

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ
УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«БЕЛОРУССКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ТРАНСПОРТА»

Кафедра иностранных языков

Т. С. ЯРОШ, С. А. НАПРЕЕВА

ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИЯ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ

**Учебно-методическое пособие по английскому языку
для студентов дневного обучения всех специальностей**

Гомель 2011

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Под редакцией *Н. А. Гришанковой*

*Одобрено методической комиссией
гуманитарно-экономического факультета*

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UNIT 1

A COUNTRY ACROSS THE CHANNEL

Text 1

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Land and the People

Vocabulary:

the United Kingdom – Объединённое Королевство

the Union Jack – государственный флаг

the Strait of Dover – Па-Де-Кале

the English Channel – Ла-Манш

to conquer – завоёвывать

to invade – оккупировать, вторгаться

to retain – удерживать

to rule – управлять

to favour – благоприятствовать

to prosper – процветать

to consume – потреблять

descendant – потомок

patron – покровитель

commerce – коммерция, торговля

crop – урожай

fodder grasses – кормовые травы

coal mines – угольные шахты

barley – ячмень

oats – овёс

living standards – уровень жизни

machinery – техника

densely populated – густо населённый

former – прежний, бывший

vital – жизненно важный

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of four formerly independent countries. They are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh, the capital of Wales is Cardiff, the capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast and the capital of England is London. The country is surrounded by seas on all sides and is separated from the continent by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. The British Isles consist of more than 5,000 small islands. The biggest of them is Great Britain. The geographical position favoured the development of the United Kingdom as a great sea country. It's famous for great geographical discoveries and glorious victories of the British fleet.

The country occupies an area of over 244,000 sq km. It is a densely populated country. The population is about 58 million people. About 80 per cent of the population live in town.

The scenery and the landscape of Great Britain are very diverse. There you can find flat valleys and high land, forests and lake areas. The highest mountain peaks are Ben Nevis in Scotland and Snowdon in Wales. The rivers in Great Britain are not long. The Thames is the most important waterway in the country, though the longest river is the Severn. The Mersy is another long river which once played an important role in British trade and commerce.

As for the climate of Great Britain it is moderate and mild due to the influence of the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. The summers are usually cooler than on the continent. There is a lot of rain in autumn and winter. The weather in Britain is very changeable and the English even say they have no climate but only weather which through centuries has become a favourite topic of conversation with the British.

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.

Foreigners usually call the British people «English», but the Scots, the Irish and the Welsh do not consider themselves to be English. The English are Anglo-Saxon in origin, but the Welsh, the Scots and the Irish are not. They are Celts; descendants of the ancient people who crossed over from Europe to the British Isles centuries before the Roman invasion. It was these people whom the Germanic Angles and Saxons conquered in the 5th and 6th centuries A.D.

The flag of the UK, known as the Union Jack, is made up of three crosses on a blue ground. The blue colour refers to the seas surrounding Britain. 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.

The United Kingdom is a highly developed industrial state. Historically British industry started chiefly as heavy and textile industry. There are hardly any coal mines in Britain today, but textile industry is still prospering. The United Kingdom produces and exports iron and steel products, machinery and electronics. The biggest industrial centres are London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham and Manchester.

The British say that they grow most of the food they consume, but of course some of the food like coffee, tea, fruit and wine is imported. The chief agricultural crops are wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and fodder grasses.

The UK is a prosperous state with high living standards. But today Britain is no longer the leading industrial nation in the world, which it used to be in the 19th century. A pioneer of the Industrial Revolution, the former «world workshop» of the 19th century, Britain today retains a respectable place among the most advanced countries of the world. She is the fifth in terms of the size of the GDP (gross domestic product). Being a member of the European Union (EU), more than a half of all Britain's trade is maintained with the other co-member states. The second place in Britain's foreign trade is taken by the USA, the Commonwealth countries come third. Britain has an open economy, in which international trade plays a vital role in the life of the country.

1 Complete the sentences using the information from the text.

- 1 The main countries of the UK are ...
- 2 From the European continent the British Isles are separated by ...
- 3 The advantages of the geographical position of Great Britain favoured...
- 4 The UK is famous for ...
- 5 Great Britain is a country of great diversity because...
- 6 The climate of Great Britain is generally mild and temperate because...
- 7 The official language of the UK is English but...
- 8 It is difficult to find a typical Briton because...
- 9 The flag of the United Kingdom is made up of...
- 10 Britain has made important advances in such industries as ...
- 11 The biggest industrial centres are...
- 12 British agriculture is efficient because...
- 13 The UK is a prosperous state with ...
- 14 A pioneer of the Industrial Revolution Britain today retains...
- 15 Britain has an open economy, in which...

2 Match the words with their definitions:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1) kingdom | a) the buying, selling and distribution of goods. |
|------------|---|

2) capital	b) the amount of grain, grass, vegetables, fruit, etc. grown and gathered in one season
3) discovery	c) a person who goes first or does something first
4) scenery	d) a country ruled by a king or queen
5) commerce	e) the state of the atmosphere at a particular place and time
6) conquer	f) overcome by force
7) patron	g) one who is descended from another as ancestor
8) crop	h) keep, preserve, continue to have
9) pioneer	i) the chief city of a country
10) retain	j) necessary to the existence of something, essential
11) vital	k) getting knowledge of something for the first time
12) weather	l) a person who encourages and helps another in his work
13) flag	m) a piece of cloth, usually oblong or square, used as a sign or symbol
14) descendant	n) the general appearance of a district
15) former	o) belong to the past or to an earlier period

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the text.

1 The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consist of four ... countries.

2 ... is the capital of Northern Ireland.

3 The country is ... by seas on all sides.

4 The biggest of the British Isles is ...

5 Britain is famous for glorious victories of the ...

6 The highest mountain peaks are ... in Scotland and ... in Wales.

7 The Thames is the most important ... in the country.

8 The longest river is ...

9 The climate of Great Britain is influenced by the warm waters of the ...

10 The weather in Britain is very ...

11 The Welsh, the Scots and the Irish are ... in origin.

12 The upright red cross is the cross of ... , the patron saint of ...

13 The UK produces and exports ... and ... products.

- 14 The UK is the fifth in terms of the size of ...
- 15 Britain is a member of the ...
- 16 The third place in Britain's foreign trade is taken by the ...
- 17 International trade plays a ... in the life of the UK.

4 Are the statements true or false? Correct the false statements.

- 1 The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the British Isles.
- 2 Northern Ireland is situated in the southern part of Ireland.
- 3 The UK is twice larger than France or Spain.
- 4 London is situated on the Thames which is the busiest waterway in the country.
- 5 Scotland is the nearest part to the European continent.
- 6 English is the only language spoken in the UK.
- 7 The English are Celts in origin.
- 8 Britain is still one of the leading industrial and trading countries in the world.
- 9 The British grow wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and fodder grasses.
- 10 Rainfall is fairly well distributed throughout the year.
- 11 Living standards are rather high in Great Britain.
- 12 The flag of the UK is made up of stars and stripes.

5 Prepare for the discussion of the questions on the topic "Great Britain"

- 1 What is the official name of Britain?
- 2 Where is it situated?
- 3 What in your opinion are advantages and disadvantages of the geographical position of Britain?
- 4 What is the territory and the population of the UK?
- 5 What is the surface of the country?
- 6 Why is weather a frequent topic of conversation in Great Britain?
- 7 What is the official language of the UK?
- 8 Do all British people speak English?
- 9 Why is it annoying to many British people when foreigners say "England" and "English" when they mean "Britain" and "British"?
- 10 What is the flag of the UK?
- 11 Great Britain is a highly developed industrial country, isn't it?
- 12 What industrial cities are there in Britain?
- 13 What branches of farming does the climate of the British Isles favour?
- 14 What is the present position of the UK in the contemporary world?

The British Monarchy Today

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 Commonwealth¹⁾. It includes many countries such as Ireland, 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 bills⁵⁾ 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** – 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** – палата парламента;

³⁾ **the House of Commons** – палата общин (*нижняя палата парламента; играет главную роль в осуществлении его законодательных функций*);

⁴⁾ **the House of Lords** – палата лордов (*верхняя палата парламента; невыборное учреждение; обладает правом отлагательного вето в отношении законопроектов, принятых палатой общин*);

⁵⁾ **bill** – билль, законопроект.

1 Find English equivalents to the following:

- глава государства
- поддержка парламента
- от имени королевы
- вооруженные силы
- процесс принятия решений
- процесс деколонизации
- не терять влияния над бывшими колониями
- избранное правительство
- Британская империя
- союз бывших членов
- королевская семья
- оплачивать расходы
- палата лордов
- палата общин
- коронация нового монарха
- представлять и обсуждать законопроект
- большинство членов
- быть сторонником (стоять за)
- подписывать билль
- ограниченная власть

2 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 Whom does the real power in the UK belong to?

4 When did the process of decolonization begin?

5 When was the Commonwealth founded and what countries does it include?

6 What do you know about the royal family?

7 What is the relationship between the Queen and Parliament in Britain?

8 What stages does a bill pass before it becomes an Act of Parliament?

3 Point for Discussion

- 1 The Monarchy and Its Power.
- 2 The formation of the Commonwealth.
- 3 The Queen – the Head of the Commonwealth.
- 4 Parliament and the Monarch.

T e x t 3

The British Parliament and the Electoral System

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 election, or at a by-election¹⁾ 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 ballot²⁾.

The election campaign lasts about three weeks. The election is decided on a simple majority – the candidate with most votes wins. 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 Opposition is a recognized post in the House of Commons.

There are three main political parties in Great Britain: the Labour, the Conservative (The Tory Party) and the Liberal parties. The Conservative and Liberal Parties are the oldest and until the end of the 19th century they were the only parties elected to the House of Commons. There are also some other parties: the Scottish National Party, the Welsh National Party, the Ulster Unionists, the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

References:

¹⁾ **by-election** – дополнительные выборы;

²⁾ **secret ballot** – тайное голосование.

1 Match the words in the column on the left with the words on the right:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 law-making | a) избирательная кампания |
| 2 responsible | b) голосование |
| 3 shadow cabinet | c) дополнительные выборы |
| 4 government | d) издание законов |
| 5 general election | e) теневой кабинет |
| 6 majority of seats | f) правительство |
| 7 secret ballot | g) большинство мест |
| 8 retirement | h) выход в отставку или на пенсию |
| 9 election campaign | i) тайное голосование |
| 10 voting | j) ответственный |
| 11 by-election | k) всеобщие выборы |

2 Answer the question:

- 1 What does the British Parliament consist of?
- 2 What do letters MP stand for?
- 3 What is the minimum voting age in the UK?
- 4 Who chooses candidates in elections in the UK?
- 5 Who chooses the Cabinet of Ministers?
- 6 Which political parties in the UK can you name?

3 Discussion

- 1 The Law – Making House of Parliament.
- 2 The Election campaign in the UK.
- 3 The political parties in the UK.

Text 4

Britain. Changes, Developments and New Directions

1 Learn the meaning of the following words and word-combinations:

copper – медь

hi-fi sets – аппаратура высокого качества

paper mill – бумажная фабрика

raw material – сырьё

steel mill – сталеплавильный завод

commodities market – товарный рынок

foreign exchange market – валютный рынок

insurance market – страховой рынок

stock exchange – биржа

2 Read the first part of the text and do the tasks that follow.

Britain's trade with the world

Britain is too small and crowded to produce all the food its people need. British farms produce large quantities of wheat, sugar beet, dairy products, beef and lamb, but more than half of Britain's foodstuffs are bought abroad. British industry requires raw materials. Most of these, too, have to be bought abroad. There are not nearly enough forests in the UK to keep the timber and paper mills busy, and there is very little iron ore for the steel mills. Industries which need silicon, copper, zinc, cotton can only get them from foreign countries. Coal and North Sea oil and gas are the great exceptions. British drivers fill up with British petrol. Housewives cook with British natural gas, and power stations and factories burn British coal, gas or oil.

All Britain's imports must be paid for by exports. Scotch whisky! Rolls Royce cars! Famous British exports! But far more important are Rolls Royce aero engines, sold for commercial and military aircraft in over 100 countries. Britain also exports complete aircraft, as well as electric and electronic equipment such as computers and communications systems, plastics, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, machinery, and of course oil. British factories today manufacture very few mass-produced products like washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, TV or hi-fi sets. Britain imports them from foreign manufacturers.

All exports which the eye can see, products like whisky and cars, are called "visible" exports. But Britain obtains 50 per cent of its earnings abroad from "invisible" exports, mainly from the profits of investments in other countries and from "services" – transport, tourism, and financial services like banking, insurance and so on.

These financial services, so vital to Britain's economy, are concentrated in a small area of central London called "the City". The City houses the world's greatest concentration of banks, the world's biggest insurance market, and the world's most advanced stock exchange, foreign exchange market and commodities market.

Only two countries, the USA and France, earn more from invisible exports than Britain.

3 Complete the table below. Use the information from the text.

	Food stuffs	Mass produced products	Raw materials
Exported			
Imported			

4 Read the second part of the text and answer the following questions.

Changes, developments and new directions

Working life today is very different from the way it was in the middle of the 20th century. In 1950 40 per cent of the working population worked in manufacturing industry. Now the figure has dropped to below 26 per cent. A few of the old factories have even been turned into museums.

So where do the majority of people work now? More than 65 per cent work in service industries (in 1955 it was 45 per cent). Banking, finance and insurance have been the fastest growing areas, then hotels and catering, medical and other health services and distribution services. There are many reasons for this growth in the demand for services. More people have more money to spend than they used to. People also have more leisure time and longer holidays so more entertainment and travel services are needed. There are more elderly people, so more medical services are needed. At the same time new technology is making possible many services that were not possible before.

However, although these changes have been good for Britain, the loss of jobs in manufacturing industry has made life very hard for some people.

1 What part of the working population was engaged in manufacturing industry in the middle of the 20th century and at the end of it?

2 How did the number of people working in service industries increase in the early 90s against the mid 50s?

3 What areas of service industries offer the greatest amount of jobs for the working population today?

4 What are the economic and social reasons for the growth in the demand for services?

5 Find words and phrases in the text that match the definitions:

- a) a place where sugar, oil, metals, etc. can be traded;
- b) only the trading is done here; the actual commodities do not need to pass through Britain;
- c) a place where large amounts of foreign currencies can be bought and sold;
- d) a place where stocks and shares can be bought and sold;

6 Complete the sentences using the words from the text.

1 Milk, cheese and yogurt are examples of

2 Wood, silicon, copper and cotton are examples of

- 3 Medical drugs such as antibiotics are examples of
- 4 Washing machines, dishwashers and refrigerators are examples of
- 5 Profits from investments in other countries are examples of
- 6 Transport, tourism, banking and insurance are examples of... .

7 Translate the following sentences into English using the vocabulary of the text.

1 За последние годы в стране **выросло** (увеличилось) **производство товаров массового потребления**.

2 Большинство фруктов, а также некоторые виды овощей **ввозятся** в Британию **из-за рубежа**.

3 Банки, **страховые компании** и другие учреждения, оказывающие **финансовые услуги**, как правило, **сосредоточены** в центре города.

4 В чем разница между **видимым и невидимым экспортом**?

5 Большая часть товаров массового потребления не производится в Великобритании, а **ввозится из-за рубежа**.

6 В настоящее время большая часть населения в развитых странах **занята (работает) в сфере услуг**.

7 Экономика страны развивается успешно, если **импорт покрывается экспортом**.

8 Развитие сельского хозяйства **гораздо важнее** для этой области в настоящее время, чем строительство крупного завода.

9 Реки и озера Британии имеют **жизненно важное** значение для страны.

10 Строительство торгового центра поможет **обеспечить работой** (занять) многих студентов во время летних каникул.

11 В газете сообщалось, что дом одного из старейших английских художников будет **превращен** в музей.

12 В настоящее время некоторые предприятия испытывают нехватку **сырья**.

13 **Более половины** телевизоров в стране производится на этом предприятии.

8 Discussion

1 Give reasons for the growing demand for services in Britain and other countries.

2 Compare the changes and developments in the British economy with those in Belarus.

UNIT 2

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN BRITAIN

Text 1

British Contributions to Science

Vocabulary:

- science** – наука
- scientist** – учёный
- research** – исследование
- discovery** – открытие
- purpose** – цель
- treatment** – уход, лечение
- contribution** – вклад
- to link** – связывать
- to be engaged** – заниматься чем-либо
- to owe** – быть должным, быть обязанным,
- vital** – жизненно важный, существенный
- pre-eminent** – превосходящий других
- recognition** – признание
- to gain** – выигрывать, приобретать
- award** – награда
- society** – общество
- to prove** – доказывать
- to split** – расщеплять
- value** – ценность
- to supply** – снабжать, поставлять
- to harness** – использовать, применять
- equipment** – оборудование
- engine** – двигатель, мотор, машина

Since the first artificial splitting of the atom at Cambridge, in 1932, by Sir John Cockcroft and Dr. E.T.S. Walton, Britain's nuclear scientists have made continuous progress in harnessing atomic energy. Today eight commercial nuclear power stations are supplying electricity for factories and homes and others are being built. Some of Britain's top scientists are engaged in space research on projects such as upper atmosphere probes with British-built rockets at Woomera, Australia, and in work on satellite communications.

Others are making vital discoveries in the laboratory into the very nature of life itself.

Britain is pre-eminent in radio astronomy and in many fields of electronics including miniaturisation, one of the most important factors in the electronics revolution, and in radar for marine and aviation purposes. Much basic work was done in Britain on electronic computers. British advances in medicine include penicillin and other antibiotics, such as cephalosporins, heart-lung machines¹⁾, a new anti-viral agent²⁾, Interferon, of great potential value and many other important developments in the treatment of disease.

British contributions to science include many great discoveries linked with famous names – Sir Isaac Newton (theory of gravitation), Robert Boyle ("the father of modern chemistry"), Michael Faraday (whose discoveries gave rise to the electrical industry), and Henry Cavendish (properties of hydrogen). In the 20th century – J. J. Thomson, Lord Rutherford and Sir James Chadwick (basic work on nuclear science), Gowland Hopkins (the existence of vitamins³⁾, Sir William Bragg (X-ray analysis), and many others. Medicine owes much to such pioneers as William Harvey (circulation of the blood), Edward Jenner (vaccination), Joseph Lister (antiseptics), Sir Ronald Ross (who proved the relation between malaria and mosquitoes).

Since 1945 there have been 27 British scientists who have received international recognition for their work by gaining Nobel awards. There are over 200 learned scientific societies in Britain. In ten years Britain has doubled her total number of qualified scientists.

Today, in a new age of modern technology, Britain has made important advances in such new industries as electronics and telecommunications equipment, in aircraft and aircraft engines, in plastics and synthetic materials, radio-isotopes and new drugs⁴⁾ – all major exports.

References:

1) **heart-lung machines** – приборы искусственного сердца и лёгких;

2) **anti-viral agent** – антивирусное вещество;

3) **bitamin** – витамин В;

4) **drug** – лекарство, медикамент.

1 Match the words with the correct definitions:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1) scientist | a) a form of energy which can be used for producing heat, light, mechanical power. |
| 2) artificial | b) an object, intention, that one has in mind to do or get. |
| 3) progress | c) not natural; made by the art of man. |
| 4) electricity | d) anything that is given as a prize |

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 5) astronomy | e) the science or art of the prevention, treatment and cure of disease. |
| 6) medicine | f) careful investigation of new facts in any branch of knowledge. |
| 7) award | g) a person who knows much about a science. |
| 8) laboratory | h) the science of the sun, moon, stars and planets. |
| 9) research | i) development; improvement; advance |
| 10) communication | j) a group of people living together in an organized community. |
| 11) modern | k) a room or building for scientific work. |
| 12) society | l) having to do with the present time |
| 13) purpose | m) a means of going or of sending things or messages from one place to another. |

2 Give the English equivalents:

- искусственное расщепление атома
- использование атомной энергии
- поставлять электричество
- атомная станция
- исследования космоса
- спутниковая связь
- существенные открытия
- выдающийся во многих областях электроники
- успехи в медицине
- лечение болезней
- получить международное признание
- научное общество
- век современной технологии
- вклад в науку.

3 Fill in the missing words in the sentences below. Choose from the following:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| engaged | electricity | recognition |
| relation | discoveries | gained |
| awards | research | societies |
| harnessing | properties | split |
| project | supplied | prove |

- 1 Britain's scientists have made great progress in _____ atomic energy.
- 2 Michael Faraday's _____ gave rise to the electrical industry.
- 3 The chemical and physical _____ of uranium are well known now.
- 4 A big engineering _____ was suggested by a group of designers.
- 5 Nuclear power stations are supplying _____ for factories and homes.
- 6 This scientist is _____ in space research..
- 7 An element is a chemical substance which cannot be _____ up into other substances.
- 8 It was difficult to _____ him anything.
- 9 Henry Cavendish received international _____ for his work on the properties of hydrogen.
- 10 They _____ a lot of time by using computers in their research work.
- 11 Mary Curie received two Nobel _____, in Physics and in Chemistry.
- 12 The expedition was _____ with all the necessary equipment.
- 13 He did his _____ with the help of electronic machines.
- 14 There are many learned scientific _____ in Britain.
- 15 Sir Ronald Ross proved the _____ between malaria and mosquitoes.

4 Answer the questions:

- 1 Who made the first artificial splitting of the atom? When and where was it done?
- 2 Have the results of this splitting been used only with the research aim?
- 3 Do the results of splitting the atom concern to the very nature of life itself?
- 4 What branches of science and technology is Britain pre-eminent in?
- 5 What can you say about Britain's advance in different fields of electronics and medicine?
- 6 What great discoveries did Britain contribute to science? Would you give any famous names?

5 Talking points

- 1 Do you know any research of British scientists in your concrete field of knowledge? Do you know any discoveries made by young people?
- 2 What should a teacher do to stimulate his students' scientific interests? Does it only depend on the teacher? What do you think about it?

Text 2

Some British Records and Achievements

The use of the jet engine¹⁾ for aircraft was pioneered²⁾ by a team led by Sir Frank Whittle and the first British jet aircraft flew in 1941. In 1958 Britain began the first transatlantic jet service. The vertical take-off aircraft³⁾ was born in Britain 30 years ago and since then powerful lift jet engines have been developed.

The first public demonstration of television was given by J. L. Baird in 1926. The British Broadcasting Corporation began the world's first high-definition TV service⁴⁾ in 1936. The first colour TV service in Western Europe was started by the BBC in 1967.

The first thermionic valve⁵⁾ was patented in England in 1904 by Sir Ambrose Fleming, who could have foreseen few of the consequences of his invention – radio broadcasting, television, radar navigational aids and communications satellites. The British discovery in 1941 of the multicavity magnetron⁶⁾ marked the beginning of modern radar, which played a major part in the Second World War. Today over half the world's shipping carries British radar equipment.

Among a series of historic flights the first Atlantic crossing was made by the British airmen Alcock and Brown in 1919. The summit⁷⁾ of the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest in Nepal, was first reached by members of Lord Hunt's British Expedition. They were Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander, and the Nepalese guide Sherpa Tenzing in 1953.

The first practical steam driven ship was launched on the River Clyde in Scotland in 1802. The steam turbine, now universally used by big ships, was invented in Britain by Sir Charles Parsons. The first gas turbine applied⁸⁾ to ship propulsion⁹⁾ was developed by the Admiralty in 1947.

The record for the first mile to be run in under four minutes was set up by Dr. Roger Bannister in 1954.

The first pedal cycle was built by a Scot, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, in 1839. Today Britain is the world's biggest exporter of cycles.

References:

- 1) **jet engine** – реактивный двигатель;
- 2) **pioneer** – прокладывать путь;
- 3) **vertical take-off aircraft** – самолет, отрывающийся от земли вертикально; вертолет;
- 4) **high-definition TV service** – телепередачи (вещание) при высокой четкости изображения;

⁵⁾ **thermionic valve** – электронная лампа высокой чувствительности (термической обработки);

⁶⁾ **multicavity magnetron** – магнетрон, обеспечивающий очень большой выход энергии;

⁷⁾ **summit** – вершина, верх;

⁸⁾ **apply** – применять;

⁹⁾ **propulsion** – движущая сила.

1 Match the phrases with their Russian equivalents:

jet engine	самолёт
radio broadcasting	устанавливать рекорд
aircraft	спустить судно на воду
radar equipment	движущая сила
to launch	предвидеть последствия
pedal cycle	радарное оборудование
communications satellite	пароход
steam driven ship	запатентовать изобретение
propulsion	спутник связи
to foresee consequences	радиовещание
to set up a record	реактивный двигатель
to patent an invention	педальный велосипед
a series of flights	сделать перелёт
to make a crossing	серия полётов

2 Answer the questions:

1 What did you learn about the use of the jet engines in Britain?

2 When did the first British jet aircraft fly?

3 What can you say about jet service in Britain?

4 What names of British scientists did you learn in this text? What branches of science and industry are they connected with?

5 Are most of Britain's achievements the first only in Britain or in the world over? What do you know about it? Would you give your opinion?

3 Extend the lists with the information you find in various sources.

Discoveries and technological innovations made in England:

- genetic finger prints in 1901
- the law of gravitation
- splitting atom
- cloning
-

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Invention first introduced in England:

- steam engine
- railway between Stockton and Darlington in 1825
- Underground in London in 1863
-
-
-

4 Talking Points

- 1 Did you learn anything new about Britain’s records and achievements?
- 2 Could you say what information was the most interesting for you and why?
- 3 Do you agree with all the facts given above? Could you give any others?

T e x t 3

Scientific Research in Oxford and Cambridge

Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest and most prestigious universities in Britain. Today both universities are internationally renowned centres for teaching and research, attracting students and scholars from all over the world.

There have been many famous people who have studied at Oxford University and they include John Locke, Adam Smith, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, J.R. Tolkien, Indira Gandhi, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, Bill Clinton, Rupert Murdoch, Rowan Atkinson (Mr. Bean), and Hugh Grant. All in all, Oxford has produced four British and at least eight foreign presidents and prime ministers, seven saints, 86 archbishops, 18 cardinals, and one pope. Seven of the last eleven British Prime Ministers have been Oxford graduates.

Oxford’s teaching and research is consistently in the top rank nationally and internationally, and is at the forefront of medical, scientific and technological achievement. Amongst the University’s old members are many widely influential scientists. Contemporary scientists include Stephen Hawking, Richard Dawkins and Nobel prize-winner Anthony James Leggett, and Tim Berners Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web.

Cambridge University is more renowned than its rival for mathematics and natural science, and has produced 80 Nobel-prize winners (33 more than Oxford and the highest number of any university worldwide), 13 British Prime Ministers and 8 Archbishops of Canterbury, among others.

The list of illustrious alumni is endless. Among the most famous are Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, Lord Byron, Charles Darwin, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vladimir Nabokov, and Rajiv Gandhi. The great Russian scientist Pavlov came to Cambridge to receive the degree of the Honorary Doctor of Cambridge. University of Cambridge is known as a great centre of science, where many famous scientists have worked.

In January 2006 the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge announced that they had joined the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU). The two universities are pleased to be working today together as fellow members of this new alliance.

The IARU Presidents' Meeting considered papers on potential IARU research collaboration, covering topics such as movement of people, ageing and health, food and water, energy and environment, and security. Other topics discussed included excellence in graduate education. The IARU aims to give universities the opportunity to exchange ideas and experience in everything from teaching and learning through to research projects that will benefit people beyond their national borders.

The IARU consists of 10 research-intensive universities – the Australian National University, ETH Zurich, National University of Singapore, Peking University, University of California, Berkeley, University of Cambridge, University of Copenhagen, University of Oxford, The University of Tokyo and Yale University.

The IARU was designed both to promote collaborative research and teaching and to enable member universities to learn from each other. It offers excellent opportunities for students and young researchers not just to work on problems of global significance but to do so as part of an international university community.

Notes:

renowned – прославленный, известный

saint – святой

archbishop – архиепископ

contemporary – современный

rival – конкурент, соперник

alumnus – воспитанник

illustrious – знаменитый.

1 Complete the sentences using the information from the text:

1 Oxford and Cambridge Universities are renowned centres for

2 7 British Prime Ministers have been

- 3 Oxford's teaching and research is at the forefront of
- 4 Cambridge University is more famous than its rival for
- 5 The great Russian scientist Pavlov came to Cambridge
- 6 In 2006 the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge
- 7 The IARU research collaboration covered topics such as
- 8 The IARU consists of.....
- 9 The IARU gives universities the opportunity to exchange.....
- 10 The Alliance helps students and researchers to be part of.....

2 Answer the questions:

- 1 What are the most famous universities in Britain?
- 2 What famous people studied at Oxford University?
- 3 What fields of science is Oxford University at the forefront of?
- 4 What sciences is Cambridge University more renowned for?
- 5 Whom does the list of famous Cambridge graduates include?
- 6 When did Oxford and Cambridge join the IARU?
- 7 What universities does the IARU consist of?
- 8 What is the goal of creating the IARU?
- 9 What opportunities does it offer for students and researchers?

3 Points for Discussion:

- 1 Students who attended either Oxford or Cambridge set an intellectual standard. What do you think of it?
- 2 Why is an international university community important for students and young researchers?

4 Write the summary of the text in English.

T e x t 4

Sightseeing in Britain

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country of strong attraction for tourists. The charm of it lies in its variety of scenery: the finest combination of sea, highland and valleys, lakes and rivers, fields and meadows. Englishmen like their parks and gardens. The art of gardening has a very old tradition in England. Their parks are pieces of the country left in the middle of town while the English country looks parklike.

The UK is the country with a long and exciting history and a rich cultural heritage. People from different corners of our planet go there to see Stonehenge, a relic of an ancient civilization, Loch Ness and its legendary

monster, the Royal residence and numerous castles. The cities and towns of Britain – London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge and many others – present a lot of interest to foreigners.

Stonehenge is the most famous prehistoric monument in Britain. The number of visitors who come to see it increases year after year. Stonehenge is located in the middle of Salisbury plain, England, and it won't take you long to get there by car or coach from London. Stonehenge is not a single structure, but the arrangement of large stones that were built over a period of approximately 1,500 years. Today it is widely believed that Neolithic peoples of the British Isles began constructing the monument about 5,000 years ago.

Stratford-upon-Avon, where Shakespeare was born, is now one of the most popular tourist centres. People from all over the world come to see Shakespeare's birthplace. There are a lot of relics in the town associated with Shakespeare and his immortal works: the Grammar School where he studied, the church where he was buried, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The town is famous for its great Shakespeare festivals which are held annually from April to September. No other part of the country is so unmistakably English.

Only eight miles away from Stratford-upon-Avon there is another place which attracts a lot of visitors – the ancient town of Warwick dominated by one of the finest medieval castles in Great Britain. It contains an excellent collection of arms, armour and paintings.

Another popular tourist centre is the city of York which is unique in having evidence of occupation throughout the ages from Roman, Saxon and Viking times to the present day. York has a lot of world famous attractions offering something for everyone. It has the largest cathedral in Northern Europe which is 800 years old. The Viking Centre in York brings the visitors face to face with real characters from the city's Viking past. The National Railway Museum, the largest of its kind in the world, provides a vast collection of engines and Royal carriages.

Tourism is one of the most important industries in Scotland. Tourists from all over the world come to enjoy the beauty of Scottish scenery, to walk among heather-covered hills, to visit ancient historic castles, to eat Scottish salmon, to see Scotsmen in kilts playing bagpipes, although only a few Scots wear kilts these days.

Notes:

armour – доспехи

arms – оружие

heritage – наследие

immortal – бессмертный

manuscript – рукопись
masterpiece – шедевр
medieval – средневековый
relic – реликвия
bagpipes – волынка
do sights – осматривать достопримечательности.

1 Answer the questions:

- 1 Why does Britain attract many visitors?
- 2 What places of interest can visitors see in the UK?
- 3 What do you know about Stonehenge?
- 4 What is Stratford-upon-Avon famous for?
- 5 What does the ancient town of Warwick house?
- 6 What is the city of York unique in?
- 7 What is one of the most important industries of Scotland and why?

2 Make up situations using the following words and word combinations:

- a) to do sights
 - to attract visitors
 - to have a tradition
 - to present a lot of interest
 - to have a rich heritage
- b) a prehistoric monument
 - to be located
 - to get by car
 - the arrangement of stones
 - a relic of an ancient civilization
 - to be built
- c) to see Shakespeare's birthplace
 - a lot of relics
 - to be buried
 - to be associated with
 - to be held annually
 - to be famous for
- d) a popular tourist centre
 - to be unique in
 - to offer
 - to have evidence of
 - to provide a collection

- e) to enjoy the beauty of Scotland
 - to walk among
 - to play bagpipes
 - to wear kilts

3 Class improvisation.

1 You have just returned from the UK where you spent your holidays. Share your impressions with your fellow students.

2 Your friend has just returned from his working holiday in England. You were in England last year. Share your impressions.

3 If you were planning to visit the UK, what part of the country would you choose? Give your reasons. Try to persuade your friend to go with you to this particular area for a holiday.

4 Bearing in mind its climate and general character which part of Britain would you choose to live in? Is it the same part that you would like to visit for a holiday? Why (not)? Give your reasons.

4 Class Communication

Act out a talk between a Belarusian student and a British student. The former wants to acquire some information about Britain.

The UK Quiz

1 From the European continent the British Isles are separated by:

- a) the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean
- b) the Irish Sea and the English Channel
- c) the English Channel and the North Sea.

2 The longest river of the British Isles is the river:

- a) Severn
- b) Thames
- c) Shannon.

3 Ben Nevis is:

- a) a famous Scottish nationalist
- b) the highest mountain in Britain
- c) an island on the west coast.

4 The Union Jack is:

- a) made up of three stripes

- b) made up of three crosses on a blue ground
- c) a very old flag which began to be used in the 13 century.

5 The three crosses of the Union Jack:

- a) reflect the three main religions in the country
- b) are the crosses of England, Scotland and Ireland
- c) symbolize the union of Wales, England and Scotland.

6 The British Parliament consists of:

- a) the House of Representatives and the Queen
- b) the Senate and the Prime Minister
- c) the House of Lords, the House of Commons and the Queen as its head.

7 Members of the Parliament are elected at a general election which is usually held:

- a) every four years
- b) every five years
- c) every six years.

8 The majority of the British work now in:

- a) manufacturing industry
- b) service industries
- c) agriculture.

9 William Shakespeare was born in:

- a) London
- b) Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- c) Stratford-upon-Avan.

10 The City of York has:

- a) the museum of arms and paintings
- b) the National Railway Museum
- c) the British museum.

11 The weather in Britain is:

- a) sunny all the year round
- b) considered more reliable than any weather in the world
- c) very changeable.

12 The Queen of Great Britain:

- a) plays the major role in law-making
- b) is also the Queen of the Commonwealth
- c) never signs Laws.

13 The Commonwealth includes such countries as:

- a) Ireland, Canada, Australia
- b) New Zealand, China, India
- c) Canada, USA, France.

14 The City of London houses:

- a) mills, docks, factories
- b) banks, offices, stock exchange
- c) power stations, research institutes, laboratories.

15 Stonehenge:

- a) is a collection of large ancient stones which are of no significant interest
- b) is an important geographical marker located in southern Britain
- c) is the most famous prehistoric monument in Britain

16 The IARU members are:

- a) the Universities of Edinburgh and Manchester
- b) Oxford and Cambridge Universities
- c) London and Bristol Universities.

UNIT 3

CULTURAL LIFE OF GREAT BRITAIN

Text 1

Read the text .

The Fine Distinctions of Speech

Vocabulary:

cosy – уютный, удобный

cohesion – сплоченность, связь

snobbery – снобизм

brand – отпечатываться в памяти, оставлять неизгладимое впечатление
received pronunciation (RP) – общепринятое произношение
persist (in) – упорствовать, оставаться, сохраняться
accepted – общепринятый, распространенный
elite – отборная часть, элита
unmarked – неотмеченный
immense – огромный, безмерный
contradict – противоречить, возражать, отрицать
ambitious – честолюбивый
conurbation – большой город со всеми пригородами
implicit – скрытый
impoverish – обеднять
enhance – add to (добавлять)
divisive – creating divisions or differences between people.

A picture of the British as both individualist and yet community-minded is a cosy one, and in many respects the British have a deep sense of cultural cohesion and unity. Yet, in the words of a leading educationist, "The trouble with the British is that they accept and enjoy the nice distinctions of social class. They love hierarchy and see nothing wrong in the deferential attitude that it breeds". Nowhere is this clearer than in the question of speech. For the way English is spoken gives away not only regional identity but to some extent class status too. It is, for one sociologist, "the snobbery which brands the tongue of every British child".

Since the days of Shakespeare, the English of south east England has been considered the 'standard', for no better reason than that the south east is the region of economic and political power. The emergence of an upper and upper-middle-class mode of speech, received pronunciation (RP), was systematically established through the public (in fact private) school system attended by the boys of wealthier families. RP persists as the accepted dialect of the national elite.

Broadly speaking, there are two kinds of RP. One is unmarked RP, which suggests no more than that the speaker is well-educated (although of course many equally well-educated people speak with a regional accent). This is the dialect of the BBC, and thus it has a kind of authority. Through radio and television unmarked RP is becoming a more widely spoken accent. Then there is 'marked' RP, which indicates high social class and is spoken, for example, by many army officers who come from upper-class families. At the time of the Falklands War, marked RP was very fashionable, since it suggested leadership and authority at a time of national crises. Although spoken by less than 5 per cent of the population, RP has immense influence. Those who speak it enjoy a

social authority that contradicts democratic ideals. As long as RP remains suggestive of authority, some job advertisers will demand well-spokenness, and some ambitious politicians will hide their regional accents with RP.

Regional accents exist, in class status terms, below RP. But even they have a hierarchy. Scottish, Welsh and Irish are generally the more popular regional accents. Then come northern, Yorkshire and west country accents, and at the bottom of the list come the least popular ones of the great conurbations, London, Liverpool, Glasgow and the West Midlands. Significantly the television news is read by RP speakers, while the weather forecast following the news is often read by someone with a regional accent. Is there an implicit difference in the importance and status of news and weather?

Do dialect (a matter of grammar and vocabulary) and accent enrich or impoverish? This is a continuing matter for debate among linguists. Some argue that regional accents enhance the sense of local community, and that to abandon them is to give way to the accents of the ruling class. Others argue that regional dialects, given their class associations, are socially divisive. Dialect is unlikely to disappear and the debate is likely to continue.

I Which word or phrase in the text above means:

- 1) keeping things different or distinct;
 - 2) tendency to stick together;
 - 3) train, educate, bring up;
 - 4) something used as a test or measure for weights, lengths, qualities or for the required degree of excellence;
 - 5) way in which a language is spoken;
 - 6) continue to exist;
 - 7) cause to become poor;
 - 8) individual, local or national way of pronouncing;
 - 9) form of a language (grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation) used in a part of a country or by a class of people;
 - 10) go out of sight; to be seen no more.
- Key: 1) distinction; 2) cohesion; 3) breed; 4) standard; 5) pronunciation; 6) persist; 7) impoverish; 8) accent; 9) dialect; 10) disappear.

II In pairs, ask each other whether the following statements are true or false according to the text above.

- 1 The British accept and enjoy the nice distinctions of social class.
- 2 The way English is spoken gives away regional identity and class status.
- 3 The south east is not a region of economic and political power.

- 4 There are four kinds of RP.
- 5 Many well-educated people speak with a regional accent.
- 6 At the time of the Falklands War, marked RP was not very fashionable.
- 7 Regional accents exist, in class status terms, above RP.
- 8 Dialect is likely to disappear and the debate is likely to stop.

III In pairs, discuss your answers to the following questions.

- 1 What kind of English has been considered the "standard" since the days of Shakespeare? Why?
- 2 What is "received pronunciation" (RP)?
- 3 How was RP established?
- 4 What is the accepted dialect of the national elite?
- 5 What are the two kinds of RP? What is the difference between them?
- 6 What are the most popular regional accents?
- 7 What is the least popular regional accent?
- 8 The television news is read by RP speakers, isn't it?

IV Some people want to encourage different dialects of English because they admire their richness. Other people think they are socially divisive and should be abandoned. What is your opinion? Discuss your opinion with a friend. Use as much information from the text as possible.

V Do you know any dialects and accents of the Russian language? In pairs or groups discuss this problem.

T e x t 2

Read the text

Urban Sub-Cultures

Vocabulary:

- dissent** – разногласие, расхождение во взглядах
Mod – ультрасовременный молодой человек
Ted and Teddy – пижон, одевающийся в костюмы, которые были модны в Англии в начале XX века, в эпоху правления Эдварда VII (1901 – 1910)
Skinheads – Бритоголовые (или Скинхеды)
refusal – отказ
conform – подчиняться
exclude – исключать
to be confined to – ограничивать, ограничиваться

tame – смирять, приручать
defiance – вызов, неповиновение
impact – толчок, импульс, влияние
fuse – сливаться, объединяться
cult – культ, преклонение
mannerism – манерность, манеры
braces – подтяжки
glamour – романтический ореол, обаяние
apathetic – равнодушный, безразличный
appeal – привлекательность
outrage – оскорбить
foul language – сквернословие
mutilate – уродовать, искажать
self-esteem – чувство собственного достоинства
despise – презирать

Rebellion and dissent belong on city streets. Among those who rejected the English cottage culture in favour of a popular urban culture, some remained deeply dissatisfied with their place in society. Teds, Mods, Rockers, Bikers, Skinheads, Punks and Ras-tafarians, the sub-cultures of the politically or economically weaker segments of society, all have their roots in the poorer parts of towns. They reflect a refusal to conform in post-1945 society. Like the rural dream of the majority, some of these sub-cultures are based on nostalgia for a lost world, for example, an imagined traditional working-class culture for the Skinheads, or an idealised Africa for Rastafarians.

The single greatest influence for all these rebel sub-cultures has been Afro-Caribbean. Afro-Caribbean immigrants, and more particularly their children, have felt excluded from mainstream British society. Many feel they have exchanged one colonial situation for another, as a cheap labour force. As they were largely confined to depressed urban areas, many whites associated Afro-Caribbean youths with violence and disorder.

At a spiritual level many Afro-Caribbeans, like those still in the Caribbean, dreamed of a golden age in Africa before the slave traders came. Their text was the Bible, which had traditionally been used by a dominant white culture to tame them.

Rastafarians began to wear distinctive clothes, camouflage jackets, large hats in the red, gold and green colours of Ethiopia, and put their long, uncut hair in 'dreadlocks'. They took to speaking in a special dialect. This was defiance and revolt, until Rastafarians became a recognised and legitimate minority group at the end of the 1980s.

Most important, however, for its cultural impact, has been the black music which came into Britain mainly through the Rastafarian movement. Two particular types, ska and reggae, evolved in the Caribbean and United States but were developed in Britain during the 1970s. «Break-dance» music came direct from the United States as did «Hip-hop». "Nowhere in the world," according to the style writer Peter York, is black American dancing music more cherished than in England. At first the music spread through informal channels, and home-made tapes. By the mid 1980s there were over 100 different independent reggae companies making tapes and records of reggae music. These types of music were powerful expressions of dissidence.

Black dissident music was adopted by other rebel sub-cultures, even those which were openly hostile to the ethnic minorities. Indeed, it is through music that the black and white cultures have fused. The Skinheads, for example, who developed in the 1970s out of an older cult, the Mods, copied black mannerisms and fashions and danced to reggae.

They wear heavy boots, jeans and braces, and shave their hair or cut it very short.

As a movement the Skinheads are now in decline.

A broader movement, a reaction to the glamour of the pop star world of the 1960s, is that of the Punks. Punks, like the Skinheads, are reactionary, but they are passive and politically apathetic. Their real appeal to the young has been their ability to outrage middle-aged opinion, particularly among the guardians of social values, like the police and other civil authorities. They have done this by using foul language, dressing in torn clothes, wearing Union Jacks, swastikas, mutilating their bodies with safety pins, wearing chains. Punk, too, used black music, particularly reggae, to inspire its own Punk sound. Unlike Skinheads, however, many Punks openly identified with Black Britain. After almost twenty years, Punks too are in decline.

Who is attracted to such cults? Generally it has been young people with low self-esteem, who have done poorly at school. Joining a gang is a means of finding status, and of defying the conventional world in which they have been defined as failures.

«Heavy metal» is the music of failure, and the fact that it is widely despised by those who enjoy pop, reggae or soul, is its appeal. The capital of heavy metal is Birmingham, one of Britain's least loved cities.

At the end of the 1980s the fashionable sub-culture was Acid House, which attracted thousands of adolescents. Acid House promised fun and all-night dancing. It came ready-made with its own music, another variation on black music from America («House» music). By 1990, this too was in decline.

Such sub-cultures follow a cycle. They create initial shock and provoke a strong response, particularly from the police. It attracts youth in search of a rebel identity (often merely to irritate their parents). Many, perhaps most, adopt it for fun, conforming to the requirements of conventional society during working hours, and playing at rebellion in their leisure time. Meanwhile, the fashion designers commercialise the look and sell it in the clothes shops.

In the end, of course, the sub-culture becomes another accepted and colourful part of urban culture.

I Which word or phrase in the text above means:

- 1) have a different opinion from;
- 2) join, become joined; make into one whole;
- 3) full of oaths (ругательство), obscenities (непристойность);
- 4) adapt oneself to; be in agreement with; comply with;
- 5) prevent somebody from getting in somewhere;
- 6) young person (1960s in GB) wearing smart clothes and riding on a motor-scooter;
- 7) teenager (1950s and early 1960 in GB) who expressed opposition to authority by engaging in gang fights and wore clothes like those worn during the reign of Edward VII;
- 8) peculiarity of behaviour, speech, etc.

К е y: 1) dissent; 2) fuse; 3) foul language; 4) conform; 5) exclude; 6) Mod; 7) Ted; 8) mannerism.

II In pairs, ask each other whether the following statements are true or false according to the article above.

- 1 Some of the sub-cultures are based on nostalgia for a lost world.
- 2 Afro-Caribbean immigrants and their children never felt excluded from mainstream British society.
- 3 Whites didn't associate Afro-Caribbean youths with violence and disorder.
- 4 Black music came into "Britain mainly" through the Rastafarian movement.
- 5 "Break-dance" and "Hip-hop" music came direct from the United States.
- 6 As a movement the Skinheads are now very popular.
- 7 Punks are reactionary and politically very active.

III In pairs, discuss your answers to the following questions.

- 1 Who rejected the English cottage culture?

2 What are the sub-cultures of the politically or economically weaker segments of society?

3 What are some of these sub-cultures based on?

4 What has been the greatest influence for all these sub-cultures?

5 What did many Afro-Caribbeans dream of?

6 How did the black music come into Britain?

7 Where did two particular types of music, ska and reggae, evolve?

8 How did Punks outrage middle-aged opinion?

9 What kind of music is "Heavy metal"? What is the capital of heavy metal?

10 What was the fashionable sub-culture at the end of the 1980s?

11 What was Acid House music?

12 Why do these sub-cultures attract youngsters?

IV Discuss with your friend why young British people join sub-cultures.

V Say what sub-cultures exist in your own country.

Text 3

Read the text

The Culture of Sport

Vocabulary:

outlet – выход

character-building qualities – качества, формирующие характер

spectacular – эффектный, захватывающий

Henley Regatta – Хенлийская регата (ежегодная регата, которая проводится в г. Хенли на реке Темзе в графстве Оксфордшир)

Royal Ascot – «Королевский Аскот» (проводятся в июне, считаются крупным событием светской жизни; на скачках обыкновенно присутствует монарх)

pinnacle – вершина, кульминационный пункт

resentment – чувство обиды

to confer power – наделять властью

durable – прочный, длительный.

Britain was the first country to organise sport as a national activity. In the second half of the nineteenth century it organised and exported a number of games, notably football, rugby football and cricket. The initial purpose behind

organised sport was to provide an outlet for youthful energies at public schools. It was generally believed to have character-building qualities for future leaders. But it was not long before local businessmen began to organise football and other sports as recreational activity for their workforces. Football clubs quickly sprang up in towns and cities all over Britain, and football was rapidly taken into working-class culture. The Saturday afternoon match was an occasion which working class men would attend, supporting their local team.

From the 1960s, however, the character of football (and other national sports) began to change. A fundamental reason was financial. As match attendance dropped, clubs sought external help from sponsorship and advertising. Commercial companies found this profitable.

More seriously, however, the decline in spectators forced club managers to make their sporting events less occasions for local support and more displays of spectacular skill. Football clubs started buying and selling players. From the 1960s, many football stars moved into expensive suburbs and displayed their newly acquired wealth.

Meanwhile the clubs have desperately tried to remain profitable. Even though football has become such a spectator sport, in the mid-1980s 1.6 million British were playing it as recreation, more than ever before. It remains a truly national game.

Over a century ago, the novelist Anthony Trollope listed the sports "essentially dear to the English nature". These included hunting, shooting, rowing and horse racing. He was, of course, referring to the "gentleman class", which through the public school system established football, rugby and cricket as national games. But hunting, rowing and horse racing, because of the expense involved, have remained primarily upper-class pastimes. Attendance at Henley Regatta, the high point of the rowing season, and Royal Ascot, for horse racing, remain the pinnacles of the upper class summer season.

Despite these areas of exclusivity, sport remains one of the areas in which members of ethnic minorities have demonstrated their ability in a white-dominated society, particularly in athletics, cricket and soccer. However, no black has yet been invited to captain an English cricket or football team. And there is well-founded black resentment that sport, music and show business are virtually the only areas in which their excellence is acceptable in a predominantly white society. For none of these activities confers durable power.

I Which word or phrase in the text above means:

- 1 way out for water, steam, energy, etc.;
- 2 attracting public attention;

- 3 send goods to other countries for purpose of trade;
- 4 something that is special in, or that distinguishes, a person or thing;
- 5 bringing profit, beneficial;
- 6 outlying residential district of a town or city;
- 7 high priced;
- 8 cleverness; intelligence, talent; special natural power to do something well.

Key: 1) outlet; 2) spectacular; 3) export; 4) quality; 5) profitable; 6) suburb; 7) expensive; 8) ability.

II In pairs, ask each other whether the following statements are true or false, according to the article above.

1 It was generally believed that sport had character-building qualities for future leaders.

2 As match attendance dropped clubs sought external help from sponsorship and advertising.

3 From the 1960s, many football stars moved into expensive houses in the centres of cities and towns.

4 Football doesn't remain a truly national game.

5 In the mid-1980s 1.6 million British were playing football as recreation.

6 Some black sportsmen have been invited to captain English cricket or football teams.

7 There is well-founded black resentment that sport, music and show business are virtually the only areas in which their excellence is accepted in a predominantly white society.

III In pairs, discuss your answers to the following questions.

1 What was the first country to organise sport as a national activity?

2 When did Britain organise and export football, rugby football and cricket?

3 What was the initial purpose of organising sport?

4 How did local businessmen begin to organise football and other sports?

5 What game was rapidly taken into working-class culture?

6 How did the character of football begin to change from the 1960s? Why?

7 Why did football clubs start buying and selling players?

8 What are the sports "essentially dear to the English nature"?

9 What remains the pinnacles of the upper class summer season?

10 What remains one of the areas in which members of ethnic minorities have demonstrated their ability?

IV Discuss with your friend in what ways the character of football as a national sport has changed in the last thirty years.

V Explain what the trends of developing Russian football are.

Text 4

Read the text

Culture for the Community

Vocabulary:

South Bank – Саут-Банк, Южный берег (район с комплексом преимущественно общественных зданий на южном берегу р. Темзы в Лондоне)

National Theatre – Национальный театр (создан в 1963 г. под руководством Лоуренса Оливье, получает правительственную субсидию)

National Film Theatre – Национальный дом кино (в нем ежегодно проводится Лондонский кинофестиваль)

Hayward Art Gallery – Галерея Хайгуарда (картинная галерея основана в 1968 г.; названа в честь А. Хайгуарда), в ней проводятся тематические выставки)

Officialdom – чиновничество, бюрократия

Populace – простой народ, массы

Bach Choir – Хоровое общество Баха (один из ведущих хоров; кроме произведений Баха исполняет также другие произведения для хора)

Minor – незначительный

Pantomime – представление для детей (на Рождество в Англии).

On the South Bank of the Thames, opposite Whitehall, stands the capital of Britain's cultural life, with three concert halls, the National Theatre (containing three theatres), the National Films Theatre and the Hayward Art Gallery. A fairly recent addition is the lively Museum of the Moving Image. The South Bank receives two and a half million paying visitors each year, while many others come to see free exhibitions and use its restaurant facilities.

The South Bank enjoys both the strengths and weaknesses of its position as a national cultural center. The buildings, by leading architects of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, are in the bare and uncompromising concrete so favoured in the period. It is planned to hide their brutalism behind glass and soft stone textures in the early 1990s. This is an interference with the intentions of the architects which says much about the way officialdom can often treat artists.

Officialdom likes life to be bland and uncontroversial, “Do not upset populace,” it seems to say.

On the South Bank one can hear the greatest sounds of classical music and see some of the finest acting in the world. But for artistic vitality one may be more successful in a fringe theatre or pub. For it is the level of popular participation which makes British artistic life so distinctive. All over the country there are millions of people engaged in amateur music, art and theatre. For example, for more than two hundred years the Royal Academy in London has held an annual Summer Exhibition, for which any painter or sculptor may enter their work. In 1988, for example, 12,500 works were submitted, of which only 1,261 were actually exhibited. Virtually every town and suburb has some form of amateur music group, a choir an orchestra or even neighbours who form a string quartet. All over the country there are amateur choral groups, ranging from the local village church choir to highly selective and internationally known choirs, like the Bach Choir. Then there are all the amateurs dramatic groups across the country. There are an estimated 6,500 separate amateur companies, involving roughly 75,000 aspiring actors. Such local activities take place everywhere.

Take Stranraer, as an example, a town of 15,000 on the south-west tip of Scotland. Its amateurs drama and opera groups put on a major opera and a play each year, plus a pantomime and one or two minor productions. It has youth choirs based in local schools, a youth brass band and one for bagpipe competitions. It also has an annual dance festival. Stranraer may be geographically far from the mainstream of national life, but such activities suggest real community participation.

In many market towns and cities all over Britain, roughly 200 cultural festivals are held each year. The choice of what music or drama to perform may not always be very adventurous, nor the quality very high, but these festivals provide a lively form in which local people can celebrate not only their own local arts and culture, but also invite visiting performers of national standing. Ludlow in Shropshire, for example, started having an annual festival in 1960. It is entirely the result of local initiative and effort. The main event each year is a Shakespearian play staged against the castle walls. But local singers perform in the parish church, and there are cricket matches, jazz bands, string quartets and fair. Fundamentally, such festivals are really celebrations of community.

People do these things for fun. But there are more serious conclusions to draw. In the words of the Directors of the National Theatre, “The arts help us to make sense of the world, they help us to fit the disparate pieces together; to try to make form out of chaos.”

I Which word or phrase in the text above means:

- 1 the common people; the general public; the masses;
 - 2 acting without word; king of English drama based on a fairy-tale or traditional story, with music, dancing and clowning;
 - 3 collection of things shown publicly;
 - 4 person who paints pictures, performs music, acts in play, etc. for the love of it, not for money;
 - 5 company of persons trained to sing together;
 - 6 group of persons playing musical instruments together;
 - 7 four players or singers;
 - 8 dramatic composition with music, in which the words are sung.
- K e y:** 1) populace; 2) pantomime; 3) exhibition; 4) amateur; 5) choir; 6) orchestra; 7) quartet; 8) opera.

II In pairs, ask each other whether the following statements are true or false according to the article above.

- 1 On the South Bank of the Thames, opposite Whitehall, stands the capital of Britain`s cultural life.
- 2 Officialdom doesn`t like to be bland and uncontroversial.
- 3 Nowhere in the country can you find people engaged in amateur music, art and theatre.
- 4 In many market towns and cities all over Britain, roughly 200 cultural festivals are held each year.

III In pairs, discuss your answers to the following questions.

- 1 What is the national cultural centre of Britain? Where is it situated?
- 2 What can one hear on the South Bank?
- 3 All over the country there are millions of people engaged in amateur music, art and theatre, aren`t there? Prove it with the facts from the article.
- 4 Why do the British engage in amateur art?

IV Discuss with your friend what is distinctive about artistic life in Britain.

V Say what you know about amateur art in this country. Share you views with your friends.

UNIT 4

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS AND CULTURAL WEALTH OF THE BRITISH

Text 1

Read the text.

Nostalgia and Modernity

Vocabulary:

nostalgia – ностальгия

modernity – современность

tension – напряжение

creativity – творчество

revival – возрождение

perceive – воспринимать, понимать, осознавать

reassurance – уверенность, смелость

utter – полный, совершенный, абсолютный

conviction – уверенность, убежденность

rebellious – мятежный

prevalent – распространенный преобладающий

apparent – видимый, явный, очевидный

champion – защищать, бороться за что-то

intervene – вмешиваться, вступаться

"Glass Stump" – стеклянный столб

subversive – разрушительный, гибельный

destine – назначать, предназначать

sophistication – изощренность, утонченность, искушенность, подделка, фальсификация

espresso bar – бар «экспресс»

egalitarian – поборник равноправия

seep – просачиваться

staid – уравновешенный, степенный.

However, there is an important and sometimes destructive tension between nostalgia and individualism. Tradition and creativity are in conflict. Much of Britain, its creeping Neo-classical revival, its love of the country cottage look, the old-fashioned dress style of the upper class, says much about the way the British perceive themselves. Because the past is glorious for the British, they prefer its reassurance to the uncertainty of the future. Speaking of fashion in its wider sense,

Charlotte Du Cann, the leading fashion writer, notes the price the British pay for their nostalgia: "Those who come to Britain want to buy what we sell with utter conviction: our cosy comforting past. The handcrafted nostalgia that we market so desperately robs contemporary design of its rebellious energy." During the 1980s British nostalgia grew more than ever. Forty-one "heritage" centres were established. More people than ever went to visit England's historic houses. In 1986 there were 2,131 museums in Britain of which half had been established since 1971.

Anti-Modernism has been a prevalent theme in British culture this century. The popular culture of the urban working class, expressed for example, in cinemas, dance-halls and football stadiums, has been a poor relation. Britain has a far weaker modernist culture than exists in France or Germany, because the British feel less certain about the relationship between architecture, art, design, craft and manufacture. It is safer to live with the quiet authority of a rural past than the uncertainties of the urban present.

Nowhere was this tension more fiercely debated at the end of the 1980s, than in the field of architecture. There was a strong revolt against the use of bare concrete, and against the high-rise buildings which had been so popular in the 1960s and early 1970s. But it was also a protest against the unfamiliarity and apparent brutality of Modernist architecture, as it is called. This was popularly associated with cheap public housing and office blocks. In the late 1980s Prince Charles openly championed a return to traditional architecture and building materials. For example, he intervened to prevent a Modernist addition to the National Gallery, an early nineteenth-century building, and to prevent the construction of what he called a «Glass Stump», in the City of London. Prince Charles interventions and his book on the subject. *A Vision of Britain*, created a major debate, in which the popular mood was clearly in sympathy with his views.

The attack on modern architecture tended to concentrate on the worst examples and to ignore more exciting modern work. Modernist architects had no intention of defending the poor architecture of many cheap modern buildings. As the leading architect James Stirling remarked, "the housing architecture of the 1960s was simply a matter of building more and more houses for less and less money until you ended up with a sort of trash".

However nostalgic the British may be, foreign modern influences have been immensely important in shaping popular culture since 1945. As a result of the US presence during and after the war, Britain was invaded by American culture – symbolised by chewing gum, jazz, flashy cars and mass production. It spoke of material wealth and social equality, and seemed highly subversive to adults, who accepted the existing social order, but highly attractive to the

young. By 1959 almost 90 per cent of all teenage spending was conditioned by a rapidly Americanising working-class taste. It was not destined to last. In the 1960s Britain was more influenced by the apparent sophistication of the Continent – Italian, French and Spanish cuisine, espresso bars, Scandinavian design, Modernist architecture, and even holidays in the sun. This, too, implied a more egalitarian country than Britain traditionally had been.

In the 1960s this mixture of influences that made up a new popular culture exploded in a distinctly English type of pop music – exemplified by the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and many others – and a revolution in dress and style, expressed most strikingly in the mini-skirt and the exotic range of clothes that expressed social liberation, on sale in London's Carnaby Street. The revolution became permanent as this popular culture seeped into even the upper-class reaches of Britain's youth. Nevertheless, the tension between the popular modernism of rebellious young people and the traditionalism of a staid, silent majority persists.

I Which word or phrase in the text above means:

- 1 being modern;
 - 2 of persons, their appearance, behaviour, etc., conservative, quiet, and serious;
 - 3 mental; emotional or nervous strain; when relations between persons, groups, states, etc. are strained;
 - 4 firm or assured belief;
 - 5 interfere so as to prevent something or change the result;
 - 6 clearly seen or understood;
 - 7 decide or ordain (предсказывать, распоряжаться) in advance;
 - 8 be in opposition or disagreement with;
 - 9 that which has been or may be inherited;
 - 10 100 years.
- К е y: 1) modernity; 2) staid; 3) tension; 4) conviction; 5) intervene; 6) apparent; 7) destine; g) conflict; 9) heritage; 10) century.

II In pairs, ask each other whether the following statements are true or false according to the article above.

- 1 There is an important and sometimes destructive tension between nostalgia and individualism.
- 2 During the 1980s British nostalgia stopped growing.
- 3 It isn't safer to live with the quiet authority of a rural past than the uncertainties of the urban present.

4 There wasn't any revolt against the use of bare concrete, and against the high-rise buildings which had been so popular in the 1960s and early 1970s.

5 Prince Charles created a major debate, in which the popular mood was clearly in sympathy with his views.

6 The attack on modern architecture tended to concentrate on the exciting modern works.

III In pairs, discuss your answers to the following questions.

1 Why do the British prefer nostalgia to modernity?

2 What price do they pay for their nostalgia?

3 During the 1980s British nostalgia grew more than ever, didn't it? Prove it using the facts from the text.

4 What can you say about modernist culture of Great Britain?

5 Why do the British protest against Modernist architecture?

6 Who championed a return to traditional architecture and building materials?

7 Why was Britain invaded by American culture?

8 Whom was Britain influenced by in the 1960s?

9 What was the effect of this mixture of influences on Britain?

IV "Tradition and creativity are in conflict in Britain." Give examples from the text to support this view.

V Say if there are any attacks on modern architecture in this country. Exchange your views with your friends.

Text 2

The Rural Ideal

Vocabulary:

mainstream – основное направление, главная линия

décor – оформление, декорации, орнамент

The Archers – «Арчеры» (популярная радиопрограмма Би-би-си о жизни вымышленной деревенской семьи)

retreat – отступление

hedgerow – живая изгородь

nostalgia – ностальгия

stem from – происходить

linger – тянуться (о времени)

National Trust – национальный трест (организация по охране исторических памятников, достопримечательных и живописных мест; финансируется преимущественно за счет частных пожертвований и небольших государственных ассигнований; основана в 1895 г.)

While many might agree that the characteristics and behaviour mentioned above are recognizably British there are, of course, many cultures reflecting age, class, gender, ethnicity and social outlook. Broadly speaking there is a divide between the cultures of the controlling majority and those of the protesting minority, people who feel comparatively weak.

One of the most striking aspects of popular mainstream culture in Britain is the love of the countryside. Many people, whether they live in a suburban house or in a flat in a high-rise block, would say their dream home was a country cottage with roses growing over the door. In 1977 a collection of Edwardian amateur watercolours and sketches of wild flowers and simple rural scenes were published under the title *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. To the surprise of the publishers this proved to be the best selling book of the next ten years. It appealed to romantic (and upper-class) nostalgia for the countryside. *The Archers*, radio's longest running serial soap opera (over thirty-five years so far), Laura Ashley's highly successful décor and fashion shops, and the fashion for unpainted pine furniture, all tap deeply into the British rural imagination.

As a nation, the British have made a mental retreat from the urban environment. They have a deep nostalgia for an idealised world of neat hedgerows, cottages and great country houses, surrounded by parkland, that clever eighteenth-century style of gardening that looked 'natural'. The nostalgia stems partly from a sense of loss which has lingered since the Industrial Revolution two centuries ago, and from a romantic love of nature which has been such a powerful theme in English literature. The National Trust, which owns or manages hundreds of country estates, stretches of countryside and great country houses, was founded more than a century ago on the rising nostalgia for a lost rural paradise. Its growth in membership from 315,000 to 1.3 million, illustrates its success in encouraging a love of the country and of the past.

A basic reason why so many town dwellers wish to live in the suburbs is to have a garden in which to grow flowers. Indeed, many suburban houses imitate a cottage style. Even in the heart of London, its great parks, such as St James', Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, are informal, recreating a rural ideal, and city-dwelling children often know the names of wild flowers and birds.

Britain is a country where over 80 percent of the population live in towns of 50,000 inhabitants or more. Yet most reject the urban industrial culture, viewing life in the city as an «unnatural» economic necessity.

This sense of nostalgia and traditionalism is also expressed in appearances. The 1989 British Interior Design Exhibition contained twenty-seven example room sets, the majority of which were traditional, pretty and were mainly some version of the English country house. Laura Ashley floral wallpapers and fabrics decorate suburban and even high-rise homes all over the land.

I Which word or phrase in the text above means:

- 1 rural areas contrasted with urban areas;
 - 2 dominant trend, tendency, etc.;
 - 3 picture painted with watercolours;
 - 4 power of the mind to imagine;
 - 5 all that makes up the general appearance;
 - 6 any place of perfect happiness;
 - 7 home-sickness; wistful longing for something one has known in the past;
 - 8 paper, usually with a coloured design, for covering the walls of rooms.
- Key: 1) countryside; 2) mainstream; 3) watercolours; 4) imagination; 5) décor; 6) paradise; 7) nostalgia; 8) wallpaper.

II In pairs, ask each other whether the following statements are true or false, according to the article above.

- 1 Many people would say their dream home was a country cottage with roses growing over the door.
- 2 *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* was not popular in Britain.
- 3 A romantic love of nature has been a powerful theme in British literature.
- 4 City-dwelling children do not know the names of wild flowers and birds.
- 5 Britain is a country where over 50 percent of the population live in towns.
- 6 Most people enjoy the urban industrial culture.

III In pairs, discuss your answers to the following questions.

- 1 What is one of the most striking aspects of popular mainstream culture in Britain?
- 2 What taps deeply into the British rural imagination?
- 3 What do the British have a deep nostalgia for?
- 4 What is the National Trust and when and why was it founded?
- 5 Why do so many city-dwelling wish to live in the suburbs?
- 6 What do great parks in London look like?

IV Discuss with your friend if Britain's nostalgia for life in the countryside is harmless, or damaging. State your opinion and support it with evidence from the text.

V Say if the Russians have nostalgia for life in the countryside. Give reasons for your decision.

Text 3

Dress Codes

Vocabulary:

fashionably – модно

clientele – клиентура

appeal to – привлекать, притягивать, нравиться

exclusive – исключительный, единственный

ostentatious – показной, нарочитый

subtle – тонкий, едва уловимый, утончённый

reveal – обнаруживать

allegiance – верность, преданность, лояльность

redundant – лишний

breeding – хорошие манеры, воспитанность

off-the-peg suit – готовый костюм

fogey – старомодный человек.

Being so traditionally minded, the British are less fashion-conscious than other Europeans. The majority dress conservatively rather than fashionably. For example, the upper and upper middle classes tend to dress «safely» in the well-tried styles of the past fifty years or so. During the 1980s this style appealed to a wider clientele which, inspired by the romance of the upper classes, particularly by the Royal Wedding (Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer), in 1981, began to imitate them. For all its simplicity, this old-fashioned style of the upper and upper middle class is distinctively exclusive.

The British suit is not an ostentatious display of wealth and privilege but a discreet system of signals... through while the subtle working of the establishment is revealed. At official functions throughout the land, the suit's colours, signal to the assembled company the allegiance of the wearer – which school or university he attended, which club or company he belongs to And those who imagine that the code has become redundant in the modern world do not understand the strength of the patriarchal system in this country.

The suit is the uniform of traditional Conservative MPs, while Labour MPs wear the clothes of the ordinary *middle* classes, with the suburban look of off-the-peg suits for women. For those who want to understand the mystique of the upper class, all is revealed in Peter York's book.

The Official Sloane Ranger Handbook explains precisely how to decorate your house, how to wear your clothes (and what clothes to wear), how to word your letters and how to educate your children.

For those «Young Fogeys» as they are known in Britain, who want to wear the clothes of «good breeding», there are a number of shops which specialise in the look, like Hackett's (specialists in upper-class clothes).

Most people, of course, do not imitate top society. Nevertheless, the 1980s was a decade when wealth and power were strongly expressed, for example in «power dressing» an echo of the dominant political ideas of the Thatcher decade.

The old upper class continues to dress as it always has, but there is a swing in the 1990s back to a more classless informal look more in keeping with Britain's greater integration into Europe.

That does not mean that the British are merely going to adopt «Eurostyle». As noted, Britain has a strongly individualistic culture. The British may be among the least smartly dressed people in Europe, but they wear *what* they want *when* they want. There is as great a tolerance of personal appearance as anywhere in Europe. The British hate the idea of appearing the same.

I Which word or phrase in the text above means:

- 1 customers;
- 2 attract, interest;
- 3 something not to be found elsewhere, uncommon;
- 4 duty, support, loyalty, due;
- 5 person with old-fashioned ideas which he is unwilling to change;
- 6 not needed;
- 7 small book giving useful facts;
- 8 a period of ten years;

Key: 1) clientele; 2) appeal; 3) exclusive; 4) allegiance; 5) fogey; 6) redundant; 7) handbook; 8) decade.

II In pairs, ask each other whether the following statements are true or false according to the article above.

- 1 The British are less fashion-conscious than other Europeans.
- 2 The upper and upper middle classes tend to dress fashionably.
- 3 The suit isn't the uniform of traditional Conservative MPs.
- 4 All the people in Great Britain imitate top society.
- 5 The British are going to adopt "Eurostyle".
- 6 Britain has a strongly individualistic culture.

III In pairs, discuss your answers to the following questions.

- 1 How do the majority of the British dress?
- 2 Who inspired the dress style in the 1980s?
- 3 The British suit is not an ostentatious display of wealth and privilege but a discreet system of signals, isn't it?
- 4 What clothes do Labour MPs wear?
- 5 What is the 1980s "power dressing"?
- 6 What fashion swing has there been in Britain in the 1990s?
- 7 The British wear what they want when they want, don't they?

IV Discuss with your friend why the British are perhaps less fashion-conscious than other Europeans. Use as much information from the article as possible.

V "The majority of the Russians dress conservatively rather than fashionably". Do you agree? Is it true of this country? Give reasons for your opinion.

T e x t 4

Read the text and be ready to speak about British holidays and traditions, and customs.

Traditions and holidays of Great Britain

Every nation and every country has its own traditions and customs. Traditions make a nation special. Some of them are old-fashioned and many people remember them, others are part of people's life. Some British customs and traditions are known over all the world.

From Scotland to Cornwall, Britain is full of customs and traditions. A lot of them have very long histories. Some are funny and some are strange. But they are all interesting. There is the long menu of traditional British food. There are many royal occasions. There are songs, saying and superstitions. They are all part of the British way of life.

You cannot really imagine Britain without all its traditions, this integral feature of social and private life of the people living on the British Isles that has always been an important part of their life and work.

English traditions can be classified into several groups: traditions concerning the Englishmen's private life (child's birth, wedding, marriage, wedding anniversary); which are connected with families incomes; state traditions; national holidays, religious holidays, public festival, traditional ceremonies.

What about royal traditions? There are numerous royal traditions in Britain, some are ancient, others are modern.

The Queen is the only person in Britain with two birthdays. Her real birthday is on April 21st, but she has an "official" birthday, too. That is on the second Saturday in June. And on the Queen's official birthday, there is a traditional ceremony called the Trooping of the Colour. It is a big parade with brass bands and hundreds of soldiers at Horse Guard's Parade in London. A "regiment" of the Queen's soldiers, the Guards, march in front of her. At the front of the parade there is the regiment's flag or "colour". Thousands of Londoners and visitors watch in Horse Guards' Parade. And millions of people at home watch it on television. This custom is not very old, but it is for very old people. On his or her one hundredth birthday, a British person gets a telegram with congratulations from the Queen.

The changing of the Guard happens every day at Buckingham Palace, the Queen's home in London.

There is a very special royal tradition. On the River Thames there are hundreds of swans. A lot of these beautiful white birds belong, traditionally, to the king or queen. In July the young swans on the Thames are about two months old. Then the Queen's swan keeper goes, in a boat, from London Bridge to Henley. He looks at all the young swans and marks the royal ones. The name of this strange but interesting custom is Swan Upping.

There are only six public holidays a year in Great Britain, that is days on which people need not go in to work. They are: Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Spring Bank Holiday and Late Summer Bank Holiday, Boxing Day.

So the most popular holiday in Britain is Christmas. Christmas has been celebrated from the earliest days of recorded history, and each era and race has pasted a colourful sheet of new customs and traditions over the old.

On the Sunday before Christmas many churches hold a carol service where special hymns are sung. Sometimes carol singers can be heard in the streets as they collect money for charity. There are a lot of very popular British Christmas carols. Three famous ones are: "Good King Wenceslas", "The Holly and The Ivy" and "We Three Kings".

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people all over the world send and receive Christmas cards. Most of people think that exchanging cards at Christmas is a very ancient custom but it is not right. In fact it is barely 100 years old. The idea of exchanging illustrated greeting and presents is, however, ancient. So the first commercial Christmas card was produced in Britain in 1843 by Henry Cole, founder of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. The handcoloured print was inscribed with the words A Merry Christmas and

A Happy New Year to you. It was horizontally rectangular in shape, printed on stout cardboard by lithography.

A traditional feature of Christmas in Britain is the Christmas tree. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, brought the German tradition (he was German) to Britain. He and the Queen had a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle in 1841. A few years after, nearly every house in Britain had one. Traditionally people decorate their trees on Christmas Eve – that's December 24th. They take down the decorations twelve days later, on Twelfth Night (January 5).

On Bank holiday the townsfolk usually flock into the country and to the coast. If the weather is fine many families take a picnic – lunch or tea with them and enjoy their meal in the open. Seaside towns near London, such as Southend, are invaded by thousands of trippers who come in cars and coaches, trains and bicycles. Great amusement parks like Southend Kursoal do a roaring trade with their scenic railways, shooting galleries, water-shoots, Crazy houses and so on. Trippers will wear comic paper hats with slogans, and they will eat and drink the weirdest mixture of stuff you can imagine, sea food like cockles, mussels, whelks, fish and chips, candy floss, tea, fizzy drinks, everything you can imagine.

Bank holiday is also an occasion for big sports meeting at places like the White City Stadium, mainly all kinds of athletics. There are also horse race meetings all over the country, and most traditional of all, there are large fairs with swings, roundabouts, a Punch and Judy show, hoop-la stalls and every kind of side-show including, in recent, bingo. There is also much boating activity on the Thames,

Although the Christian religion gave the world Easter as we know it today, the celebration owes its name and many of its customs and symbols to a pagan festival called Eostre. Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of springtime and sunrise, got her name from the world east, where the sunrises. 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 time. The egg, for instance, was a fertility symbol 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 bunnies and listening to stories about the Easter Bunny, who supposedly brings Easter eggs in a fancy basket.

Also there is a spectacular parade on Easter. It is spectacular Easter Parade in Battersea Park. It is sponsored by the London Tourist Board and is usually planned around a central theme related to the history and attractions of London. The great procession, or parade, begins at 3 p.m. but it is advisable to find a vantage-point well before that hour.

On October 31st British people celebrate Halloween. It is undoubtedly the most colourful and exciting holiday of the year. Though it is not a public holiday, it is very dear to those who celebrate it, especially to children and teenagers. This day was originally called All Hallow's Eve because it fell on the eve of All Saints' Day. The name was later shortened to Halloween. According to old beliefs, Halloween is the time, when the veil between the living and the dead is partially lifted, and witches, ghosts and other supernatural beings are about. Now children celebrate Halloween in unusual costumes and masks. It is a festival of merrymaking, superstitions, spells, fortunetelling, traditional games and pranks. Halloween is a time for fun.

Few holidays tell us much of the past as Halloween. Its origins date back to a time, when people believed in devils, witches and ghosts. Many Halloween customs are based on beliefs of the ancient Celts, who lived more than 2,000 years ago in what is now Great Britain, Ireland, and northern France.

Every year the Celts celebrated the Druid festival of Samhain, Lord of the Dead and Prince of Darkness, it fell on October 31, the eve of the Druid new year. The date marked the end of summer, or the time when the sun retreated before the powers of darkness and the reign of the Lord of Death began. The Dun god took part in the holiday and received thanks for the year's harvest.

It was believed that evil spirits sometimes played tricks on October 31. They could also do all kinds of damage to property. Some people tried to ward off the witches by painting magic signs on their barns. Others tried to frighten them away by nailing a piece of iron, such as a horseshoe, over the door.

Many fears and superstitions grew up about this day. One Scotch superstition was that witches – those who had sold their souls to the devil – left in their beds on Halloween night a stick made by magic to look like themselves. Then they would fly up the chimney attended by a black cat.

Now, every Spring, the University Boat Race goes from Putney to Mortlake on the Thames. That is 6,7 kilometres. The Cambridge rowers wear light blue shirts and the Oxford rowers wear dark blue. There are eight men in each boat. There is also a "cox". The cox controls the boat. Traditionally coxes are men, but Susan Brown became the first woman cox in 1981. She was the cox for Oxford and they won.

An annual British tradition, which captures the imagination of the whole nation is the London to Brighton Car Rally in which a fleet of ancient cars indulges in a lighthearted race from the Capital to the Coast

When the veteran cars set out on the London – Brighton run each November, they are celebrating one of the great landmarks in the history of motoring in Britain – the abolition of the rule that every "*horseless carriage*" had to be preceded along the road by a pedestrian. This extremely irksome restriction, imposed by the Locomotives on Highways Act, was withdrawn in 1896, and on November of that year there was a rally of motor-cars on the London – Brighton highway to celebrate the first day of freedom - Emancipation Day, as it has known by motorists ever since.

Emancipation is still on the first Sunday of the month, but nowadays there is an important condition of entry – every car taking part must be at least 60 years old.

The Run is not a race. Entrants are limited to a maximum average speed of 20 miles per hour. The great thing is not speed but quality of performance, and the dedicated enthusiasts have a conversation all their own.

The Highland Games – this sporting tradition is Scottish. In the Highlands (the mountains of Scotland) families, or "clans", started the Games hundreds of years ago.

Some of the sports are the Games are international: the high jump and the long jump, for example. But other sports happen only at the Highland Games. One is tossing the caber. "*Tossing*" means throwing, and a "*caber*" is a long, heavy piece of wood. In tossing the caber you lift the caber (it can be five or six metres tall). Then you throw it in front of you.

At the Highland Games a lot of men wear kilts. These are traditional Scottish skirts for men. But they are not all the same.

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