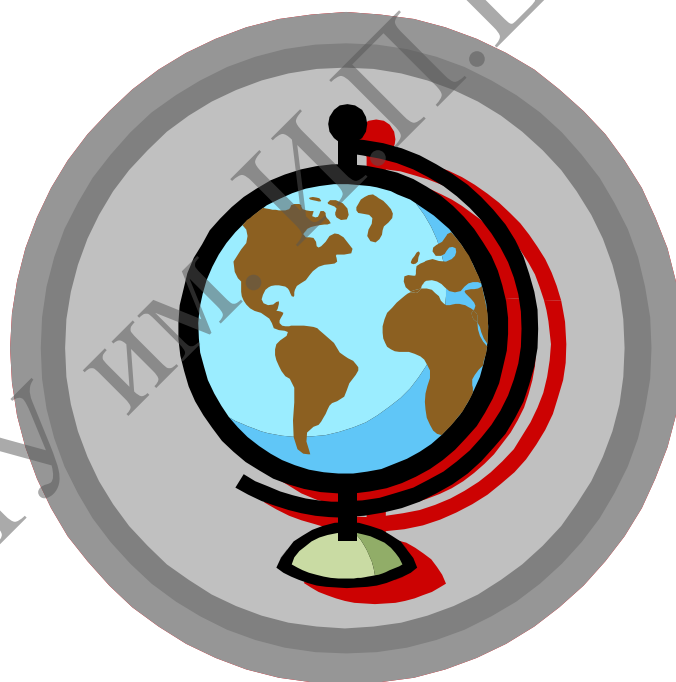


REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

&

GREAT BRITAIN



**МОЗЫРЬ  
2010**

*МГТУ им. И.П.Шамякина*

Министерство образования Республики Беларусь  
Учреждение образования  
«Мозырский государственный педагогический университет  
имени И. П. Шамякина»

*Кафедра иностранных языков*

**РЕСПУБЛИКА БЕЛАРУСЬ  
И  
ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИЯ**

**REPUBLIC OF BELARUS  
&  
GREAT BRITAIN**

**ПРАКТИКУМ  
ПО РАЗВИТИЮ НАВЫКОВ УСТНОЙ РЕЧИ**

Мозырь  
2010

УДК 811.111'373(076.5)  
ББК 81.2Англ-3я73  
Р43

Составитель **М. С. Качур**, преподаватель кафедры иностранных языков

Рецензенты:

доктор филологических наук, профессор кафедры лексикологии  
английского языка УО «Минский государственный лингвистический  
университет»

*А. П. Клименко;*

кандидат филологических наук, доцент, зав. кафедрой лексикологии  
английского языка УО «Минский государственный лингвистический  
университет»

*О. А. Зинина.*

Печатается по решению редакционно-издательского совета  
учреждения образования  
«Мозырский государственный педагогический университет  
имени И. П. Шамякина»

**Республика Беларусь и Великобритания = Republic of Belarus &  
Great Britain»** : практикум по развитию навыков устной речи / сост.:  
М. С. Качур. – Мозырь : УО «МГПУ имени И. П. Шамякина», 2010. –  
59 с.

Данный практикум составлен в соответствии с программой по иностранному языку для неязыковых специальностей высших учебных заведений и предназначен для аудиторной и самостоятельной работы студентов 1 курса дневного отделения неязыковых факультетов.

Содержание практикума включает разделы «Социокультурный и социополитический портрет Республики Беларусь» и «Социокультурный и социополитический портрет Великобритании». Структурно каждый раздел состоит из тематических словарей, текстов и заданий к ним.

При составлении практикума использовались разработки преподавательского коллектива кафедры иностранных языков УО «МГПУ имени И. П. Шамякина».

УДК 811.111'373(076.5)  
ББК 81.2Англ-3я73

© М.С. Качур, составление, 2010

© УО «МГПУ имени И. П. Шамякина», 2010

МГПУ им. И.П.Шамякина

Учебное издание

Качур Марина Степановна

Ответственный за выпуск С. С. Борисова  
Технический редактор Е. В. Лис  
Оригинал-макет Л. И. Федула

Подписано в печать .01.2010. Формат 60x90 1/16. Бумага Хероx.  
Гарнитура Times New Roman. Ризография. Усл. печ. л. , .  
Тираж экз. Заказ .

Издатель и полиграфическое исполнение  
Учреждение образования  
«Мозырский государственный педагогический университет  
имени И. П. Шамякина»  
ЛИ № 02330/0549479 от 14 мая 2009 г.  
247760, Мозырь, Гомельская обл., ул. Студенческая, 28  
Тел. (02351) 2-46-29

## СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

<b>REPUBLIC OF BELARUS</b> .....	4
Belarus.....	4
History of Belarus .....	7
Minsk .....	12
Mozyr .....	16
Outstanding People of Belarus.....	18
<b>ADDITIONAL TEXTS FOR READING</b> .....	21
From the History of Minsk .....	21
A Brief Outline of Minsk’s Architecture .....	22
Efrosinya Polotskaya .....	24
Who was Dr. Skaryna .....	25
<b>THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND</b> .....	26
Great Britain .....	26
History of Great Britain .....	31
London .....	36
Outstanding People of Great Britain .....	40
Artistic and Cultural Life in Britain .....	45
Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren .....	47
<b>ADDITIONAL TEXTS FOR READING</b> .....	50
English Today .....	50
From the History of London .....	51
Museums of London .....	52
London Parks .....	53
English Character .....	54
Customs Holidays and Traditions in Great Britain .....	55
Quiz on Great Britain.....	57
<b>СПИСОК ИСПОЛЬЗОВАННОЙ И РЕКОМЕНДУЕМОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ</b> .....	58

# REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

## Text 1

### BELARUS

#### Topic vocabulary

diverse	разнообразный, разный
beever	бобёр
aurochs	зубр
be noted for	примечательный
elk	лось
extreme	самый
founder-member	государство основатель
grove	роща
heritage	наследство, наследие
homeland	отечество, родина
independent	независимый
lynx	рысь
maritime	морской, приморский
mighty	могущественный
myriad	мириады
numerous	многочисленный
officially	официально
depth	глубина
deer	олень

Belarus is my homeland. It is the place where I was born. Belarus is situated nearly in the centre of Europe in the extreme western part of the East-European Plain within the basins of the Dnieper, the Western Dvina and the Upper Neman. It borders on Poland in the west, the Baltic States – Lithuania and Latvia – in the north-west, on Russia in the north and east, on the Ukraine in the south.

Belarus stretches for 560 kilometres from south to north and for 650 kilometres from east to west. It occupies the territory of 207.6 thousand square kilometres. It is much larger than such countries as Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Czechia and Slovakia. Its present-day population is about 10.3 mln. people: 78% of Belarusians, 12% of Russians, 4% of Poles and 2% of Ukrainians. 68% of the population live in towns and cities. The largest of which are Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk, Mogilev, Grodno and Brest.

Belarus is situated on a rolling plain rising to hills, the highest of which is Mt.Dzerzhinskaya reaching 350 meters above sea level.



There are more than 3,000 rivers in Belarus. Seven of them are more than 500 kilometers long each. They are the Dnieper, Neman, Western Dvina, Prypiat, Berezina, Sozh and Vilia.

Belarus is a lake-country. There are about 10,800 lakes here. The lakes are particularly numerous in the north. The largest is Lake Naroch – 80 square kilometers. The lakes are noted for their great depth, transparent water and beautiful scenery.

A third of Belarus is under forest. The largest forests are called pushchas. The Byelovezhskaya Pushcha is famous for its aurochs (European bison). Fauna is rich and diverse there: one can see elks and deer, wild boars and wolves, bears and foxes, beavers and lynxes, not mentioning myriads of birds.

Forests, pine woods, mighty oak groves, birch groves and all sorts of other mixed forest formations are the charm, wealth and pride of our homeland.

Belarus is situated in the Temperate Zone of 200–500 kilometers away from the Baltic Sea. The climate of Belarus varies from maritime to continental due to a strong influence of the particularly air of the Atlantic. This results in temperate and mild climate.

The territory of Belarus is divided into 6 regions: Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, and Mogilev. The capital of Belarus is Minsk with a population of over 1,5 mln people.

By the way, Belarus is the country with unique history and rich cultural heritage. It is an interesting region from the tourist point of view.

### **Industry, agriculture, science**

Belarusian industry plays the major part in our economy. Our country is a one of the biggest manufacturers of fertilizers, fodder harvesters, tractors, trucks, buses, chemical fibres, commercial wood and other products. Such famous brands as «Horizont» and «Vityaz» producing TV-sets, «Atlant» refrigerators and «Belarus» tractors enjoy world popularity. The «Gefest» gas stoves produced in Brest are widely spread all over European and Asian countries.

Agriculture in Belarus specializes in milk and meat production. Potatoes, grain, herbs and vegetables are cultivated here.

Belarus is a country of well developed science. A great contribution to the development of the national economy is made by the scientists of Belarus. There is the Academy of Sciences with numerous research institutes which work on various topical problems in such fields as mathematics, optics, spectroscopy, energetics, genetics, biology and other branches of learning. About 37 higher educational establishments and about 400 professional schools train highly qualified specialists for various sectors of national economy.

### **Political set-up**

Officially our country is called the Republic of Belarus. It is a sovereign independent state with its government, constitution, state emblem, flag and anthem. The Declaration of State Sovereignty was adopted on July 27, 1990.

Belarus is a presidential republic. The highest executive power belongs to a President elected for a five-year term. The parliament, which is the National Assembly, is known as a representative and legislative body of the country. The Parliament consists of two chambers: Representatives and Soviet of the Republic. The executive power is performed by the Council of Ministers headed by a Prime Minister who is appointed by the President of the Republic.

Nowadays the Republic of Belarus is a founder-member of the United Nations Organization (UNO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). It has its permanent representatives in the CIS, UN, UNESCO and in other international organizations.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Give the English equivalents:**

Официально наша страна называется Республика Беларусь. Это суверенное независимое государство, со своим правительством, конституцией, государственным гербом, флагом и гимном. Беларусь находится почти в центре Европы, в самой западной части Восточно-европейской равнины в бассейне Днепра, Западной Двины и верхнего течения Немана. Озёра примечательны своей глубиной, прозрачностью вод и красотой пейзажей. Леса, сосновые боры, дубравы с могучими дубами, берёзовые рощи и все виды смешанных лесов являются очарованием, богатством и гордостью нашей Родины. Беларусь – страна с уникальной историей и богатым культурным наследием. Она интересна и с туристической точки зрения.

#### **2. Fill in the blanks:**

Belarus is my ....

Belarus ... for 560 kilometres from ... to ... and for 650 kilometres from ... to ... .

The lakes are ... in the North.

The largest forests are called ... .

The Byelovezhskaya Pushcha is famous for its ...

The climate of Belarus varies from ... to ... due to a strong ... of the maritime air from the Atlantic.

#### **3. Finish the sentences:**

1. Belarus is a member-state of  
the CIS.  
the NATO.  
the UNESCO.

2. Its present-day population is  
about 260 million people.  
about 10,3 million people.  
over 1,5 million people.

3. The highest mountain is Mt. Dzerzhinskaya reaching
  - 978 metres above sea level.
  - 3210 metres above sea level.
  - 350 metres above sea level.
4. Belarus is situated in the temperate zone of 200–500 kilometres away from
  - the Atlantic Ocean.
  - the Baltic Sea.
  - the Black Sea.

**4. Answer the questions on the text.**

Is Belarus a member of the UNO?

What countries does Belarus border on?

Is Belarus a large country?

What are the largest rivers and lakes?

Why are our forests the charm, wealth and the pride of our homeland?

How many regions is Belarus divided into?

**5. Divide the text into parts.**

**6. Put the sentences according to the text:**

The climate of Belarus.

A sovereign, independent state.

The size and population of Belarus.

The forests of Belarus.

Rivers and lakes.

The geographical position of Belarus.

**7. Speak about:**

The geographical position of Belarus.

The population of Belarus.

**Text 2**

**HISTORY OF BELARUS**

**Topic vocabulary**

advantageous

ancestor

attract

background

backward

barley

выгодный, благоприятный

предок

привлекать, притягивать

истоки, происхождение

отсталый

ячмень

be anxious	беспокоиться
cattle	крупный рогатый скот
conquer	завоёвывать, побеждать
consumption	потребление
devastate	опустошать, разорять
disease	болезнь
distinctive	отличительный
feature	особенность, черта
fertilizer	удобрение
financier	финансист
flax	лён
foodstuff	продукты питания
herring-salter	солильщик сельди
hospitality	гостеприимство, радушие
invasion	вторжение
large-capacity dump truck	большегрузный самосвал
linen	полотно
livestock farming	животноводство
local principality	местное княжество
millennium	тысячелетие
multiply	увеличивать(ся)
oats	овёс
palaeolithic	палеолитический
preserve	сохранять
respectively	соответственно
revive	возрождать
rye	рожь
sailcloth	парусина
silkman	торговец шёлком
spicer	торговец специями
suffer	страдать
suzerainty	власть
tanner	дубильщик
tar	дёготь
tolerance	терпимость
trade	торговля
trapper	охотник, ставящий капкан
tribe	племя
tributary	приток
unique	уникальный, единственный в своём
роде via	через
wine merchant	виноторговец

Belarus is a unique country. Its history is a little-known page in the world history. More over the Belarusians know the history of their Motherland not better than their neighbors do. But they can be proud of their past, culture and art.

Man came to these lands in the middle Paleolithic times. But it was only in the middle of the first millennium that Slavs settled here. East-Slav tribes of Krivichi, Dregovich and Radimichi were the Belarusian people's ancestors. They settled around the Polota (a Western Dvina tributary) and were later named Polotchane. They had formed local principalities, such as those of Pinsk, Turov, Polotsk, Slutsk and Minsk by the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> century. These all came under the general suzerainty of Kievan Rus, the first East Slavic State, beginning in the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century.

They took up honey collecting, fur hunting and agriculture. Trade developed as the Dnieper was part of the «water road» from Constantinople via Kiev and Novgorod to the Baltic Sea. Trading settlements multiplied and many towns of the present-day Belarus were founded by the end of the 12th century. Polotsk and Turov first appeared in historical documents in 862 and 980 respectively, Brest – 1017, Minsk in 1067.

The geographical position of the country, the development of trade attracted Dutch herring-salters, Muscovite trappers, Jewish financiers, Hungarian wine-merchants, Turkish spicers, Tatar tanners and Chinese silkmen who bought in exchange furs, dried fish, salt, linen, sailcloth, ropes, timber, tar and foodstuffs. These international contacts influenced the most distinctive features of the Belarusian national character – tolerance and hospitality.

The advantageous geographical position – on the cross-roads from east to west and from north to south – more than once turned into disadvantage. Belarus was the arena of many wars, invasions and aggressions. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century the Tatar-Mongols attacked Polotsk and Turov principalities in the east and south. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Crusaders invaded Belarus from the west. Sweden conquered the north of Belarus. Belarus was devastated by Russian-Polish wars (16–18<sup>th</sup> centuries), the Napoleon invasion (1812), World War I (1914–1918), the Soviet-Polish war which ended with Western Belarus ceded to Poland and the World War II and Nazi occupation (1941–1944), the longest and the greatest fighting for freedom and independence during which Belarus lost every fourth citizen. All these tragic, events slowed down but didn't stop the development of the nation. Though Belarusians belong to the East Slavic ethnic group there is a strong mixture of Baltic and Scandinavian elements in their racial, linguistic and cultural background. Belarus was part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (14<sup>th</sup> century), Poland and the Russian Empire (18<sup>th</sup> century). It was a backward province where 80% of the population were illiterate. People suffered from many diseases and there was only one doctor per 7,000 patients.

The life changed for the better at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On January 1, 1919 the Declaration on the formation of the Byelorussian Soviet

Socialist Republic was adopted. In December 1922 it joined the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (the USSR) as one of its founders. On the disintegration of the USSR, Belarus proclaimed its sovereignty on July 27, 1990. In December 1991 it was one of the three Slavic republics of the former USSR to form the CIS (the Commonwealth of Independent States) with the headquarters in Minsk.

Nowadays Belarus is a country of developed industry, agriculture, science and culture. Belarusian industry produces heavy-duty trucks and tractors, large-capacity dump trucks, refrigerators, TV sets, fertilizers, meat and dairy products. They make its chief exports. Timber processing, furniture making, match and papermaking, textile and clothing manufacture, food processing are the main industries for local consumption.

Most of the country has mixed crop and livestock farming with a strong emphasis on flax growing. Grain, chiefly barley, rye, oats, and potatoes are the main field crops, a large percentage of which is used for animal feed. Cattle and pig raising are also important.

Belarus is a country of well-developed science, culture and education. There is an Academy of Sciences, 37 higher educational establishments, and a lot of theatres, museums, and art galleries there.

The long history has taught Belarusians to overcome difficulties. Today they are optimistic because their historical experience makes them sure they will do their best to preserve their unique culture, language and revive industry and agriculture. But they are anxious about the future of their children after the Chernobyl catastrophe, 1986. And still they hope for the best.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Give the English equivalents:**

Они поселились в районе реки Полота (приток Западной Двины) и позже были названы полотчане. Торговля развивалась благодаря тому, что Днепр был частью водного пути из Константинополя через Киев и Новгород к Балтийскому морю. Географическое положение страны, развитие торговли привлекали сюда датских рыбаков, московских охотников, еврейских финансистов, венгерских виноторговцев, турецких торговцев специями, татарских дубильщиков кож и китайских торговцев шёлком, которые в обмен на свои товары покупали меха, сушёную рыбу, соль, полотно, парусину, верёвки, лес, дёготь и продукты питания. Беларусь была ареной многих войн, вторжений и агрессий. Хотя белорусы принадлежат к восточнославянской этнической группе, в их происхождении, языке и культуре смешались балтийские и скандинавские элементы. Долгая история научила белорусов преодолевать трудности. Но они обеспокоены будущим своих детей после чернобыльской аварии 1986 года.

## **2. Fill in the blanks:**

Its history is a ... page in the world history. But it was only in the middle of the first ... that Slavs ... here. Trading settlements ... and many towns of present-day Belarus ... by the end of the 12th century. These international contacts influenced the most ... of the Belarusian national character – ... and ... . It was a ... province where 80% of the population were... . In December 1991 it was one of the three ... republics of the former USSR to form CIS (the Commonwealth of Independent States) with the ... in Minsk. And today they are optimistic because their historical experience makes them sure they will do their best to ... their unique culture, language and ... industry and agriculture.

## **3. Finish the sentences:**

1. Man came to these lands in  
the middle Paleolithic times.  
the Middle Ages.  
the middle of the first millennium.
2. They took up  
paper making.  
honey collecting, hunting and agriculture.  
heavy-duty trucks and tractors producing.
3. Belarus is a country of the well developed  
industry and agriculture.  
science, culture and education.  
travelling business.
4. Grain is the main field crop, which  
gives two harvests a year.  
is used for animal feed.  
is the main foodstuff.

## **4. Answer the questions on the text:**

- What tribes were the Belarusian people's ancestors?  
When did Belarusian towns first appear in historical documents?  
Who conquered Belarus during its history?  
When was the BSSR proclaimed?  
When did it join the USSR?  
When did Belarus become a sovereign state?  
What does the Belarusian industry produce nowadays?  
What are the main agricultural products?  
Can you prove that Belarus is a country of well-developed science, culture and education?

## 5. Divide the text into parts.

## 6. Put the sentences according to the text:

Belarus nowadays: political status, economical development and social life.

The Belarusian people's ancestors: the first settlers, their occupations, the development of trade and nation.

Belarus as the arena of wars and aggressions.

Belarusian racial, linguistic and cultural background.

## 7. Speak about:

The life of the East-Slav tribes on the territory of Belarus.

The advantages and disadvantages of the geographical position of Belarus.

Belarus nowadays.

## Text 3

### MINSK

## Topic vocabulary

advantage	преимущество
ancient	древний
ash	пепел, зола
avenue	проспект
battle	битва, сражение
be situated	быть расположенным
bearing	подшипник
broad	широкий
burn (burnt, burned)	жечь, сжигать
capital	столица
chronicle	летопись, хроника
CIS	СНГ
completely	совершенно, полностью
connecting	связывающий
conqueror	завоеватель
consider	полагать, считать
construction	застройка
destroy	разрушать, уничтожать
embankment	набережная
entirely	полностью, всецело, совершенно
equipment	оборудование
exciting	захватывающий, волнующий
explore	исследовать



foodstuffs	продукты питания
get	получать, добиваться
get acquainted	познакомиться, ознакомиться
guide	гид, экскурсовод
heritage	наследство, наследие
hospitable	гостеприимный
in connection with	в связи с
increase	усиливать(ся)
independence	независимость
manufacture	производство
mention	упоминать
mythical	мифический, легендарный
numerous	многочисленный
particularly	особенно
pass	проходить
picturesque	живописный
piece	образец, пример; часть
relics	реликвии
remain	оставаться
research institute	научно-исследовательский институт
rise (rose, risen)	подниматься, вставать
ruin	разрушать
shady	тенистый
steadily	постоянно, неизменно, верно
survive	уцелеть
the Eternal Fire	вечный огонь
tour	путешествие, экскурсия
trade-route	торговый путь
troops	войска

Minsk is the capital of Belarus, an ancient and beautiful city with a long and exciting history.

It was first mentioned in chronicles in 1067 in connection with the battle of the Nemiga River during which it was completely destroyed. It was destroyed, burned, ruined by the conquerors many times during its 930 year history: by the Crimean Tatars in 1505, French troops in 1812, German occupants in 1919–1920, fascists during World War II. But each time it rose from the ruins and ashes as the mythical bird Phoenix. Many conquerors have passed through Minsk because it is situated on the cross-roads of the busiest trade-routes connecting the Baltic and the Black seas, the East and the West. Thus, this advantage often turned into disadvantage.

But nevertheless Minsk steadily increased in importance first as a provincial centre after 1793 and later as an industrial centre after the

building of the Moscow-Warsaw and Liepaja-Romny railways through Minsk in the 1870s. In 1919 it became the capital of the Byelorussian republic and remained the capital when Belarus gained independence in 1991. The same year the city became the administrative centre of the CIS.

Minsk stands on the Svisloch river in a picturesque place. The present-day city is almost entirely of new construction. It is the city with broad streets and avenues, modern architecture, shady parks and some churches which have survived as relics of the past.

Minsk is the major industrial centre of Belarus. The economy is based on machine-building, particularly the manufacture of trucks and tractors. Other products include electric motors, bearings, machine tools, radio and television equipment, refrigerators, watches, textiles and foodstuffs.

The city is also a major educational and cultural centre with the Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Belarusian State University founded in 1921 and numerous institutions of higher education and scientific research. It's the city where you can find the best pieces of Belarusian cultural heritage: museums, exhibitions, theatres and so on. The best way to explore the city is to make a tour. If I were a guide I'd show the tourists my favourite places in Minsk. They are numerous. But the shortest way to get acquainted with our city and its people is to walk down Francisk Skorina Avenue from Independence square to Yakub Kolas square. I think this is the most beautiful and the busiest part of the city.

Tourists can see the most famous places of interest here: the House of the Government, the State University, the Catholic church, the Russian Academic Drama Theatre, the Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, Y. Kupala Belarusian Drama Theatre, October Square, the Palace of the Republic and zero kilometre mark, the State Circus, Opera and Ballet House, the embankment of the Svisloch, Victory Square and the Obelisk of Victory with the Eternal Fire, the Palace of Arts, Philharmonic Society, the monument to Y. Kolas, beautiful parks and gardens and everything what our city is rich in. And then they will understand why our city is considered to be so beautiful, clean, green, calm, optimistic and hospitable.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Give the English equivalents:**

Впервые Минск был упомянут в летописях 1067 года в связи с битвой на реке Немиге, в результате которой он был полностью разрушен. Но каждый раз он поднимался из руин, как легендарная птица Феникс. Современный город почти полностью застроен новыми зданиями. Если бы я был экскурсоводом, я бы показал туристам мои любимые места в Минске. Их очень много. И тогда они поймут, почему наш город считается таким зеленым, чистым, спокойным, оптимистичным и гостеприимным.

## 2. Fill in the blanks:

Minsk is the ... of Belarus, an ... and ... city with a long and ... history. This ... often turned into .... It is the city with broad... and ..., modern ..., shady ... and some churches which as ... of the past. Minsk is the ... centre of Belarus. The best way to ... the city is to make a ... .

## 3. Finish the sentences:

1. Many conquerors have passed through Minsk because
  - it was rich and wealthy.
  - it is situated in the centre of Europe.
  - it is situated on the crossroads of the busiest trade-routes connecting the Baltic and the Black Seas, the East and the West.
2. In 1919 Minsk became the capital of the Byelorussian republic and remained the capital when
  - Belarus was occupied by the fascist invaders.
  - Belarus gained independence in 1991.
  - the CIS was formed.
3. Minsk is the city where you can find
  - the best pieces of international cultural heritage.
  - the best pieces of Belarusian cultural heritage.
  - the best examples of the West-European cultural heritage.
4. Walking down Francisk Skorina avenue tourists can see
  - the most famous places of interest in Minsk.
  - the biggest plants and factories.
  - all Minsk theatres.

## 4. Answer the questions on the text:

- Is Minsk an ancient city?  
When was it first mentioned in chronicles?  
Why was it destroyed, burned and ruined many times during its 930 year history?  
Why do we say that the geographical position of Minsk was an advantage which often turned into disadvantage?  
Why did Minsk steadily increase in importance?  
When did it become the capital of Belarus?  
Where is Minsk situated?  
Are there many relics of the past in Minsk?  
What is the economy of Minsk based on?  
Is Minsk a major educational and cultural centre of Belarus?  
What are your favorite places in Minsk?  
If you were a guide what would you show the tourists?

## 5. Divide the text into parts.

### 6. Put the sentences according to the text:

Minsk is the major industrial centre of Belarus.  
Some places of interest in Minsk worth seeing.  
Minsk is an ancient city with a long and exciting history.  
Minsk is a major educational and cultural centre.

### 7. Speak about:

The history of Minsk.  
Your favorite places in Minsk.

## Text 4

### MOZYR

#### Read the text with a dictionary and do the exercises that follow it.

Mozyr is situated in the south-eastern part of the Republic of Belarus. It stands on the bank of the river Pripyat. The river divides it into two parts. On one side of the river there is Phov and on the other one there are all other districts of the town.

Mozyr is an ancient town. It was first mentioned in chronicles in 1155. Before the revolution 1917 Mozyr was a town of one-storeyed houses, narrow and dusty streets. It received the Magdebourg right in 1577. In 1793 Mozyr became a part of the Russian Empire. The town was developed due to trade. 6500 persons lived in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. People were busy with trading bread, fish, bacon, skin and other goods. The Soviet authority was established in 1917. Many times the town was destroyed and burnt down completely. Mozyr suffered greatly during the fascist occupation which lasted 875 difficult days. But the citizens of Mozyr didn't give up. At last on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1944 Mozyr was liberated. In post-war years it was rebuilt anew.

Modern Mozyr is a town of numerous plants and factories. The biggest of them are the Oil Refinery and Salt plants, the cable works, the «Nadex» clothing factory, the «Slavyanka» knitted goods factory and other enterprises producing furniture, dairy products, baking bread and other goods.

Mozyr is a university center. There is one of the biggest higher educational establishments «Mozyr State Teachers' Training University». Besides there are some vocational schools, colleges and a technicum. Every residential area of the town has kindergartens, secondary schools, shops and everyday services.

Mozyr has a wide range of social, cultural and leisure facilities, such as the Melezh drama theatre, cinemas, sport centers, art galleries, a museum of

regional ethnography, some palaces of culture, a lot of libraries, a beautiful park with different entertainment centers. People enjoy their free time in restaurants, cafes, bars or clubs and parks.

Mozyr has a nice scenery. It is surrounded by a beautiful countryside including the ravines with birch groves and an impressive bank-lane of the river Pripyat. The major care of the town is its cleanliness. Flowers blossom everywhere in the town in summer. Mozyr is a perfect and easy town to live in, neither too small nor too big. It combines a friendly small town atmosphere with the amenities of a modern city.

The town is famous for its talented people who lived here. A lot of people know such names as M. Findberg (a conductor), Kseniya Sitnik (a young singer, the winner of Eurovision 2005), I. Mazurkevich (an actress), D. Borisova (a TV show woman), V. Khoruzhaya (a politician), and others.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Replace the following definitions by one word from text:**

- land along each side of a river or canal;
- things, circumstances, surroundings, that make life easy or pleasant;
- a part of a town or a country marked out for a special purpose;
- to be shut in on all sides;
- buildings and equipment of an institution, factory;
- buildings where goods are made (esp. by machinery);
- to get pleasure from;
- a person who lives in a town, not in the country;
- great in number, very many;
- a rural area (contrasted with urban area).

#### **2. Reproduce the sentences from the text in which the following word-combinations are used:**

in the south-eastern part,  
to occupy an area,  
to be famous for,  
on the bank,  
the impressive bank-lane,  
to become a part,  
different entertainment centres,  
due to trade,  
residential areas,  
to be busy with,  
in post-war years,  
to be established,  
not to give up,  
to be destroyed.

### 3. Answer the questions on the text:

Where is Mozyr situated?

What can you say about the past of Mozyr?

What do enterprises of the town produce?

Mozyr is a town of students, isn't it?

Where can people spend their free time?

What is the landscape of Mozyr famous for?

Do any famous people come from Mozyr?

Is Mozyr your native town?

What places of the town attract you most of all?

Are you planning to stay here after the graduation from the university?

### Text 5

#### OUTSTANDING PEOPLE OF BELARUS

#### Topic vocabulary

to specialize in	специализироваться в чём-либо
to be famous for	быть известным чем-либо
a folk story-tellers	фольклорист
an eternal hit	вечный хит
an amateur dance group	любительская танцевальная группа
an impact	влияние
a scholar	учёный
a merchant family	мещанская семья
a written language	литературный язык
oral folk art	устное народное творчество
non-figurative art	ан абстракт art
prose-writer	прозаик

Belarusian culture comprises a wide range of arts which ensure the harmonious development of the citizens.

The pride of Belarus is the literary works by Belarusian poets and prose-writers. The sweet poetry of Maxim Bagdanovich and Yanka Kupala, the deep prose of Yakub Kolas and Vasil Bykov, the magic masterpieces of Vladimir Korotkevich and Ivan Borshchevsky are brilliant examples of Belarusian works of literature. Everybody has read famous poems by Yakub Kolas, Yanka Kupala, Petrus Brovka. We all admire the wonderful works of Vasil Bykov, Ales Adamovich, Ivan Melezh, Ivan Shamyakin, Maxim Tank and other talented Belarusian poets and writers.

There are quite a number of theatres in Belarus. Some of them specialize in modern plays, others prefer classics. The Yanka Kupala State Academic

Theatre, the Gorky Russian Drama Theatre, the Opera and Ballet Theatre are famous for their excellent performances which are always a success. The names of such prominent men of theatrical art as contemporary dramatist Alexey Dudarev, choreographer Valentin Yelisariev, artistic director of the Russian Academic Theatre Boris Loutsenko, actors and actresses like S. Stanyuta, N. Eremenko, the great soprano Larisa Alexandrovskaya and many, many others are known by the Belarusians and by people of other countries.

The Belarusian folk singers sing a wide variety of old and new Belarusian folk songs which form the basis of the repertoire of most vocal and instrumental groups. Patriarch of Belarusian pop music Vladimir Moulyavin and his ever young «Pesnyary» always present their eternal hits loved by all generations. Since its birth in 1969 the group has remained true to national Belarusian art.

Monuments of Belarusian written language and oral folk art of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries still exist today. The most typical of them are mourning songs. Many Belarusian folk songs relate to the coming of spring, harvest-time, Midsummer day, Christmas, marriage and other holidays and events. Choral musicians, in particular H. Shirma (1892–1978) and V. Rovda (1921) did much in research of folk musical compositions.

There are a lot of professional and amateur folklore dance groups in Belarus. We all admire the dances of the groups «Khoroshki», «Polessye», «Radost» and others. These groups are well-known not only in our country. They found their fans all over the world.

It is known that our republic has many talented artists, who have won the world recognition. The most talented Belarusian artists have a chance to implement their artistic aspirations. The pictures of the past go hand in hand with the works of modern Belarusian artists. The canvases of Mikhail Savitsky, dedicated to the Great Patriotic War are known everywhere. The names of K. Malevich, Mark Shagal, Ya. Drosdovich, A. Isachev, E. Zaitsev, V. Tsvirko, V. Volkov, K. Krasovsky and many others are known far beyond the borders of our country.

The graphic arts in Belarus, in particular painting, are well represented in the galleries of the National Museum of Art in Minsk and Marc Chagal's exhibition in Vitebsk as well.

The name of Kasimir Malevich (1878–1935) is closely connected with a number of experimental trends in the twentieth-century art. He developed a new course in art which is called «suprematism». In his books Kozimir Malevich tried to demonstrate the natural development of painting to non-figurative art, which had a profound influence on contemporary painting, architecture and design.

Great contribution to the development of Belarusian sport was made by our sportsmen who take an active part in the world sports movement and the Olympic Games. Major victories have been won by our O. Korbut, V. Scherba

M. Lobach and I. Ivankov (gymnastics), T. Samusenko (sprint), A. Medved (wrestling), N. Zvereva and M. Mirny (tennis), B Gelfand (chess) and so on...

Some prominent names are connected with space exploration. In the family of cosmonauts there are two Belarusians, A. Kovalyonok and P. Klimuk.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Give the English equivalents:**

Гордостью Беларуси являются литературные работы белорусских поэтов и прозаиков. Некоторые из них специализируются на современных пьесах, другие предпочитают классику. Самые типичные из них – это траурные песни. Эти коллективы известны не только в нашей стране. Самые талантливые белорусские художники имеют возможность воплотить свои художественные стремления. Большой вклад в развитие белорусского спорта внесли наши спортсмены, которые принимают участие в мировом спортивном движении и Олимпийских играх.

#### **2. Fill in the blanks:**

Belarusian culture comprises a wide range ... which ensure the harmonious development of the citizens. The sweet poetry of ... and ..., the deep prose of ... and..., the magic masterpieces of ... and ... are brilliant examples of Belarusian works of literature. The Yanka Kupala State Academic Theatre, the Gorky ... Theatre, the Opera and Ballet Theatre are famous for their excellent ... which are always a success. Patriarch of Belarusian pop music ... and his ever young «...» always present their eternal hits loved by all generations. The canvases of ..., dedicated to the Great Patriotic War are known everywhere. In his books ... tried to demonstrate the natural development of painting to non-figurative art, which had a profound influence on contemporary painting, architecture and design.

#### **3. Finish the sentences:**

The Yanka Kupala State Academic Theatre, ... . The names of such prominent men of theatrical art as contemporary dramatist Alexey Dudarev, ... . The Belarusian folk singers sing a wide variety of old and new ... . Many Belarusian folk songs relate to the coming of spring, ... . We all admire the dances of the groups «Khoroshki», ... . Major victories have been won by our O. Korbut, V. Scherba M. Lobach... .

#### **4. Answer the questions on the text:**

What names are famous in the theatre?

What famous artists or painters can you name?

What can you say about the development of literature in our country?

What sportsmen glorified our republic?



## ADDITIONAL TEXTS FOR READING

### Text 6

#### FROM THE HISTORY OF MINSK

##### Topic vocabulary

to come into existence – существовать  
to derive – извлекать, происходить (от)  
an invader – захватчик, оккупант  
a devastation – опустошение  
to befall – случаться, происходить

##### Read the text with a dictionary and answer the questions that follow it.

More than 900 years ago on the banks of the Nemiga and Svisloch rivers came into existence the city of Minsk or Mensk as it used to be called before.

The name of the city is believed to be associated with the river Menka that flowed into Lake Ptych not far from the city. But the legends say that the city derives its name from the word «mena» as in the ancient times there was a barter market in the newly-founded settlement on the right bank of the Svisloch.

Mensk was first mentioned as a town in the Principality of Polotsk in a chronicle in 1067 in connection with a battle on the Nemiga between Prince Vseslav of Polotsk and Prince Yaroslav's sons: Yzyaslav, Vsevolod and Svyatoslav. As a result of this battle Mensk was ruined with all men killed, women and children taken to prison.

In 1084 Mensk was burnt yet another time by the Great Russian Prince Vladimir Monomakh.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the Polotsk Principality was divided into 6 independent principalities among Prince Yzeslav's sons. Thus Mensk became the centre of a principality.

In the late 13<sup>th</sup> century the Principality of Mensk became part of the Great Duchy of Lithuania. The 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries were very important in the life of Mensk and its inhabitants. It was the period when the Belarusian nation was formed with its national language and culture.

But in 1569 the Lithuanian Princes united with the Polish kingdom and formed a joined state Rzečzpaspalitaya. It was at that period that Mensk was renamed into Minsk.

In 1793 the eastern and central parts (later all the territory) of Belarus joined the Russian Empire. In 1795 it was turned into a gubernia (province) with Minsk as its centre. Only in 1919 Minsk became the capital of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> centuries the Upper Town remained the town's main administrative, trade and cultural centre. Minsk rapidly grew and developed. But in 1812 the Napoleon troops burnt the city again.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the foreign invaders not once occupied the Belarusian capital: in 1918 it was occupied by Germany, in 1919–1920 by Poland. The most horrible disaster befell the city of Minsk in 1941–1944 in the years of fascist invasion.

Not only wars were responsible for Minsk's numerous devastations. Fires caused a great damage to the city too. Especially damaging was the 1881 fire. Since then only stone and brick buildings have been constructed in the centre of Minsk.

And every time our people rebuilt the city, it became more beautiful than before.

**Answer the questions on text:**

1. When was Minsk founded?
2. What is the name of the city associated with?
3. When did Minsk become the centre of the independent principality?
4. When was Minsk renamed into Minsk?
5. What caused a great damage to the city during the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

**Текст 7**

**A BRIEF OUTLINE OF MINSK'S ARCHITECTURE,  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMY**

**Read the text with a dictionary and do the exercises that follow it.**

The decisive role in determining the urban development and the architecture of Minsk was played by its status of the capital of Belarus as a major political, economic and cultural centre, by its geo-economic situation at the crossroads of railroads, motorways and airlines.

In accordance with the master plan for the development of Minsk, an elaborate city infrastructure has been created; the new residential areas and neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup> are built with all proper amenities.

The central part of the city, erected during the post-war years, is being improved and rebuilt. The construction of the Republic's Palace of Culture and the reconstruction of Oktyabrskaya Square has been completed, so has the rebuilding of the railway station and of Privokzalnaya Square. The historical centre of Minsk-Verkhny Gorod (the Upper Town) is being restored; the reconstruction of the historical district «Troitskoye Predmestye» has already been completed.

Minsk is the largest economic centre of the republic with powerful heavy industry, versatile light and food industries, with modern transport system and public utilities<sup>3</sup>, with developed industrial, cultural and housing construction, with a harmonious system of financial, credit, research and design institutions.

The capital produces almost one third of the republic's total industrial output. Minsk is by right considered the industrial centre of Belarus. Tractors,

motorbikes, bicycles, wrist watches, refrigerators and other durable goods are manufactured here, as well as the majority of lathes, automated production lines, trucks, computers, colour TVs, and wool cloth. Many of the Minsk-made commodities<sup>4</sup> were awarded gold medals at international exhibitions and fairs. The city produces different goods worth 80–90 billion roubles, and its export (to 70 countries) amounts to 90 million dollars, annually.

The economic life of the capital influences greatly the development of the whole republic. Numerous research and design institutes elaborate projects programmes and recommendations for users in the republic and for clients abroad. Many Minsk plants and factories play the leading role in the corresponding industries<sup>5</sup>. Practically all engineering enterprises of the republic are supplied with Minsk-made lathes and automated production lines.

Market relations are rapidly developing in the city's economy. Denationalization and privatization are underway<sup>6</sup>, primarily in the spheres of commerce and services. Many large factories and plants, especially in the light industry, are leased' by workers' collectives, or their shares are being issued.

New perspectives are opened for mutually advantageous cooperation in the sphere of foreign economic activity and joint venture. About 450 joint ventures, and 90 enterprises with foreign investment appeared in the city. 200 foreign firms and their representatives are accredited here, with the new Business Centre, created by the City Executive Council, at their disposal<sup>8</sup>.

### References

1. residential areas and neighbourhoods – жилые районы и окрестности
2. versatile – разносторонней
3. public utilities – коммунальные услуги
4. the Minsk-made commodities – изготовленные в Минске предметы потребления
5. corresponding industries – соответствующие отрасли промышленности
6. underway – на ходу
7. are leased – арендуются
8. at their disposal – в их распоряжении

### Answer the questions:

1. Minsk is the largest economic centre of the republic, isn't it? Prove it.
2. What does the capital produce?
3. What part of the city is being improved and rebuilt?
4. How does the economic life of the capital influence the development of the whole republic?
5. Are market relations slowly developing in the city's economy?
6. How many joint ventures and enterprises with foreign investment appeared?

## Текст 8

### EFROSINYA POLOTSKAYA

**Read the text with a dictionary and do the exercises that follow it.**

When discussing outstanding people of Belarus, we can't but mention the name of Efrosinya Polotskaya, a princess, a philosophical and spiritual leader in Polotsk principality in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

She was born in Polotsk into the family of Izyaslavovichy in 1100. She was the granddaughter of the famous Vseslav Charodey. She was a highly educated person of that period. She had a good knowledge of geography, Greek, Latin, mythology and other sciences. She was well aware of both Christian and pagan beliefs. At the age of 12 she refused to marry and entered the Convent as the rest of the members of the family were sent to the Byzantine Empire. First she was a nun and later Mother Superior of the Convent.

She did a lot of charitable work which included opening schools and hospitals. She taught other people, wrote and rewrote books by hand. She founded the Spass-Efrosinya church in Polotsk. On her request in 1161 a famous jeweller Lasar Bogsha created a Cross to symbolize Christianity in Belarus and the unity of the nation. Efrosinya Polotskaya raised her voice against intestine strife which could destroy the state. The Cross was decorated with gold, silver and precious stones. There were icons of saints, the founders of the Christianity, Efrosinya and her parents on it. It became a national sacred thing. Unfortunately, the Cross was taken out of the country during the Great Patriotic War and disappeared.

In 1173 Efrosinya decided to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Some months later she got seriously ill and died. She was buried in Jerusalem. Twelve years later the body was transported to Kiev and then returned to Polotsk to be reburied in Spass-Efrosinya church which she had founded.

Now Efrosinya Polotskaya is considered to be the protectress of Belarus. Paying tribute to her great service to the Motherland, the Belarusians restored the Cross of Efrosinya Polotskaya and placed it in the Spass-Efrosinya church in 1998. It has become one of the sacred things in Belarus.

**Complete the sentences using the following variants:**

1. She had a good knowledge of
  - a) Geography, English and medicine.
  - b) Philosophy, Greek and other sciences.
  - c) Geography, Greek, Latin, mythology and other sciences.
2. At the age of 12 she refused to marry and entered the Convent as the rest of the family
  - a) were sent to the Byzantine Empire.
  - b) were killed.
  - c) were not religious.

3. Unfortunately, the Cross was taken out of the country during
  - a) the Napoleon invasion.
  - b) the Great Patriotic war.
4. Paying tribute to her great service to the Motherland, the Belarusians
  - a) have founded the Cross of Efrosinya Polotskaya and placed it in the Spass-Efrosinya church .
  - b) have restored the Cross and placed it in the Spass-Efrosinya church.
  - c) have restored the Cross and placed it in the

**Arrange the items of the given outline in the order according to the text:**

- Efrosinya’s charitable work.
- philosophical and spiritual leader of the time.
- the symbol of Christianity in Belarus.
- Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
- the Protectress of Belarus.

## **Text 9**

### **WHO WAS DR. SKARYNA?**

In 1990 Belarusians were celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of Doctor Francisak Skaryna, the first translator and publisher of the Bible (1517–1519) in the Belarusian language. The impact of Skaryna’s work has been profound both on the cultural development of Belarus and on the Belarusian patriotic movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Belarusian printing owes its beginnings to Dr. Francisak Skaryna, a prominent scholar and humanist. Dr. Skaryna was born in a wealthy merchant family in the old Belarusian city of Polatsk in 1490. After attending local schools he studied at Krakow and other universities. He received his degree in liberal arts, and later, at the University of Padua, he received his degree in medicine. He was a true Renaissance man – his intellectual interests embraced theology, literature, linguistics, poetry, art, law, medicine, botany, and printing.

The most important of his achievements was the translation and publication of the Bible into the Belarusian language, first in Prague in 1517–1519, and later in Vilnya. Skaryna’s Belarusian Bible was the second work printed in a native Slavonic tongue.

Like other translator working elsewhere in Europe at that time, he wanted to «make knowledge available to the people in their own language». He said, «I vow it shall become a language of books, and not only of speech».

**Find in the text the information about :**

- a) Scorina’s life and education.
- b) Scorina’s contribution to the Belarusian history and culture.

# THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

## Text 1

### GREAT BRITAIN

#### Topic vocabulary

appoint	назначать
approve	одобрять, утверждать
attraction	привлекательность
be situated	быть расположенным
coast	побережье
comprise	входить в состав
damp	сырой, влажный
density	плотность населения
due to	благодаря
establish	устанавливать, основать
fertile	плодородный
flow	течь
govern	управлять
influence	влияние
island	остров
legislation	законодательство
lie off (lay, lain)	находиться на некотором расстоянии
majority	большинство
mild	мягкий
picturesque	живописный
provide	обеспечивать
reign	царствовать
Royal Assent	королевская санкция, одобрение
rule	править
scenery	пейзаж, вид
separate	разделять, отделять
shore	берег
sovereign	монарх
stretch	простирается, протянуться
temperate	умеренный
topic	предмет разговора, тема
vast	обширный, огромный
to be made up of (to consist of)	состоять из
to cover	охватывать
to be situated	быть расположенным
the Strait of Dover	Па-де-Кале

The English Channel	Ла-Манш
The Gulf Stream	Гольфстрим
to separate	отделять, разделять
to be washed	омываться
climate	климат
to influence smth	влиять на что-л.
total area	общая площадь
to border on smth	граничить с чем-либо
influence smth/smb	влиять на что-либо/кого-либо
to be engaged in smth	быть занятым чем-либо
a Bill	законопроект
decision-making	принятие решений

### **1. The geographical situation of the United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom is situated on the British Isles which comprise two large islands, Great Britain and Ireland and some 5,500 small and large islands. Their total area is 244,100 square kilometers. The largest island is Great Britain. It consists of three main parts: England, Wales, and Scotland. The second in the size is the island of Ireland in which Northern Ireland occupies one third of the territory. It borders on the Republic of Ireland in the south.

The British Isles are separated from the European Continent by the North Sea, The English Channel and the Strait of Dover. The western coast of Great Britain is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea. The warm currents of the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean influence the climate of Great Britain. Winters are not severely cold and summers are rarely hot. The thick fog in autumn or winter is the most typical feature of the climate in England.

The surface of England and Ireland is rather flat and it is called the Lowlands while the highland area comprises Scotland and most of Wales. The highest mountain in the United Kingdom is Ben Nevis in Scotland (1343 m).

Scotland is a land of famous lakes. They are called «lochs». The beautiful Loch Lomond is the largest one and Loch Ness attracts millions of tourists by its legendary monster.

There are not many rivers in Great Britain. Most of the rivers flow into the North Sea. The deepest and the longest rivers are the Thames (over 346 km long) and the Severn (about 350 km). The Thames is the busiest and most important river in the country. Many of the rivers are joined by canals. British greatest ports are associated with such rivers as the Thames, the Mersey, the Tyne, and the Clyde.

Great Britain is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, the average density being over 200 people per square kilometer. The population of Great Britain is more than 57 million.

## **2. British industry**

Great Britain is not very rich in mineral resources. There are some deposits of coal and iron ore and vast deposits of oil and gas that were discovered in the North Sea.

Nevertheless the United Kingdom is a highly developed industrial country. It is known as one of the largest producers and exporters of iron and steel products, textile, machinery and electronics, navigation and aircraft equipment. One of the chief industries is shipbuilding. Great Britain imports oil, metal, ore, rubber, cotton, timber and enormous quantities of food-stuff, grain, meat, butter, tea so on.

The United Kingdom has an economy based mainly on private enterprises. They are not controlled by the government.

The main industrial centers are London, Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Glasgow, Bristol, and Edinburgh.

7% of the population is engaged in farming. The main agricultural activity is the cultivation of wheat, fruit growing and sheep rearing.

## **3. Political set-up**

The United Kingdom is a parliamentary monarchy. The Monarch is the head of the state. Now it's Elizabeth II. The Queen of Great Britain is not absolute, but constitutional. Her powers are limited by Parliament. The power is hereditary, and not elective. She appoints all the Ministers and the Prime Minister, but she takes no part in the process of decision-making. The real power in the United Kingdom belongs to the British Parliament (the legislative body) and the British Government (the executive one). The Parliament consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons together with the Queen in her constitutional role.

The House of Commons plays the major part in law-making, it has a true power. The 650 members of the House of Commons are elected every five years.

The House of Lords does not have much power but it is very important as it can offer and change laws, it may delay certain Bills but cannot finally veto them. The members of the House of Lords are landlords, bishops and peers. They are not elected.

The British parliamentary system depends on political parties. The Government is formed by the political party, which has the majority support in the House of Commons. Its leader becomes the Prime Minister, who chooses members of Parliament from his or her party to become the Cabinet Ministers.

The British system is known as a «two-party system». It means that one of the two strongest parties is in power. From 1832 to 1918 the dominant parties were the Conservative (or Tory) on the one hand and the Liberals (or Whigs) on the other. Later the Labour party backed by the trade unions replaced the



Liberals as the main party of reform, and since 1924 the political scene has been dominated by the Conservative and Labour parties.

The United Kingdom is a member of the European Union (EU), the United Nations Organization (UNO), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Commonwealth.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Choose the right variant to complete the sentences according to the text:**

1. The United Kingdom comprises ...
  - small and large islands
  - a lot of large islands
  - the British Isles
2. The British Isles are separated from the European continent by ...
  - the Irish Sea
  - the strait of Dover
  - the Atlantic Ocean
3. The busiest and the most important river is ...
  - the Mersey
  - the Clyde
  - the Thames
4. Great Britain is ...
  - not very rich in mineral resources
  - very rich in mineral resources
  - rich in mineral resources

#### **2. Use the text to complete the sentences:**

1. The United Kingdom is situated on...
2. The United Kingdom consists of...
3. The British Isles are separated from Europe by...
4. The British Isles are washed by...
5. The main industries are...
6. The main industrial centers are...
7. Great Britain imports...
8. ... is the head of the state.
9. The Queen's rights are limited by ...
10. The British Parliament consists of ...
11. The main political parties are ...

#### **3. Answer the questions on the text:**

1. Where is the United Kingdom situated?
2. What parts does it consist of?

3. What waters are the British Isles washed by?
4. What are the main rivers in Great Britain?
5. What goods does the British industry produce?
6. Who is the Head of the State?
7. Who has the real power in Great Britain?
8. Are the members of the House of Commons elected or not?
9. Does the House of Lords have much power?
10. What does the British parliamentary system depend on?

**4. Use the text and your background knowledge to answer the questions of the quiz on Great Britain:**

1. Great Britain is situated....
2. British Isles comprise two large islands: ....
3. The official name of Great Britain is....
4. The United Kingdom is divided into four parts: ....
5. The capitals of these parts are...?
6. Name some rivers of Great Britain.
7. From this list choose the cities which are situated in the UK: Edinburgh, Dresden, Washington, Bristol, Frankfurt, Oslo, Glasgow, Liverpool, Chicago, Los Angeles, Manchester.
8. The Head of the State is...?
9. The real power belongs to...?
10. British Parliament consists of two Houses: ....
11. The British Flag is called...
12. Which of the following traditions belong to the United Kingdom:
  - to remember dead parents
  - grandparents or relatives on the first Saturday in November
  - to open the Parliament once a year
  - to make crowns out of flowers and jump over the fire on one of the summers months
  - trooping the Colour
  - Chancellor sits on the sack of wool.
13. Great Britain is separated from the continent by...
  - the Pacific Ocean
  - the Irish Sea
  - the Bristol Channel
  - the English Channel
14. 650 members of the House of Commons are elected every...
  - 2 years
  - 3 years
  - 4 years
  - 5 years

15. Choose the holidays which are celebrated in the United Kingdom: Easter; Halloween; Kupala; Victory Day; Guy Fawakes Night; Christmas; The first of May; Radunitsa; April Fool's Day.

16. The symbols of each part are:

- England...
- Scotland...
- Wales...
- Northern Ireland...

**5. Be ready to speak about Great Britain. Use text as a help to your topic.**

## Text 2

### HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN

#### Topic vocabulary

AD = anno Domini (лат.)	нашей эры
adoption	принятие
attack	нападать, атаковать
BC = before Christ	до нашей эры
benefit	извлекать пользу
bitter struggle	жестокая борьба
Celt	кельт
conquer	завоёвывать, покорять
conqueror	завоеватель
contribute	способствовать
Danes	датчане
declare	объявлять
defeat	наносить поражение
Drive, driven	гнать, преследовать
Entertaining	занимательный
force	заставлять, принуждать
Iberian peninsula	Иберийский полуостров (там, где находится Испания)
Ice Age	ледниковый период
impressive	впечатляющий
intermix	смешивать(ся), перемешивать(ся)
invade	вторгаться, захватывать, оккупировать
New Stone Age	новый каменный век
preserve	сохранять
quarrel	ссориться

ruler	правитель
search	поиски
separate	отделять, разделять
sign	подписывать
tribe	племя
tribute	дань
unification	объединение
untouched	нетронутый, незавоёванный
volume	том, книга

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country of great history rich in important events and entertaining legends connected with them. It's not enough to write several volumes to tell the full history of the country. That's why we'll try to answer the question where the British come from and who they are.

They say that in prehistoric times Britain was joined to Europe. So the first people came there over dry land. The present English Channel which separates Britain from Europe appeared at the end of the Ice Age. In the New Stone Age the hunters crossed the sea to the west of the Channel and settled along the Western shores in search of food. The first inhabitants of the island came from the Iberian Peninsula, where Spain is located, somewhere after 3000 BC. After 2000 BC the people from the east of Europe entered the country. The two peoples intermixed. They left us Stonehenge and Avebury as impressive monuments of their time.

After 800 BC the Celts arrived from Central Europe and opened up a new important page of the British history. The name «Britain» comes from the name of a Celtic tribe known as the Britons. Their influence was greatest in Wales, Scotland and Ireland, as they were driven to these parts by the invaders who followed them. That's why these parts of Britain are very different from England in language, customs and traditions.

In 55 BC Julius Caesar, the Roman ruler, invaded Britain. However, his first expedition was not successful, because his force was small, and the Celts fought well. In the following year 54 BC he invaded the country with a larger army and this time the expedition was successful: the Celts were defeated. But Caesar didn't stay in Britain. He left the country with slaves and riches, and made the Celts pay a regular tribute to Rome.

Some 90 years later, in 43 AD, the country was conquered by the Romans and the occupation continued to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century (410 AD). Roman influence was greatest in the south and south-east, while in the north and west the country remained untouched. The Romans built many towns, connected them by good roads. The largest of the towns was called Londinium. Roman culture and civilization had a positive influence on the development of the country. When the Romans left, Britain remained independent for some time.

However quite soon it was attacked by Germanic tribes: the Jutes, the Saxons and the Angles. And by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century the greater part of the country was occupied. People began to call the new land of the Angles and Saxons England. Wales, Cornwall, the northern part of Britain and Ireland remained unconquered and preserved Celtic culture.

The Saxon kingdoms fought one against the other. In 829 the greater part of the country was united under the name England.

The northern part was the home of the Picts and Scots. After the conquest of the Picts by the Scots in the 9<sup>th</sup> century this territory was called Scotland. And in the 11<sup>th</sup> century a united Scottish kingdom was formed.

An important event which contributed to the unification of the country was the adoption of Christianity in England in 664.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> century the Danes attacked England. It was Alfred who defeated the Danes making them sign a peace agreement.

The last of the invaders to come to Britain were the Normans from France. In 1066 Duke William of Normandy defeated the English at the battle of Hastings and established his rule as king of England known as William the Conqueror. The French language became the official language of the ruling class for the next three centuries. This explains the great number of French words in English. The power of the state grew and little by little England began to spread its power. First on Wales then on Scotland and later on Ireland. Wales was brought under the English parliament in 1536 and 1542 by Henry VIII.

In 1603 the son of Mary Queen of Scots James Stuart became James I of England. The union of England, Wales and Scotland became known as Great Britain. However the final unification of Scotland and England took place in 1707 when both sides agreed to form a single parliament in London for Great Britain, although Scotland continued to keep its own system of law, education and have an independent church.

Ireland was England's first colony, but even now there are problems there connected with religion. The Irish people can be divided into two religious groups: Catholics and Protestants. The fighting between these groups is connected with the colonial past. In the 16th century Henry VIII of England quarreled with Rome and declared himself head of the Anglican Church, which was a Protestant church. He tried to force Irish Catholics to become Anglican. This policy was continued by his daughter Elizabeth I. The «Irish question» remained in the centre of British politics till 1921. After a long and bitter struggle the southern part of Ireland became a Free State. The northern part of Ireland where the Protestants were in majority remained part of the UK. After all the years of confrontation the people of Northern Ireland understand that only through peace talks and respect for the rights of both Catholics and Protestants can peace be achieved.

Recently, there have been many waves of immigration into Britain. Now Britain is a multinational society, which benefits from the influence of different people and cultures.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Give the English equivalents:**

1. Чтобы рассказать полностью историю страны, не хватит и нескольких томов. 2. Первые жители острова пришли с Иберийского полуострова, где находится Испания, где-то после 3000 года до нашей эры. 3. После 800 года до нашей эры кельты пришли из Центральной Европы и открыли новую страницу в истории Британии. 4. Юлий Цезарь покинул страну с рабами и богатством и заставил кельтов регулярно платить дань Риму. 5. Римская культура и цивилизация оказали положительное влияние на развитие страны. 6. Люди стали называть новые земли англосаксов Англией. 7. В 1066 году герцог Вильгельм Нормандский разбил англичан в битве под Гастингсом и стал королём Англии, известным под именем Вильгельм Завоеватель. 8. Сейчас Британия – это многонациональное общество, которое выигрывает от влияния различных народов и культур друг на друга.

#### **2. Fill in the blanks:**

The present English Channel which ... Britain from Europe ... at the end of the ... . They left us ... and ... as ... monuments of their time. Their influence was great in Wales, Scotland and Ireland, as they were ... to these parts by the ... who followed them. Roman ... was greatest in the south and southeast, while in the north and west the country remained .... An important event which ... to the ... of the country was the ... of Christianity in England in 664. The French ... became the official ... of the ... class for the next three centuries. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Henry VIII of England ... with Rome and ... himself head of the..., which was a Protestant church. After all years of ... the people of Northern Ireland understand that only through ... talks and ... for the rights of both Catholics and Protestants can peace be ... .

#### **3. Finish the sentences:**

1. That's why we try to answer the questions  
why the British are so arrogant and who they are.  
where the British come from and who they are.  
where the British come from and where they leave for.
2. The Romans built many towns, connected them by roads. The largest of the towns was called  
New Rome.  
Scotland.  
Londinium.

3. After the conquest of the Picts by the Scots in the 9<sup>th</sup> century this territory was called
  - Scotland.
  - Wales.
  - Ireland.
4. An important event which contributed to the unification of the country was
  - the formation of a single parliament in London.
  - the defeat of the English by William the Conqueror.
  - the adoption of Christianity in England in 664.
5. The union of England, Wales and Scotland became known as
  - Great Britain.
  - England.
  - the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**4. Answer the questions on the text.**

1. What was Britain in prehistoric times?
2. When did the English Channel appear?
3. Who were the first inhabitants of the island?
4. Who left us Stonehenge and Avebury?
5. Where did the name «Britain» come from?
6. Where were the Celtic language, customs and traditions preserved?
7. Who made the Celts pay a regular tribute to Rome?
8. How long did the Romans stay in Britain?
9. Roman culture had a positive influence on the development of the country, didn't it?
10. Where did the name «England» come from?
11. Why was the northern part of Great Britain called Scotland?
12. What important event contributed to the unification of the country?
13. Who were the last of the invaders to come to England?
14. How long did the Norman invasion last?
15. What language was the official one during the rule of William the Conqueror?
16. What were the next steps of the unification of the country?
17. What is the «Irish question»?
18. What's the reason of the confrontation in Ireland?
19. Can peace be achieved?
20. Britain is a multinational society now, isn't it?

**5. Divide the text into parts.**

**6. Be ready to speak on the topic. Use text as a help to your topic.**

**7. Use the following sentences as points of your plan, put them in the right order.**

1. The last of the invaders.
2. Julius Caesar and the Romans in the history of Great Britain.
3. The first inhabitants.
4. «Irish question».
5. The Celts opened up a new important page in the British history.
6. Germanic tribes and the formation of the Scottish kingdom.
7. England began to spread its power.
8. The formation of Great Britain.
9. Britain is a country of great history.

### **Text 3**

## **LONDON**

### **Topic vocabulary**

crown	короновать
defeat	побеждать, разбивать
destroy	разрушать, уничтожать
dock	док, верфь
eminent	выдающийся, знаменитый
enjoyable	приятный
ensure	обеспечивать, гарантировать
erect	воздвигать, сооружать
execute	казнить
exhibit	выставлять, экспонировать(ся) на выставке
factory	фабрика, завод
feed (fed, fed)	кормить
fleet	флот, эскадра
former	прежний, бывший
formerly	прежде
fountain	фонтан
genuine	подлинный, истинный
grave	могила
impressive	впечатляющий, выразительный
invasion	вторжение, интервенция
last	продолжаться
luxury	роскошь
magnificently	великолепно, пышно
manage	удаваться, справляться
masterpiece	шедевр



move	переезжать
mutual	взаимный, обоюдный
oaken	дубовый
offer	предлагать
outstanding	выдающийся
painting	картина
parliament	парламент
particular	особенный, особый
pedestal	подножие, пьедестал
permanent	постоянный
picturesque	живописный, колоритный
pigeon	голубь
pilgrimage	паломничество

London is the capital of the United Kingdom, one of the largest and one of the world's most enjoyable cities. It offers the tourists an astonishing variety of scene. In this historic city the modern rubs shoulders with the old, the present is ever conscious of the past, the great and the small live side by side in mutual tolerance and respect.

London is more than 20 centuries old. Its buildings express all the different areas of its history, for London manages in a unique way to reflect its past and at the same time to fulfill the functions of a modern city.

The City, the oldest part of London, is the commercial and financial centre of the country. Westminster is the political heart of London. The West End is the richest and the most beautiful part of London, the symbol of wealth and luxury, where the most expensive hotels, restaurants, shops and clubs are situated. The East End is the industrial part. There are many factories, workshops and shipyards there.

London offers the visitors a great variety of places of interest. It's a city of dream to everybody interested in the English history and culture.

World famous places are the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, the Tower of London and so on and so forth.

The Houses of Parliament, a symbol of London, spread magnificently on the north bank of the Thames. This structure is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The Clock Tower called «Big Ben», is known the world over. Its hour bell is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the first Commissioner of Works. The Houses of Parliament, called officially the Palace of Westminster, were formally a palace for kings and queens. Until the 16th century it was used both as a royal residence and as a parliament house. After the royal family moved to Whitehall Palace, the Westminster Palace was occupied by the Parliament and became its permanent home.

Opposite the Houses of Parliament Westminster Abbey is situated. It's a national shrine where the kings and queens are crowned and famous people are buried. It was founded by Edward the Confessor in 1050. The construction lasted 300 years. One of the greatest treasures of the Abbey is the oaken Coronation Chair made in 1300. Near the West Door of the Abbey the Unknown Warrior lies in a simple grave commemorating the men who died in the First World War. The memorials to G. G. Byron, R. Burns, W. Shakespeare, W. M. Thackeray, W. Scott attract tourists to the Poets' Corner.

Londoners have a particular affection for St. Paul's Cathedral, the largest Protestant Church in England. It is an architectural masterpiece of the eminent architect Sir Christopher Wren. It stands on the site of the former Saxon and Norman churches destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1656. The building was completed in 1710. Wren is buried under the roof of his own great work. «If you want to see his monument, look around», is written on his tomb.

Trafalgar Square is a place of pilgrimage for visitors. It's the natural centre of London. It is usually full of visitors feeding the pigeons and looking at the statues and fountains. In the middle of the square we can see Nelson's Column with the statue of Nelson at the top. This monument was erected to commemorate Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 where he defeated the French and Spanish fleets. The pedestal of the Column is decorated with bas-reliefs representing Nelson's most famous victories. Here in Trafalgar Square the National Gallery is situated. It contains an outstanding collection of paintings from British, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch and other famous schools.

The Tower of London is also a real attraction for tourists. It is one of the first and most impressive castles built after the Norman invasion of England in 1066. William the Conqueror built it to protect the City of London. The Tower has been used as a royal palace, an observatory, an arsenal, a state prison where many famous people have been executed. It is now a museum where one can see the Crown Jewels, the finest precious stones of the nation and a fine collection of armour, exhibited in the Keep. The security of the Tower is ensured by «Beefeaters» or the Yeoman Warders who still wear their picturesque Tudor uniform. A lot of ancient traditions and customs are carefully kept in the Tower.

And it is true to the whole city. In every part of London you can find a very genuine affection for national traditions.

### **Exercises:**

#### **1. Give the English equivalents:**

Лондон – столица Объединённого Королевства Великобритании и Северной Ирландии, один из крупнейших морских портов и самый притягательный город в мире. Лондон предлагает своим гостям огромное разнообразие достопримечательностей; это город мечты для каждого, кто

интересуется историей и культурой Англии. Здания Парламента – символ Лондона – величественно расположились на северном берегу Темзы. Вестминстерское аббатство является национальной святыней, где короновались короли и королевы, и похоронены знаменитые люди. Собор святого Павла стоит на месте, где находились саксонская и нормандская церкви, разрушенные во время Великого пожара в Лондоне в 1666 году. Посреди Трафальгарской площади мы видим колонну со статуей адмирала Нельсона на вершине. Охрана Тауэра осуществляется «бифитерами» или иоменами (стражами Тауэра), которые носят отличительную яркую форму тюдоровских времён.

## 2. Fill in the blanks:

In this historic city the modern with the old, the present is ever ... of the past, the great and the small live side by side in ... tolerance and ... Its buildings ... all the different areas of its history, for London ... in a unique way to ... its past and at the same time to ... the functions of a modern city. This ... (the Houses of Parliament) is a ... example of Gothic ... One of the greatest ... of Westminster Abbey is the ... Coronation Chair made in 1300. St. Paul's Cathedral is an architectural ... of the architect Sir Christopher Wren. Trafalgar Square is usually full of visitors ... the pigeons and looking at the ... and ... The Tower of London is now a museum where one can see the ..., the finest ... stones of the nation and a fine collection of ... exhibited in the ...

## 3. Finish the sentences:

1. The City, the oldest part of London, is  
the political heart of London.  
the symbol of wealth and luxury.  
the commercial and financial centre of the country.
2. The Houses of Parliament, called officially the Palace of Westminster, were formerly  
a royal prison.  
a palace for kings and queens.  
a national shrine where kings and queens were crowned.
3. Near the West Door of the Abbey the Unknown Warrior lies in a simple grave  
commemorating the men who died in the First World War.  
commemorating Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.  
commemorating the men who died in different wars.
4. The pedestal of the Column is decorated with bas-reliefs representing  
the history of London.  
Nelson's most famous victories.  
Nelson's life.
5. The Tower of London is one of the first and most impressive castles built  
after the Great Fire of London in 1666.  
by Edward the Confessor in 1050.  
after the Norman invasion of England in 1066.

#### 4. Answer the questions on the text:

1. How old is London?
2. What are the main parts of London?
3. What does London offer the visitors?
4. Where are the Houses of Parliament situated?
5. Why is the Clock Tower called «Big Ben»?
6. Is the Palace of Westminster a royal residence or a parliament house?
7. Where are the English kings and queens crowned?
8. When was Westminster Abbey founded?
9. Why is it considered to be a national shrine?
10. Who was the architect of St. Paul's Cathedral?
11. Why did he build this church?
12. Where is he buried?
13. What is the natural centre of London?
14. What is there in the middle of Trafalgar square?
15. What does the National Gallery contain?
16. Who built the Tower of London and why?
17. The Tower has been used only as a royal palace, hasn't it?
18. What is it now?
19. Is there really a genuine affection for national traditions in London?

#### 5. Divide the text into parts.

#### 6. Put the sentences according to the text:

The Tower of London.

London is a unique city.

Westminster Abbey.

Trafalgar Square.

The Houses of Parliament.

St. Paul's Cathedral.

#### Text 4

### OUTSTANDING PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN

#### Topic vocabulary

Paradise lost – Утерянный Рай

Paradise Regained – Возвращенный Рай

Samson Agonists – Самсон-борец

Childe Harold's Pilgrimage – Паломничество Чайлд Гарольда

the Prisoner of Chillon – Шильонский Узник

Hebrew Melodies – Еврейские Мелодии

Ivanhoe – Айвенго

There are many outstanding people in Great Britain. Britain produced statesmen, thinkers, explorers, musicians, writers, scientists and other people who are well known around the world.

### **King Alfred the Great (849–899)**

Is considered the first king of England, is remembered for 2 important things: saving his land from destruction by the invading Danes, and his dedication to education. He brought peace to his land and restored the centres of learning.

### **Queen Elizabeth I (1533–1603)**

During her reign England became a great sea power. Her court became a centre of culture for English musicians, poets, scholars and artists. Her age was one of the greatest periods of English literature. Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare were only a few of the many writers who created their great works at that time.

### **Francis Drake (1540–1596)**

He is one of the most famous of English sailors and pirates.

### **Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)**

During the fight between the king and Parliament in the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was necessary to have a strong leader. It was O. Cromwell, a Member of Parliament. He ruled England firmly but finally dismissed Parliament and became a dictator who ruled the country without the council of the people. He didn't justify the hopes of the people. After his death monarchy was restored.

### **William Shakespeare (1564–1616)**

William Shakespeare was one of the greatest and famous writers. The most famous plays of the writer are *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*. His sonnets, full of music and harmony, praise love, friendship and beauty. His poetry is at the summit of human achievement.

### **John Milton (1608–1674)**

He was a famous poet of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Being blind he wrote the poem *Paradise lost*. The greatness of the poem lies in the power of the language, in the music of the verse, and in the noble spirit that inspires the whole work. Two more great works followed *Paradise Lost*: the long poem *Paradise Regained* and the drama *Samson Agonists*.

### **Isaac Newton (1642–1727)**

Great English scientist Isaac Newton was the discoverer of the Law of Gravitation. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

### **Horatio Nelson (1758–1805)**

He is Britain's national hero. Besides his personal bravery, Nelson was a skillful commander enjoying great love and devotion of the men who served under him. A tall column with his statue stands in Trafalgar square in London, in memory of this great man.

### **George Gordon Byron (1788–1824)**

He was one of the greatest poets of England. When he was 21, he became a member of the House of Lords. He visited many countries where he wrote cantos, novels and dramas. Byron's creative work is usually divided into 4 periods: the London period (the first two cantos *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, *Hebrew Melodies*, *Oriental poems*), the Swiss period (*the Prisoner of Chillon*, the drama *Manfred*, and the third canto *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*), the Italian period (*the last canto of Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, the novel in verse *Don Juan*) and the Greek period (*a lyrical poem On this Day I Complete my Thirty-sixth Year* and others). He became a symbol of liberation struggle and a Greek national hero.

### **Walter Scott (1771–1832)**

He is a Scottish writer, a born story-teller and master of dialogue, one of the greatest historical novelists. His famous works are *Ivanhoe*, *Quentin Durward*, *the Talisman*.

### **Queen Victoria (1819–1901)**

She is the longest-reigning monarch in English history. At the time when monarchy was losing its place as an integral part of the British governing system, Victoria managed to establish it as a respected and popular institution.

### **Charles Dickens (1812–1870)**

He wrote a number of sketches and novels. Such his works as *Pickwick club*, *Oliver Twist*, *Dombey and Son*, *David Copperfield*, *Little Dorrit*, *Bleak House* are famous to everybody. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

### **Ernest Rutherford (1871–1937)**

He is a great scientist who has opened to man a new and enormous source of energy. He showed that atom is made of smaller parts and the atom can be bombarded by neutrons so that the electrons can be thrown off and the nucleus can be broken or «split». In the process of splitting the nucleus, matter is converted into energy.

### **Winston Churchill (1874–1965)**

He was Prime Minister and during the Second World War he successfully secured military aid and moral support from the United States. He travelled a lot during the war, establishing close ties with the leaders and co-ordinated a military strategy which finally brought about Hitler's defeat. His tiresome efforts gained admiration from all over the world.

### **Agatha Christie (1890–1976)**

She is known to millions of people throughout the world as «the Queen of Crime». She wrote nearly 70 novels and more than a 100 short stories. Her most famous characters are Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple.

In 1962 a UNESCO report stated that she was the most widely read British author in the world, with Shakespeare coming second.

### **Margaret Thatcher (1925–)**

She was the first woman in European history to be elected Prime Minister who won 3 consecutive terms. She was the longest-serving Prime Minister in Britain since 1827. She limited government control, giving individuals greater independence from the state and ending interference in the economy. She became known as *the Iron Lady* because of her strict control over cabinet and the country's economic policies.

#### **Exercises:**

##### **1. Give the English equivalents:**

Он принес мир на свои земли, возродил образовательные центры. Во время ее правления Англия приобрела огромную морскую мощь. Он является одним из самых известных моряков и пиратов. После его смерти возродилась монархия. Уильям Шекспир был одним из самых великих и знаменитых писателей. Величие поэмы лежит в силе языка, в музыкальности ритма и в благородстве духа, который вдохновляет всё произведение. Он Британский национальный герой. Он был одним из самых великих поэтов Англии. Она является дольше всех правящим монархом Англии. Она написала около 70 романов и более ста коротких произведений. Это была первая женщина в европейской истории, которую избрали премьер-министром и которая выиграла 3 последующих срока.

##### **2. Fill in the blanks:**

There are many ... people in Great Britain. Her ... became a centre of culture for English musicians, poets, scholars and artists. During the fight between the king and Parliament in the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was necessary to have a strong.... His sonnets, full of music and harmony, praise love, ... and beauty. Two more great works followed *Paradise Lost*: the long poem ... and the drama .... Byron's creative work is usually divided into 4 periods: the London period, the ... period, the ... period and the ... period. He showed that atom is made of smaller parts and the atom can be ... so that the electrons can be thrown off and the nucleus can be broken or «split». He was Prime Minister and during the Second World War he successfully ... military aid and moral support from the United States. She became known as *the Iron Lady* because of her strict control over ... and the country's economic policies.

##### **3. Finish the sentences:**

Britain produced statesmen, thinkers, ... Is considered the first king of England, is remembered for 2 important things: ... . Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare were ... . During the fight between the king and Parliament in the 17<sup>th</sup> century it ... . William Shakespeare was one of ... . Two more great works followed *Paradise Lost*: ... . Nelson was

a skillful commander enjoying great ... . Byron's creative work is usually divided into 4 periods: ... . He was Prime Minister and during the Second World War he ... . She became known as *the Iron Lady* because of...

#### 4. Answer the questions on the text:

Who

- wrote *Othello*?
- wrote books about H. Poirot?
- was the greatest historical novelists?
- wrote a novel *David Copperfield*?
- was the longest-reigning monarch in English history?
- was a Prime Minister during the Second World War?
- saved his land from destruction by the Danes?
- has opened to man a new source of energy?
- was called *The Iron Lady*?
- was a member of the British House of Lords, a poet and a Greek's national hero?
- was the most talented admiral of Britain?
- made England a great sea state?
- was the most famous English pirates?
- was a blind poet?

#### 5. Divide the text into parts.

#### 6. Put the sentences according to the text:

1. It was O. Cromwell, a Member of Parliament.
2. She was the first woman in European history to be elected Prime Minister who won 3 consecutive terms.
3. She is known to millions of people throughout the world as «the Queen of Crime».
4. He was Prime Minister and during the Second World War he successfully secured military aid and moral support from the United States.
5. His famous works are *Ivanhoe*, *Quentin Durward*, *the Talisman*.
6. Such his works as *Pickwick club*, *Oliver Twist*, *Dombey and Son*, *David Copperfield*, *Little Dorrit*, *Bleak House* are famous to everybody.
7. Byron's creative work is usually divided into 4 periods: ...
8. A tall column with his statue stands in Trafalgar square in London, in memory of this great man.
9. He was a famous poet of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
10. William Shakespeare was one of the greatest and famous writers.
11. During her reign England became a great sea power.



## Текст 5

### ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL LIFE IN BRITAIN

Artistic and cultural life in Britain is rather rich. It passed several main stages in its development.

The Saxon King Alfred<sup>1</sup> encouraged the arts and culture. The chief debt owed to him by English literature is for his translations of and commentaries on Latin works.

Art, culture and literature flowered during the Elizabethan<sup>2</sup> age, during the reign of Elizabeth I<sup>3</sup>; it was the period of English domination of the oceans.

It was at this time that William Shakespeare lived.

The empire, which was very powerful under Queen Victoria<sup>4</sup>, saw another cultural and artistic heyday as a result of industrialization and the expansion of international trade.

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

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

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

London is one of the leading world centres for music, drama, opera and dance. Festivals held in towns and cities throughout the country attract much interest. Many British playwrights, composers, sculptors, painters, writers, actors, singers and dancers are known all over the world.

The British Council<sup>5</sup> promotes knowledge of British culture and literature overseas. It organizes British participation in international exhibitions and encourages professional interchange in all cultural fields between Britain and other countries.

#### References

- 1 Alfred [‘ælfred] – саксонский король Альфред (849–901)
- 2 Elizabethan – елизаветинский (*обыкн. об архитектурном стиле, литературе, музыке*)
- 3 Elizabeth I – королева Елизавета I (*правившая Англией с 1558 по 1603 г.*)
- 4 Queen Victoria – королева Виктория (*правившая с 1837 по 1901 г.*)
- 5 British Council – Британский совет (*независимая организация по развитию культурных связей с зарубежными странами. Создана в 1934 г.*)

## **Exercises:**

### **1. Fill in the blanks:**

The chief debt owed to him by ... is for his translations of and commentaries on Latin works. The empire, which was very powerful under ..., saw another cultural and artistic heyday as a result of ... and the expansion of international trade. The madness of the ... the development of culture. A great number of ... of the world and from all stages in the development of nature, man and art. ... held in towns and cities throughout the country ... much interest. The British Council<sup>5</sup> promotes ... and literature overseas. It organizes British participation in international ... and encourages professional interchange in all cultural fields ... and other countries.

### **2. Finish the sentences:**

Artistic and cultural life in Britain ... . The Saxon King Alfred ... . Art, culture and literature flowered during ... . The empire, which was very powerful under Queen Victoria, saw ... . Immigrants who have arrived from all parts of the Commonwealth since 1945 ... . London is one of the leading world centres for ... . The British Council promotes... .

### **3. Answer the questions on the text:**

1. What can you tell about artistic and cultural life in Britain?
2. When did art, culture and literature flower?
3. At what time did William Shakespeare live?
4. What caused much damage in the First World War?
5. Where have immigrants arrived from since 1945?
6. Do museums and galleries display precious and interesting finds from all parts of the world and from all stages in the development of nature, man and art?
7. Is London one of the leading world centres for music, drama, opera and dance?

### **4. Divide the text into parts.**

### **5. Put the sentences according to the text:**

1. London is one of the leading world centres for music, drama, opera and dance.
2. Immigrants have brought their cultures and habits with them.
3. The Saxon King Alfred encouraged the arts and culture.
4. Monuments and traces of past greatness are everywhere.
5. The British Council promotes knowledge of British culture and literature overseas.
6. German air raids caused much damage.
7. Artistic and cultural life in Britain is rather rich.

## Text 6

### INIGO JONES AND CHRISTOPHER WREN

Inigo Jones was the first man to bring the Italian Renaissance style<sup>2</sup> to Great Britain. He had studied in Italy for some years, and in 1615 became Surveyor-General of the works<sup>3</sup>.

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

His two most revolutionary designs were the Banqueting House<sup>4</sup> in Whitehall and the Queen's House at Greenwich<sup>5</sup>. The plan of the latter, completely symmetrical, with its strict classical details and the principal rooms on the first floor, influenced architecture in Britain. But not during the lifetime of Inigo Jones. All those who followed him had to adapt this new foreign building technique to English ways and English climate, English building materials and English craftsmen.

Christopher Wren<sup>6</sup> was the man who did it. He was a mathematician, an astronomer, and, above all, an inventor. He invented new ways of using traditional English building materials, brick and ordinary roofing tiles, to keep within the limits of classical design. He, like Inigo Jones, was appointed Surveyor-General to the Crown when he was about thirty years old, and almost immediately he started rebuilding the churches of London, burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666. Wren's churches are chiefly known by their beautiful spires which show in their structure the greatest engineering cunning.

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

The best-known buildings designed by Ch. Wren are St. Paul's Cathedral in London and the Sheldonian Theatre<sup>7</sup> in Oxford.

The period of the Industrial Revolution<sup>8</sup> had no natural style of its own. Businessmen wanted art for their money. The architect was to provide a facade in the Gothic style, or he was to turn the building into something like a Norman castle, or a Renaissance palace, or even an Oriental mosque. For theatres and opera houses the theatrical Baroque style was often most suitable. Churches were more often than not built in the Gothic style. The twentieth century has seen great changes in Britain's architecture.

#### References

1. Inigo Jones – Иниго Джоунз (1573–1652), выдающийся английский архитектор
2. Italian Renaissance style – стиль итальянского Ренессанса
3. Surveyor-General of the works – главный руководитель строительных работ с неограниченными полномочиями

4. the Banqueting House – Банкуэтинг-Хаус (*расположен на улице Уайтхолл в Лондоне; построен в классическом стиле в 1612–1622 гг. Иниго Джоунзом*)

5. Greenwich – Гринвич (*район на юго-востоке Лондона*)

6. Christopher Wren – Кристофер Рен, величайший английский архитектор (1632–1723)

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

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

### Exercises:

#### 1. Give the English equivalents:

1. Он учился в Италии в течение нескольких лет ...
2. Стиль, которым он строил, был чисто итальянским ...
3. Его два самых революционных проекта были ...
4. План последнего, полностью симметричного, с его строгими классическими деталями и основными комнатами на первом этаже, повлиял на архитектуру Великобритании.
5. Он был математиком, астрономом, и, прежде всего, изобретателем.
6. Он изобрел новые способы использования традиционных английских строительных материалов ...
7. Он начал восстанавливать церкви Лондона, сожженные дотла в «Великом Огне» 1666.
8. Самые известные здания, разработанные Кристофером Реном ...
9. Архитектор должен был обеспечить фасад в Готическом стиле ...
10. Двадцатое столетие увидело большие изменения в британской архитектуре.

#### 2. Fill in the blanks:

1. Inigo Jones was the first man to bring the ... style to Great Britain.
2. His buildings were very ... in character, with regularly spaced columns along the front.
3. His two most revolutionary designs were ... and ... at Greenwich.
4. Christopher ... was the man who did it.
5. He invented new ..., brick and ordinary roofing tiles, to keep within the limits of classical design.

6. Wren's churches are chiefly known by their ... which show in their structure the ... .
7. The best-known buildings designed by Ch. Wren are ... in London and ... in Oxford.
8. The architect was to provide a ..., or he was to turn the building into something like a ..., or a Renaissance palace, or even an Oriental mosque.

**3. Finish the sentences:**

1. Inigo Jones was the first man...
2. The style he built in was ...
3. His buildings were ...
4. All those who followed him had to adapt Christopher Wren was ...
5. He invented ...
6. He, like Inigo Jones, was appointed ...
7. Wren's churches are chiefly known by ...
8. The best-known buildings designed by Ch. Wren are ...
9. The architect was to provide a facade ...
10. Churches were more often...

**4. Divide the text into parts.**

**6. Put the sentences according to the text:**

1. The twentieth century has seen great changes in Britain's architecture.
2. The period of the Industrial Revolution
3. St. Paul's Cathedral in London and the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford.
4. Christopher Wren.
5. New foreign building technique.
6. Un-English in character buildings.
7. Inigo Jones.

## ADDITIONAL TEXTS FOR READING

### Text 7

#### ENGLISH TODAY

**Read the text with a dictionary and answer the questions that follow it.**

There are over 2,700 languages in the world, but English today is the most important international language. Four hundred million people speak English as their first language. Six hundred million people speak it either as a second or as a foreign language. That is 20 per cent of the world's population.

English has become a world language, because it is spoken as a mother tongue in all the continents of the world. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was brought to North America by the first colonisers. Then in the 18<sup>th</sup> century English was brought to Australia, later on to Africa and India.

Millions of people are learning English today. It is the language of summit meetings and international conferences. It's also the language of the United Nations. Foreign political leaders usually speak to international journalists in English. The latest discoveries and ideas in all spheres of science and medicine appear in special international journals, of which 60 percent are in English. 80 percent of all information in the world's computers is in English.

Besides, there are a lot of brilliant world-famous English, American, Canadian and Australian writers and poets who gave the world their wonderful works. The reader can fully appreciate them only in the original.

And finally, many young people learn English as a foreign language because it is the language of rock and pop music.

So, English can be used for many different purposes and serve as a key to other cultures and their riches.

**Answer the questions:**

1. How many languages are there in the world?
2. Why has English become a world language?
3. What countries are English spoken to?
4. Why do you young people speak English?
5. What for is English used?

## Text 8

### FROM THE HISTORY OF LONDON

**Read the text with a dictionary and answer the questions that follow it.**

London is without doubt one of the most fascinating cities in the world. It has a long history. The birthplace of London is the old city. Here, on the banks of the Thames was a small settlement, called Lyndin that means a lonely port. To this place in the year 55 B.C. Julius Caesar came from Rome. Britain was conquered and for 400 remained a province. The Romans called the place Londinium and enclosed it in wall, parts of which still remain. There is a street called London Wall and there are a number of districts named after gates in the old wall – Old gate, Older gate ... .

The Romans made it a large and rich city and built long and straight roads, beautiful palaces, shops and villas. Trade was growing.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century the Romans left Britain. The Saxons and Brides and Danes came to the British shores. They conquered the land and ruined the city. During nearly 400 years Londinium lay in ruins.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century and later Saxon kings began to rebuild the ruined city of Londinium. Soon 2 miles west from it another center, Westminster Abbey was founded.

In 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, came and made London the capital of Norman Britain, as the Normen were masters of Britain for 500. They brought with them Latin and French civilization.

Westminster Abbey was finished and William was the first king to be crowned there. Since then for nearly 1000 years, all English monarchs have been crowned there. Many of them are buried there too.

At that time the Tower was built on the Thames.

London has overcome two big catastrophes. In the year 1665 the Plague broke out and it carried off 1/5 of population. So many people left the city and escaped to the villages in the surrounding countryside. The second was the Great Fire of London. It was burning for 4 days. It's also interesting to note that the Plague has gone with the fire. It also destroyed much of the city. These days not many people live in the city centre, but London has spread further towards into the country, including surrounding villages.

**Answer the questions on the text:**

1. What are the previous names of London?
2. Who occupied London?
3. What's Westminster Abbey noted for?
4. What great catastrophes has London survived?
5. Who conquered London? What was their influence?

## Text 9

### MUSEUMS OF LONDON

**Read the text with a dictionary and form a question after each paragraph on the main fact or information contained in it.**

There are many quite different museums in London. *The British Museum* was, and probably is, one of the most famous libraries on the world. The British Museum Library contains about 6 mln. books and in the centre of the Museum there is the large circular Reading Room with the reference section of 30,000 volumes on open shelves and also the catalogues for the whole library.

The Museum has a priceless collection of rare books and manuscripts, including illuminated Bibles, books printed by Caxton in the XV century and the earliest editions of Shakespeare. The collection of foreign books is also outstanding.

There is a wonderful art gallery in the British Museum too. It has a unique collection of sculpture, ceramics, drawings and paintings from ancient time up today.

One of the London's newest museums is *the Museum of London*, opened in 1976. The aim of the Museum is to do justice to London's long history. The exhibits start with diagrams and pictures of the formation of the land on which London stands and end with a view of the modern complex city of today. Of course as London constantly grows and changes, its history can really never end. So the museum holds frequent special exhibitions on subjects of interest – the latest archeological discoveries, for example.

If you are in south London, you may as well visit *the Museum of British Transport*, which tells you the story of public transport in Britain. The first double-decker bus was built in 1851, but the upper deck did not have a roof until about 1930. The passengers were given raincoats to put on if it started to rain. You can see an early petrol-engine bus and one of George Stephenson's later trains in the museum too.

Near London's centre, a couple of hundred yards from Trafalgar Square, is a tavern known as *the «Sherlock Holmes»*, which is dedicated to preserving the legend of the great detective. Displayed here are such «authentic» exhibits as the head of the Hound of the Baskervilles and the coiled cobra described in the mystery of the «Speckled Band». On the upper floor you can find a complete reconstruction of Sherlock Holmes's living room from his lodging at the fictional 221 b Baker Street. The remarkable collection of «Holmesiana» includes revolvers, handcuffs, a police lantern, a model of a Hanson cab and many other things which will give you the feeling that Holmes just might have existed, after all. No wonder that dozens of letters in the name of Sherlock Holmes arrive at his Baker Street office.



The world's famous *Madame Tussaud's museum* of waxworks, is situated only a few steps from Sherlock Holmes's Baker Street. When Madame Tussaud was 17 she made a wax portrait of Voltair and followed this with death-masks of Marie Antoinette, Robespierre and other victims of the French Revolution. She came to England in 1802, travelling with her exhibition for some thirty years before settling down permanently in Baker Street. Realism of her figures and accuracy of her costumes made the Museum quite famous. You may see here life-size wax portraits of kings, queens, statesmen, well-known writers, singers and even notorious criminals.

**Answer the questions on the text:**

1. How many museums are there in London?
2. Where is a wonderful art gallery situated?
3. What is one of the London's newest museums?
4. What does the Museum of British Transport tell you?
5. What does the remarkable collection of «Holmesiana» include?

**Text 10**

**LONDON PARKS**

**Read the text with a dictionary and answer the questions that follow it.**

Londoners do not have to go far to find green fields and flowers. London is rich in parks and gardens.

London parks are the most beautiful areas of the city. There are lawns and flower-beds, fountains and avenues in the parks, but mostly the parks consist of trees and grass and water. They are planned to look very natural.

In summer you can seat in St. James's Park by the side of the lake and listen to the band playing music.

*Green Park* is a different kind of park. It is a quiet, wooded place.

The *Hyde Park* is the most beautiful. There are a lot of trees, green lawns and a few ponds. The ducks and swans are swimming in the pools. Artificial lake Serpentine running the whole length of the park is very popular with Londoners where they can sit on the grass, bathe or boat. People are allowed to do everything there. You can sing or dance, or cry and nobody will make you a remark. In Hyde Park there is also speaker's corner. It is a big open place, where a man can stand on the chair, or on a platform, or on the ground and speak everything he likes. You can listen to him, ask questions or you may pass without any reaction.

Crossing the Serpentine Bridge you will find yourself in *Kensington Gardens*, which is a favourite playground of children. Children and adults enjoy sailing model boats on the Round Pond here.

There are a lot of other wonderful parks in London. Among them there is *Queen Park, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Richmond Park, Regent's Park* with the Zoo and so on.

**Answer the questions on the text:**

1. How is Green Park different from St. James's Park?
2. What is Hyde Park famous for?
3. What can people do at the speaker's corner?
4. What park is more popular among children? Why?
5. What other parks do you know?

**Text 10**

**ENGLISH CHARACTER**

**Read the text with a dictionary and answer the questions that follow it.**

The British have a reputation of being conservative, have established values without questioning their validity; have a strong sense of being different from others. They keep to the left side of the road and use double-deckers. They stick to their own measurement system and continue to measure distances in miles (not kms) and yards (not meters). They buy cheese in pounds and ounces, milk in pints, petrol in gallons.

English people don't like displaying their emotions even in dangerous and tragic situations. The Englishman prefers his own house to an apartment in a block of flats, because he doesn't wish his doing to be overlooked by his neighbours. They say «An Englishman's house is his castle». The average British family lives in a semi-detached house with a garden in the south of England. They own their house which is situated in the suburbs of a large town. The house has three bedrooms. On average they have two children and a pet. The family drives a two-year-old Ford Cortina.

They are rather conservative in many ways. They love familiar things. They keep to old traditions. The Britons are practical and realistic. English people are famous for their sense of humor. We can find numerous limericks, jokes, nursery rhymes and tongue twisters.

English people show great love for animals. Pet dogs, cats, hens, canaries and many other animals have a good life in Britain.

The typical Englishmen work in London bank but live in the countryside, in a house with a lovely garden. Every day he reads the Times newspaper and does the crossword on the way to work. He never speaks to anybody on the train, but will talk to you about the weather or cricket if you meet him in the pub at lunch time. He always wears a dark suit to work and always carries an umbrella. He gave up smoking his pipe and wearing a bowler hat some years

ago. At the weekend he wears an old tweed jacket and a pair of gardening trousers. He likes plain, simple food and drinks tea at every opportunity. In his free time, he works in the garden, plays golf or takes his dog for a walk. He is suspicious of all foreigners. He is kind and polite to his wife but doesn't show her a lot of affection. His wife is a snob who dresses rather badly. They both admire members of the Royal Family and copy their accents. He is proud of his son, who is at Cambridge University, (but would rather die than tell him). He is rather worried about his daughter, who is currently living with her punk, but hopes that she will eventually marry a doctor or an accountant.

The most popular hobby is gardening and the most popular sports are fishing, football and tennis.

**Answer the questions on the text.**

1. What do you think influenced the formation of the English character?
2. What surprises you in the way the British people live?
3. Can you give any provements of the English conservatism?
4. Give a character sketch of the typical Englishman.

**Text 12**

**CUSTOMS, HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN**

**Read the text with a dictionary and answer the questions that follow it.**

The 6 ravens have been kept in the Tower of London now for centuries. They used to come in from Essex for food cracks when the Tower was used as a palace. Over the years people thought that if the ravens ever left the Tower, the Monarchy would fall. So Charles declared that 6 ravens should always be kept in the Tower and should be paid a wage from the treasury. Sometimes they live as long as 25 years but their wings are clipped, so they can't fly away, and when a raven dies another raven is brought from Essex.

Some ceremonies are traditional, such as the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour, the State Opening of Parliament. The ceremony of trooping the Colour is one of the most fascinating. It is staged in front of Buckingham Palace. It is held annually on the monarch's official birthday which is the second Saturday in June. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is Colonel-in-Chief of the Life Guards.

She is escorted by Horse Guards riding to the Parade. The ceremony is accompanied by the music of bands. The procession is headed by the Queen.

In England the Queen opens the parliament once a year, she goes to the House of Parliament in the golden coach, she wears the crown and the crown

jewels. She opens the Parliament with a speech in the House of Lords. The cavalymen wear red uniforms, shining helmets, long black boots and long white gloves. These men are Life Guards.

In the House of Lords, Chancellor sits on the sack of wool. This tradition comes from the old times when sheep wool made England rich and powerful.

In the House of Commons there are two rows of benches: one row is for the government and the other one is for the opposition. The benches are divided by a strip of carpet, which is also a tradition from old days, when that division prevented two parties from fighting during the debates.

The Englishmen have love for old things. They prefer houses with a fireplace and a garden to flats or modern houses with central heating. The houses traditionally are not very high. They are usually two-storied. British busses are double-decked and red, mail-boxes are yellow, the cars keep to the left side of road – all these are traditions.

Most English love gardens. Sometimes the garden in front of the house is a little square covered with cement painted green in imitation of grass and a box of flowers. They love flowers very much.

The English people love animals very much, too. Sometimes their pets have a far better life in Britain than anywhere else. In Britain they usually buy things for their pets in pet-shops. In recent years they began to show love for more «exotic» animals, such as crocodiles, elephants, and so on.

Queuing is normal in Britain, when they are waiting for a bus or waiting to be served in a shop. People will become very angry, and very rude, if you 'jump' the queue.

Traditionally telephone boxes, letter boxes and double-decker busses are red.

Old customs and traditions may seem strange to visitors but the English still keep up them, which mix with everyday life in the streets.

**Answer the questions on the text.**

1. What categories can you divide British traditions into?
2. What's the role of customs and traditions in the life of the British people?
3. What hobbies do the Englishmen have?
4. What is normal for Britains but seems strange and unusual to you?
5. What do English people love?

**Be ready to speak about Great Britain. Use the texts from this chapter as a help to your topic.**

## QUIZ ON GREAT BRITAIN

Use the information from all the texts and your background knowledge to answer the questions of the quiz on Great Britain.

1. Great Britain is situated ... .
2. British Isles comprise two large islands: ... .
3. The official name of Great Britain is ... .
4. The United Kingdom is divided into four parts: ... .
5. What are the capitals of these parts?
6. Name some rivers of Great Britain.
7. From this list choose the cities which are situated in the United Kingdom: Edinburgh, Dresden, Washington, Bristol, Frankfurt, Oslo, Glasgow, Liverpool, Chicago, Los Angeles, Manchester.
8. Who is the Head of the State?
9. Who belongs the real power to?
10. British Parliament consists of two Houses: ... .
11. The British Flag is called ... .
12. Which of the following traditions belong to the United Kingdom: to remember dead parents, grandparents or relatives on the first Saturday in November; to open the Parliament once a year, to make crowns out of flowers and jump over the fire on one of the summers months; Trooping the Colour; Chancellor sits on the sack of wool.
13. Great Britain is separated from the continent by:
  - a) The Pacific Ocean
  - b) The Irish Sea
  - c) The Bristol Channel
  - d) The English Channel
14. 650 members of the House of Commons are elected every:
  - a) 2 years
  - b) 3 years
  - c) 4 years
  - d) 5 years
15. Choose the holidays which are celebrated in the United Kingdom: Easter; Halloween; Kupala; Victory Day; Guy Fawakes Night; Christmas; The first of May; Radunits; April Fool's Day.
16. The symbols of each part are:
  - a) England...
  - b) Scotland...
  - c) Wales...
  - d) Northern Ireland...

## СПИСОК ИСПОЛЬЗОВАННОЙ И РЕКОМЕНДУЕМОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ

1. Барановский, Л.С. Добрый день, Британия!: Пособие для учащихся школ (классов) с углубл. изуч. англ. яз. (9–11 кл.), колледжей, лицеев, гимназий, студентов вузов / Л.С. Барановский, Д.Д. Козикис. – Минск: А-во Сади; М.: «Московский лицей», 1997. – 335 с.
2. Выборова, Г.Е. 70 устных тем по английскому языку: пособие к базовому курсу / Г.Е. Выборова, О.П. Мельчина. – М.: АСТ-ПРЕСС, 2000. – 160 с.
3. Ощепкова, В.В. О Британии в кратце / В.В. Ощепкова, И.И. Шустилова. – М.: Новая школа, 1997. – 176 с.
4. Попок, Н.В. Экзамен по английскому языку: пособие для абитуриентов / Н.В. Попок, О.Л. Жолудь, А.Ф. Круталевич. – 4-е изд. – Минск: ТетраСистемс, 2002. – 208 с.
5. Сушкевич, А.С. Английский язык: Устные темы с упражнениями / А.С. Сушкевич, М.А. Маглыш. – 6-е изд. – Минск: Аверсэв, 2005. – 255 с.
6. Фастовец, Р.В. Практика английской речи. 2 курс / Р.В. Фастовец. – Минск: ТетраСистемс, 2006. – 400 с.
7. Червякова, Л.Д. Английский язык для поступающих в вузы : учеб. пособие / Л.Д. Червякова. – М.: УНИКУМ-ЦЕНТР, 1997. – 245 с.
8. Belarus // The World Book Encyclopedia: 22 Volumes. – Chicago-London-Sydney-Toronto: World Book Inc., 1994. – Vol. 2. – P. 224 a – 224 d.
9. Great Britain // The World Book Encyclopedia: 22 Volumes. – Chicago-London-Sydney-Toronto: World Book Inc., 1994. – Vol. 8. – P. 337–338.
10. United Kingdom // The World Book Encyclopedia: 22 Volumes. – Chicago-London-Sydney-Toronto: World Book Inc., 1994. – Vol. 20. – P. 48–75.
11. Welcome to Belarus [Электронный ресурс]. – Электрон. дан. (700 Мб). – Минск: УП «РИФТУР», 2006. – 1 электрон. диск (CD-ROM).