be members of the royal family among them, and there are cool drinks in the open-air cafés next to the tennis courts. Millions of people watch the championships on television.



References

1. Wimbledon ['wɪmbldən] — Уимблдон (предместье Лондона, в котором находится Всеанглийский теннисный и крокетный клуб)
2. lawn [lɔ:n] tennis — теннис (в отличие от настольного тенниса — table tennis)
3. single — партия (в теннисе, гольфе), в которой участвуют только два противника

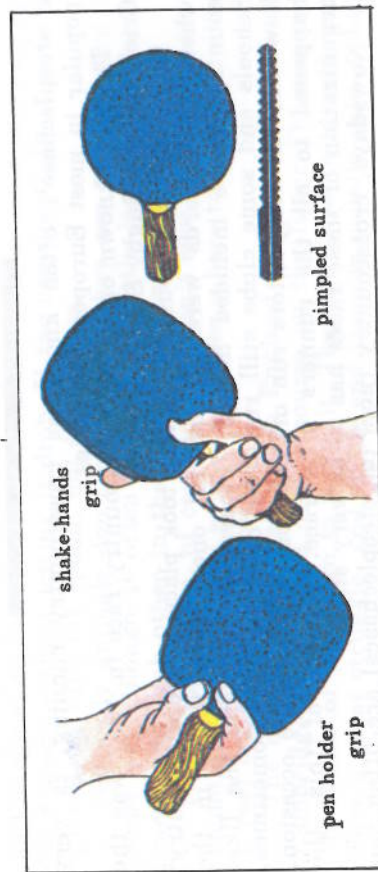
Table Tennis

- A Fantastic New Idea
- A Complete Change of the Style and Speed of Table Tennis
- Gossima, Whiff Whaff, Ping Pong
- The Rubber Linings Couldn't Be More than Two Millimetres Thick
- Pen Holder Grip, Not the 'Shake-Hands' Technique

Eighty years ago, Mr. E. Goode of Putney, South London, went to the chemist's to buy some aspirins. In the shop, he almost forgot about his tablets as he stood looking at the pimpled rubber mat¹ on the counter. It had given him a fantastic new idea.

He paid for his aspirins and the rubber mat. Then he rushed home, cut the rubber mat to the right shape and size and stuck it to his plain wooden table tennis bat². The thin layer of rubber helped him put a very fast spin³ on the ball. When he became the English champion, everyone started copying him, putting rubber layers on their bats, and soon Mr. Goode's clever idea completely changed the style and speed of table tennis.

Table tennis was first invented in England in about 1880. At first the game had several strange names: Gossima, Whiff Whaff and Ping Pong. It wasn't until 1926 that the International Table Tennis Association was formed with international championships and rules. One of the rules was that the rubber linings of the bat (Mr. Goode's invention) couldn't be more than two millimetres thick on each side.



Although the game was invented in England British players don't have much chance in international championships.

It's the Chinese with their fantastic speed and power who win almost every title. They often use a pen holder grip⁴, not the 'shake-hands' technique popular in Europe and the States. Their style is athletic and they often play standing several metres away from the table. Table tennis looks more like gymnastics when the Chinese start playing, with the ball flying over the net at speeds of over 150 kilometres per hour.

But don't forget that it's thanks to an Englishman that table tennis is the fast and skilful game it is today. It's the pimpled rubber lining that allows players to get a good spin on the ball. Mr. Goode's headache eighty years ago was a turning point in the history of the game!

References

1. pimpled rubber mat — пупырчатый резиновый коврик
2. tennis bat — теннисная ракетка
3. to put a fast spin — придать быстрое вращение
4. pen holder grip — зажим ракетки в руке наподобие ручки

Steeplechase

- Crosscountry Running
- The Crick Run
- Running over Open Country
- The Organization Has to Be Very Strict
- The Hazards Are Artificial Nowadays

The steeplechase¹, often known as crosscountry running, is very popular in most European countries.

The first known organized crosscountry race in 1837 was the Crick Run at Rugby School.

Originally, crosscountry running took place over open country² where the hazards were the natural ones to be found in the country. These included hedges, ditches, streams and the like. Schools and some clubs still run over open country. Sometimes, however, the competitors run off the course as, on one occasion, happened to all the runners in a race. Because of this, the organization of these races has to be very strict.

Nowadays, crosscountry races (or steeplechases) are often run

in an enclosed area where the hazards are artificial. This makes organization easier.

References

1. steeplechase ['sti:plɔ:ʃeɪs] = crosscountry running — скачки, бег с препятствиями
2. open country — естественные условия

Racing

- All Kinds of Racing Are Popular in England
- 'Three-Legged' Race and the Egg-and-Spoon Race
- Animals Don't Race Until They Are Made To
- The Boat-Race Between Oxford and Cambridge

There are all kinds of racing in England—horse-racing, motor-car racing, boat-racing, dog-racing, and even races for donkeys. On sport days at school boys and girls run races, and even train for them. There is usually a mile race for older boys, and the one who wins it is certainly a good runner.

Usually those who run a race go as fast as possible, but there are some races in which everybody has to go very carefully in order to avoid falling.

There is the 'three-legged' race, for example, in which a pair of runners have the right leg of one tied to the left leg of the other. If they try to go too fast they are certain to fall. And there is the egg-and-spoon race, in which each runner must carry an egg in a spoon without letting it drop. If the egg does fall, it must be picked up with the spoon, not the fingers.

Naturally animals don't race unless they are made to run in some way, though it often seems as if little lambs are running races with each other in the fields in spring.

Horses are ridden, of course. Dogs won't race unless they have something to chase, and so they are given a hare to go after, either a real one or an imitation one.

The most famous boat-race in England is between Oxford and Cambridge. It is rowed over a course on the River Thames, and thousands of people go to watch it. The eight rowers in each boat have a great struggle, and at the end there is usually only a short distance between the winners and the losers.

farthest. For a perfect throw the caber must land in the 12-o'clock position after being thrown in a vertical semicircle. The caber is a very heavy and long log.

References

1. the Highland Games — состязания шотландских горцев
2. tossing the caber ['keɪbə] — метание песта
3. putting the weight — поднятие веса
4. throwing the hammer — метание молота
5. piping ['paɪpɪŋ] — игра на волынке
6. bagpipes ['bæɡpaɪps] — волынка; bagpipe competitions — состязание в игре на волынке
7. the Sword [sɔːd] Dance — танец с саблями
8. the Reel [riːl] — рил (шотландский народный хороводный танец)

Conker Contest' and British Marbles Championship

• Other Games Still
• Popular in Britain

Every year, usually on the Wednesday nearest to 20th October, about a hundred competitors gather to take part in the annual conker competition in a chosen place. The conkers are collected by children from an avenue of chestnut trees². The conkers are carefully examined and numbered on their flat sides, then bored and threaded on nylon cord. Each competitor is allowed an agreed number of 'strikes', and a referee is present to see fair play. There are prizes for winners and runners-up. The contest usually starts at about 7 p.m.

It is said that in Elizabethan times two suitors for a village beauty settled the matter by means of a marbles contest³. What is now the Marble Championship is believed to be a survival of that contest. The game of marbles dates back to Roman times. Teams of six compete on a circular, sanded rink. Forty-nine marbles are placed in the centre of the rink, and the players try to knock out⁴ as many as possible with their marble. The marble is rested on the index finger and flicked⁵ with the thumb. The two highest individual scores battle for the championship with only thirteen

The University boat-race started in 1820 and has been rowed on the Thames almost every spring since 1836. At the Henley Regatta in Oxfordshire, founded in 1839, crews from all over the world compete each July in various kinds of race over a straight course of 1 mile 550 yards (about 2.1 km).

The Highland Games

• Tossing the Caber, Putting the Weight, Throwing the Hammer, Dancing and Piping
• Several Events Take Place at the Same Time
• The Origin of the Highland Games

Scottish Highland Games¹, at which sports (including tossing the caber², putting the weight³ and throwing the hammer⁴), dancing and piping⁵ competitions take place, attract large numbers of spectators from all over the world.

These meetings are held every year in different places in the Scottish Highlands. They include the clans led by their pipers, dressed in their kilts, tartan plaids, and plumed bonnets, who march round the arena.

The features common to Highland Games are bagpipes⁶ and Highland dancing competitions and the performance of heavy athletic events—some of which, such as tossing the caber, are Highland in origin. All competitors wear Highland dress, as do most of the judges. The games take place in a large roped-off arena. Several events take place at the same time: pipers and dancers perform on a platform; athletes toss the caber, put the weight, throw the hammer, and wrestle. There is also a competition for the best-dressed Highlander. Highland dancing is performed to bagpipe music, by men and women, such as the Sword Dance⁷ and the Reel⁸.

No one knows exactly when the men of the Highlands first gathered to wrestle, toss cabers, throw hammers, put weights, dance and play music. The Games reflected the tough life of the early Scots. Muscled power was their means of livelihood—handling timber, lifting rocks to build houses, hunting. From such activities have developed the contests of tossing the caber, putting the weight and throwing the hammer. Tossing the caber originated among woodmen who wanted to cast their logs into the deepest part of a river.

Tossing the caber is not a question of who can throw it