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# ***BRITISH STUDIES***

Саратовский государственный университет имени Н. Г. Чернышевского

Писаренко А.Н.

# Страноведение. Великобритания

Учебное пособие

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**Писаренко А.Н.**

**Страноведение. Великобритания.:** методическое пособие для преподавания курса «Британоведение»/Сост. Писаренко А.Н. – Саратов, 2011. – 34 с.

Данное пособие представляет собой сборник текстов, тезисов и заданий, направленных на получение основных сведений о Великобритании и могут быть использованы для развития навыков ознакомительного чтения и расширения лексического запаса. Все тексты подверглись незначительной адаптации.

Каждый блок оснащен заданиями творческого характера и требуют самостоятельной работы с активным использованием ресурсов Интернет. Задания различаются в зависимости от содержания, формы и вокабуляра текста.

Пособие предназначено для преподавателей и студентов высших учебных заведений, изучающих английский язык и интересующихся страноведением Великобритании, а также может быть использовано в качестве ресурса дополнительного материала для занятий по курсу «Британоведение».

Рекомендовано к использованию в учебном процессе:

*Кафедра английского языка и  
межкультурной коммуникации СГУ им. Н.Г. Чернышевского*

# GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Ireland, the British Isles, the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the Irish Sea, the English Channel, Strait of Dover, Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast.

**Search the information to fill the table.**

Country					
Capital					
Flag					
Language					
Symbol					
Currency					
Patron Saint					
The people					

**Mark the following objects on the map.**

**Atlantic Ocean** - the body of water in which the British Isles are located

**Belfast** - the capital of Northern Ireland

**Cardiff** - the capital of Wales

**Celtic Sea** - the sea south of Ireland

**England** - the largest area in the United Kingdom; it is attached to Scotland and Wales

**Edinburgh** - the capital of Scotland

**English Channel** - the body of water off southern England which separates it from France

**Ireland** - (the Republic of Ireland) - a country west of England across the Irish Sea (not part of the United Kingdom)

**Irish Sea** - the body of water that separates England and Ireland

**London** - the capital of England (and the capital of the United Kingdom)

**North Sea** - the body of water northeast of the British Isles separating it from northwestern Europe

**Northern Ireland** - a part of the United Kingdom bordering the Republic of Ireland on the northeast

**Scotland** - a part of the United Kingdom bordering England on the north

**Wales** - a part of the United Kingdom bordering England on the southwest

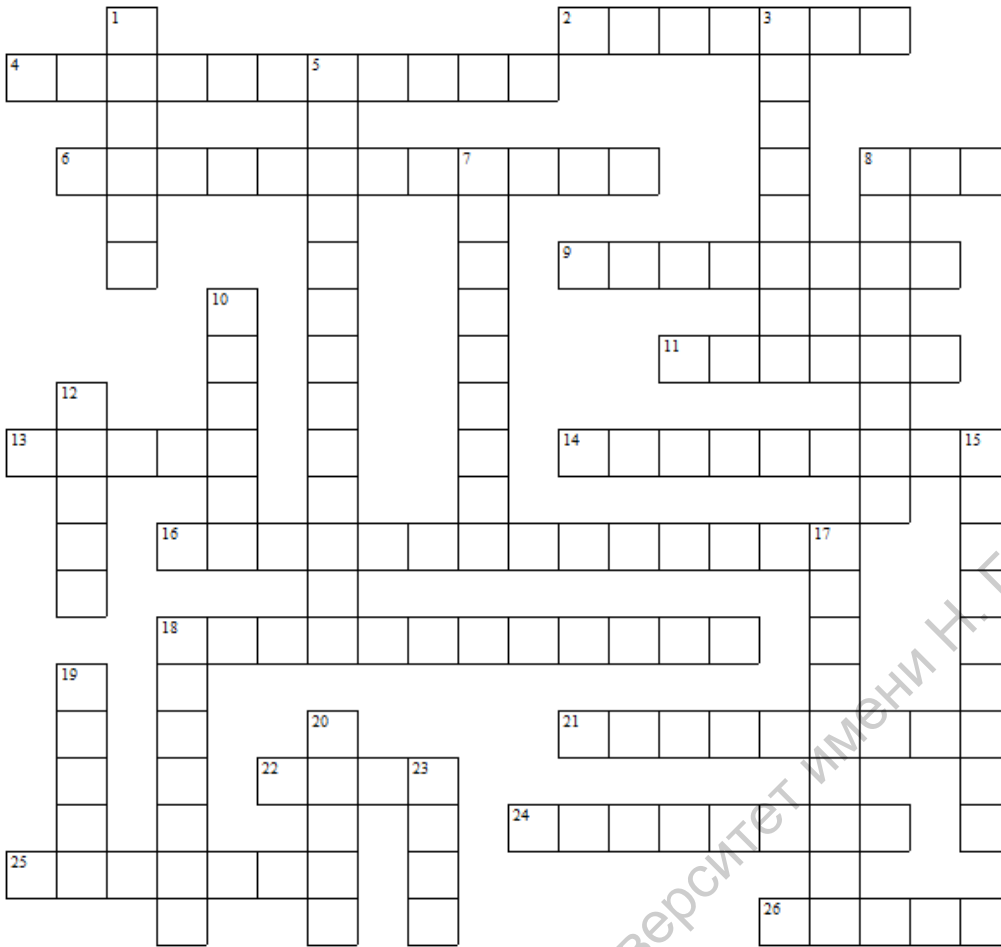
# United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Саратовский государственный университет имени Н. Г. Чернышевского

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**Solve the crossword.**



Across:

2. A London football team.
4. Most famous playwright.
6. The area represented by an MP.
8. The state television channel.
9. The most westerly point of English mainland.
11. London stands on the river .....
13. Unit of currency.
14. Large county in northern England.
16. The water between England and France.
18. Right-wing political party.
21. Prince William's wife.
22. South-eastern county.
24. One of London's airports.
25. Capital of Northern Ireland.
26. Glasgow's river.

Down:

1. Left-wing political party.
3. The water between Britain and Holland.
5. He's heir to the throne.
7. Capital of Scotland.
8. Highest mountain in Britain.
10. Capital of England.
12. A channel port.
15. The Queen.
17. City on the Mersey.
18. Capital of Wales.
19. There are 100 of them in a pound.
20. City on the Tay.
23. River at Newcastle.

## THE UK SYMBOLS





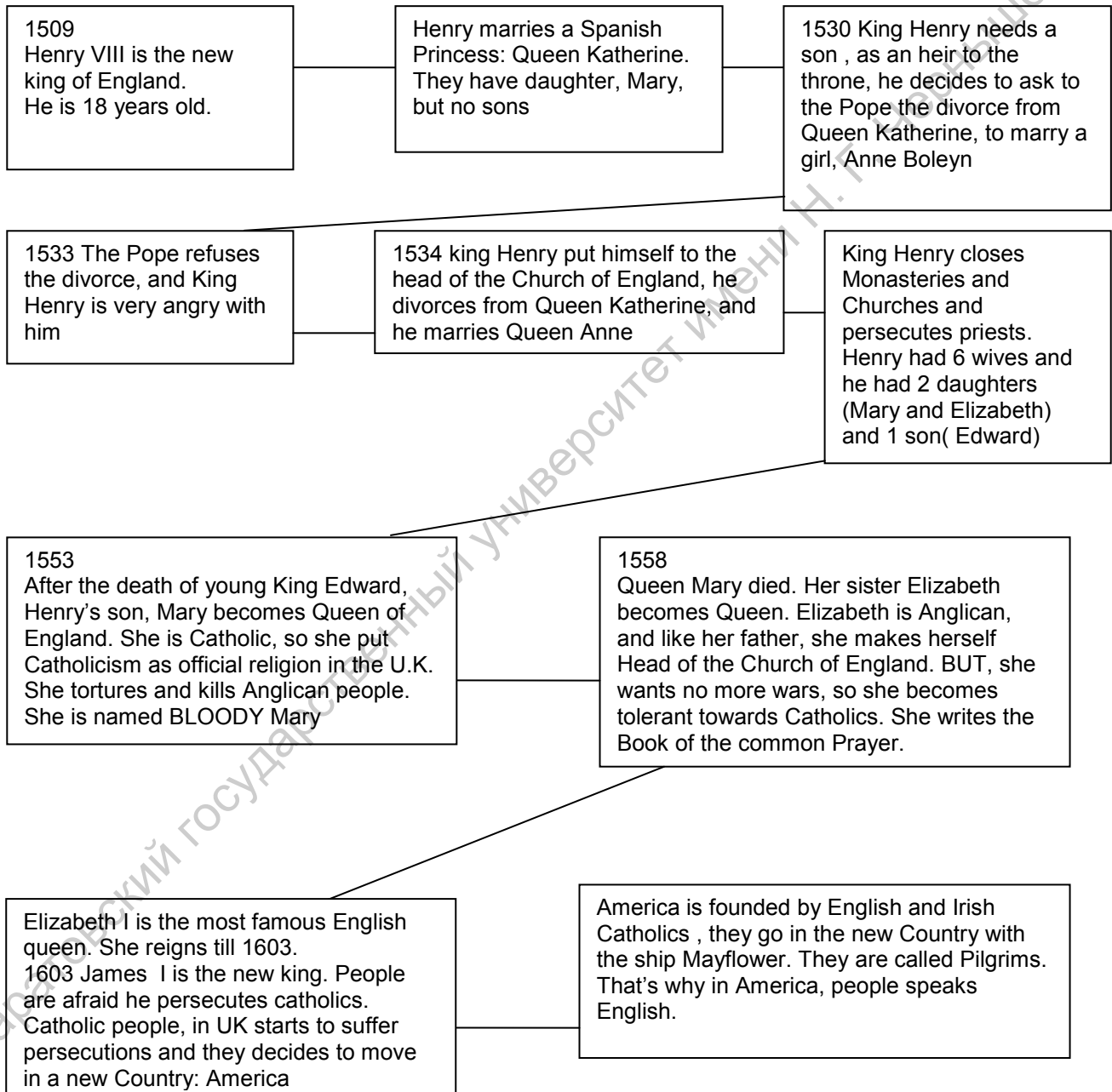


# RELIGION IN THE UK

The official religion in Great Britain is Anglicanism. The Queen is the head of the Church of England.

But in the past, until 1534, the official religion was Roman Catholicism.

Study **RELIGIOUS TIMELINE** and get ready to discuss the questions below.



1. What is the official religion in Great Britain?

2. Who is the head of the Church of England?
3. What did Henry VIII do in 1509?
4. Why did Henry VIII want to divorce with Queen Catherine?
5. What happened in 1534 ?
6. Who was Bloody Mary?
7. What did Queen Elizabeth write?
8. What happened to Catholics during the reign of James I?
9. Why do people in America speak English?

## **LEGAL SYSTEM OF GREAT BRITAIN**



**1** Magistrate's court

- hears serious cases for the first time and decides if there is enough evidence to send the case to a higher court
- tries people accused of minor crimes such as theft, drunkenness, speeding etc.
- hears applications for licenses to run pubs, betting shops, other public places

- 400 of them are in England and Wales
- 30 000 unpaid 'lay' magistrates or Justices of the Peace (JPs) deal with minor crimes
- 3 JPs serve one court. But being just ordinary citizens chosen by the local community because of their good reputation and appointed by the Lord Chancellor on the recommendation of advisory committees, they are advised on points of law by a legally qualified clerk.
- £ 5000 fine and 6 month of imprisonment are the maximum JPs can sentence to.
- 600 years they exist.

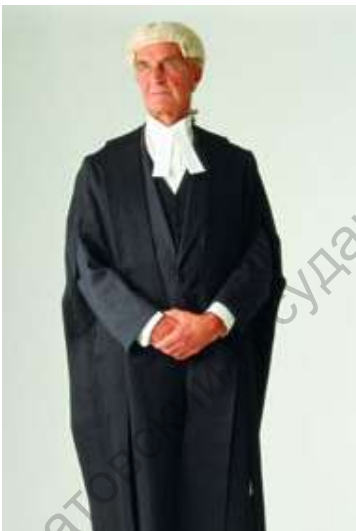
2

Crown court



- Is presided over by the judge who must make sure that the trial is properly conducted, that the counsels for the prosecution and defense comply with the rules. The judge also summarizes the evidences presented by both sides. BUT...
- ...the verdict is reached by the jury of 12 citizens randomly selected from the local electoral rolls.
- Deals with serious criminal cases.
- Accepts appeals from the courts of first instance.

County court



**1. Deals with civil cases like:**

- consumer disputes, for example, faulty goods or services
- personal injury claims (injuries caused by negligence), for example, traffic accidents, falling into holes in the pavement, accidents at work
- some domestic violence cases, but these may also be heard in the magistrates court
- race, sex and disability discrimination cases
- discrimination cases
- debt problems, for example, a creditor seeking payment
- employment problems, for example, wages or salary owing or pay in lieu of notice.

**2. Most matters are decided by a District Judge sitting alone.**

3



### High court

Queen's Bench Division

The Family Division

The Chancery Division

It hears a wide range of contract law and personal injury/general negligence cases, but also has special responsibility as a supervisory court.

...deals with matters such as divorce, children, probate and medical treatment.

...deals with business law, trusts law, probate law, and land law in relation to issues of equity.

4

### Court of Appeal

Established in 1875, the Court and its staff of 37 Lords Justices of Appeal

*Criminal Division* hears criminal appeals. Is led by the Lord Chief Justice

*Civil Division* hears civil appeals. Is led by the Master of the Rolls





5

## Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom is the supreme court in all matters under English law, Northern Irish law and Scottish law. It is the court of last resort and highest appellate court in the United Kingdom. The Supreme Court is the highest appeal court in almost all cases in England and Wales.

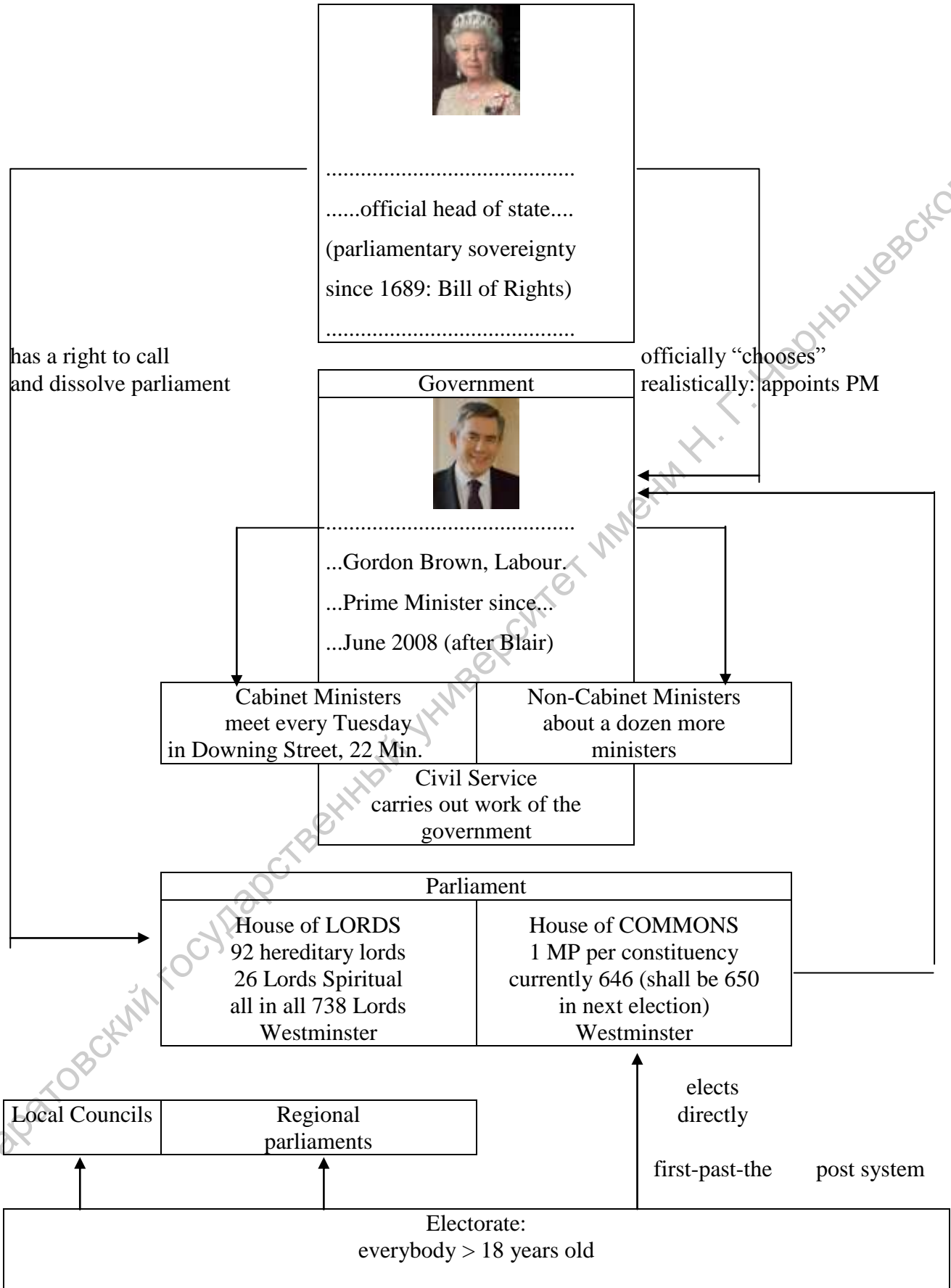
The Supreme Court is also the highest court of appeal for devolution matters, a role previously held by the Privy Council.

The Supreme Court was established by Part 3 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and started work on 1 October 2009. It assumed the judicial functions of the *House of Lords*, which were exercised by the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary (commonly called "Law Lords"), the 12 professional judges appointed as members of the House of Lords to carry out its judicial business.

The first substantive case was heard on 5 October 2009 by President Lord Phillips, accompanied by Lords Hope and Rodger, Baroness Hale, and Lords Brown and Mance.



# POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE UK



### **Reading task. British Parliament.**

The UK Parliament has sometimes been referred to as the ‘mother of parliaments’ because some of the countries that used to be part of the British Empire have political systems modelled on it. The UK Parliament building, which is situated by the river Thames in central London, is perhaps the most famous in the world. This is mainly due to its distinctive architecture, including the impressive clock tower popularly known as ‘Big Ben’. What most people don’t know is that the name doesn’t actually refer to the whole tower, but only to the huge bell inside the top of the tower.

The current Parliament building was constructed in the 19th century, but one of the very first English Parliaments actually met on the same site in 1265. In those days only a very small number of people had any say in how the country was run. Democracy in the modern sense of the word is a recent phenomenon; it wasn’t until 1918 that all men over the age of 21 in the UK got the right to vote in elections, and it was in 1928 that the same right was given to women.

The Parliament building is usually referred to as the Houses of Parliament because it contains the two assemblies at the heart of the UK’s political system: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Most of the power lies with the House of Commons, which consists of 646 democratically elected Members of Parliament or MPs, each of whom represents a small area of the UK known as a constituency. The members of the House of Lords are not elected – most of them have been appointed by the current or previous governments.

The UK Prime Minister is the leader of the political party with the most MPs in the House of Commons. The current Prime Minister is Gordon Brown, the leader of the Labour party. Due to the UK voting system, the number of MPs a party has in the House of Commons is not necessarily proportional to the total number of votes the party gets in a general election. This means that one party usually gets a ‘majority’ in the House of Commons, meaning it has more MPs than all the other parties put together. As with most things in politics, this causes a lot of disagreement. Some people think it is good that the party that wins a general election can usually form a government without having to enter into a ‘messy’ coalition with any other party. However others think the system is unfair, particularly because the smaller parties end up with fewer seats in Parliament than they would have under a proportional system.

#### **Can you find the words in the text that mean the same as the following?**

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. unusual, individual       | 6. to be given a job or position |
| 2. centre, core              | 7. existing or happening now     |
| 3. extremely big             | 8. build, establish              |
| 4. organised political group | 9. location, place               |
| 5. untidy                    | 10. person belonging to a group  |

**Exercise Now decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).**

1. England was the first country in the world to have a parliament.
2. The UK Prime Minister is the leader of one of the political parties in the House of Commons.
3. The members of the House of Commons are not elected.
4. The House of Commons has more members than the House of Lords.
5. A lot of people think that 'Big Ben' is the name of the clock tower that is part of the UK Parliament building.
6. The current UK Parliament building was built in the 19th century.
7. Unlike the UK, most countries in the world have a 'proportional' voting system.
8. The Labour party currently has the most MPs in the House of Commons.

**Exercise Below are some excerpts from the text, but not all of them have been copied correctly. Can you identify which of them now contain mistakes, and then make the necessary corrections?**

1. The members of the House of Lords are not elected ...
2. The UK Parliament has sometimes been referred as the 'mother of parliaments' ...
3. ... only a very small number of people had any sayings in how the country was run ...
4. ... the UK Parliament building ... is perhaps the most famous in the world ...
5. ... the House of Commons ... consists of 646 democratically elected Members of Parliament ...
6. Democracy ... is a recent phenomene ...
7. ... one party usually gets a 'major' in the House of Commons ...
8. ... the smaller parties end up with few seats in Parliament ...

**Exercise. Just-for-fun Quiz. What kind of political animal are you?**

**1 At what age can you vote?**

- A) Middle age B) 21 C) 18 D) No idea

**2 What are the three parts of Parliament?**

- A) The library, Big Ben, the dining room B) MPs, the Speaker, the Queen  
C) The House of Commons, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet  
D) The House of Commons, the House of Lords, the monarch

**3 How often do general elections take place?**

- A) When number 10 Downing Street needs redecorating  
B) Every leap year  
C) At least every five years, although not all Parliaments run the whole five years  
D) When the MPs want to go on holiday



**4 How does Parliament make a law?**

- A) By paying all its bills
- B) The Prime Minister decides what the laws should be and that's that
- C) The government chooses a panel of experts to discuss and pass each law
- D) Members of the Commons and Lords get a chance to have a say and vote on good ideas

**5 What does the Speaker do in the House of Commons?**

- A) Speaks in debates
- B) Reports what's going on in Parliament to the Queen
- C) Chairs debates in the Commons Chamber
- D) Answers the phone in the Prime Minister's office

**6 When and where is Prime Minister's question time?**

- A) At Buckingham Palace every evening at teatime
- B) On BBC one after the news on Thursday evenings
- C) At the end of every debate in the House of Commons
- D) In the Commons Chamber every Wednesday at 12 noon

**7 What is devolution?**

- A) The pathway from ape to human
- B) Something that happened in France in the 1800s
- C) Voting in local government elections
- D) The transfer of power from a central to a local or regional body (as in the setting up of the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly)

**8 Who do MPs represent?**

- A) No-one
- B) Themselves
- C) The Prime Minister
- D) Their constituents

**9 What can the House of Lords not do?**

- A) Travel overseas
- B) Comment on and suggest changes to proposed laws
- C) Delay a finance bill for more than one month
- D) Eat cakes on Fridays

**10 What is a select committee?**

- A) The group that chooses the UK Olympic team
- B) A group of the most talented MPs
- C) The people who decide who is going to stand for Parliament
- D) A panel of MPs or Peers set up to examine government departments and public bodies

**11 How does someone become a Peer in Parliament?**

- A) They have to spend a lot of time looking down microscopes
- B) They're elected by their constituents
- C) The Prime Minister recognises them as experts and nominates them to be appointed by the monarch
- D) By entering Britain's Got Talent

**12 In a general election, whom are you voting for?**

- A) The person with the most fashionable clothes
- B) The person you would like to see as Prime Minister
- C) Members of the House of Lords
- D) The MP who will represent your constituency in the House of Commons

**13 *Can a monarch change the law?***

- A) Yes, but only on her birthday
- B) Yes, as long as the monarch puts a good case to the government
- C) No, the monarch has no power over the government
- D) Yes, if the rest of the royal family agrees

how did you answer?

0–15: You are a political ostrich You tend to ignore things, even though they might affect you. Get your head out of the sand and take an interest.

16–25: You are a political sheep You're happy to follow the crowd when it comes to most things. Why not take the lead every now and again?

26–34: You are a political meerkat

You are aware of your surroundings and like to know what's going on. Stay alert – and don't spend too much time hiding in your burrow!

35–45: You are a political shark

You have strong views and are ruthless in expressing them and getting what you want. Keep up the good work, but don't overdo it!

Even-numbered questions

A: score 0 C : score 2

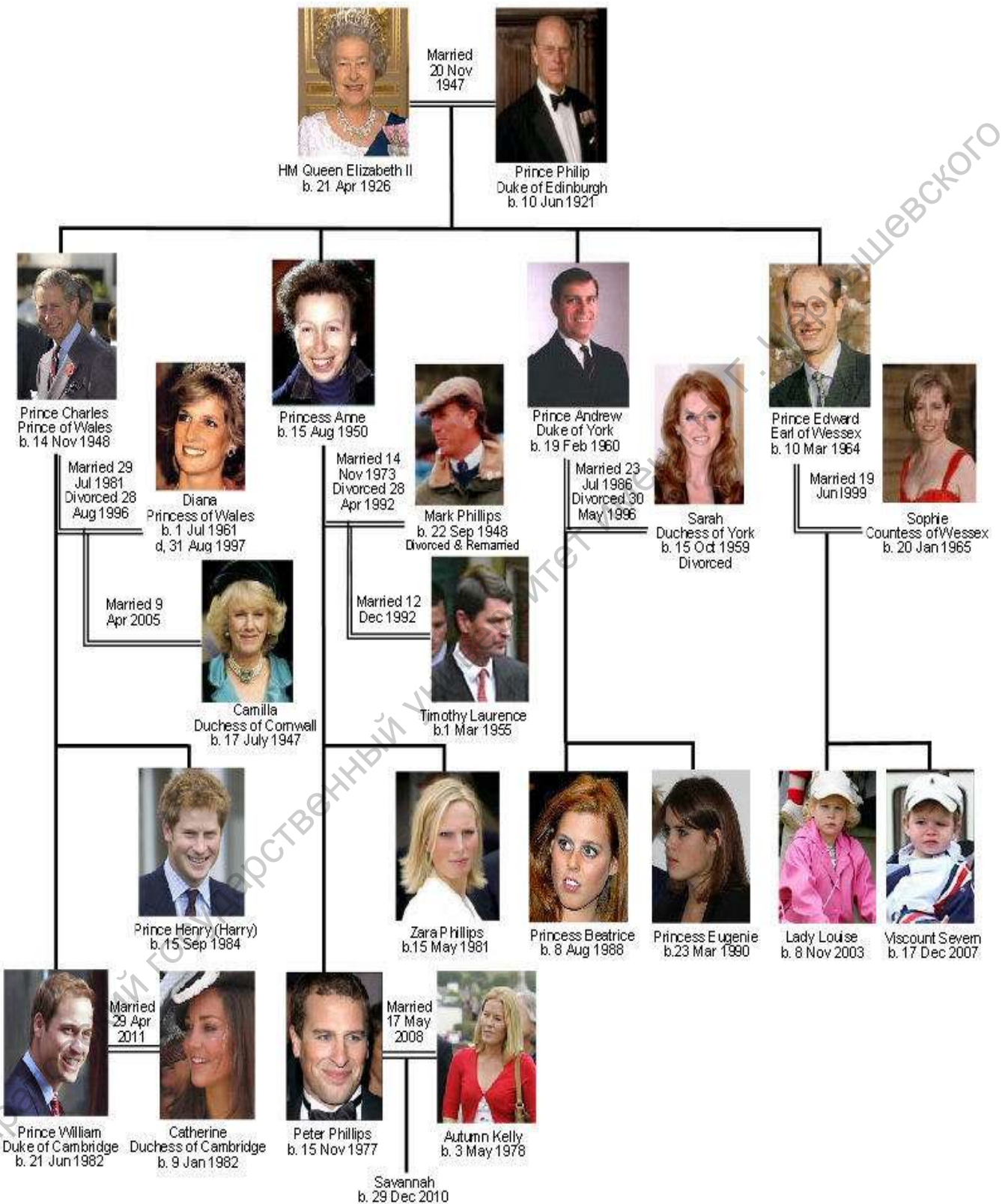
B : score 1 D : score 3

Odd-numbered questions

A : score 1 C : score 3

B : score 2 D : score 0

# BRITISH MONARCHY



**How much do you know about The Queen and the Monarchy of the United Kingdom? Try to answer the questions.**

- a. When was Queen Elizabeth II crowned?
- b. Who is The Queen married to?
- c. What are her Official Residences?
- d. What is The Queen's role as Monarch?
- e. What are the Crown Jewels?
- f. What is the British National Anthem called?
- g. What is flag of Britain called and what is the Royal Standard?
- h. What is the Commonwealth?
- i. How is succession to the throne decided?
- j. What is Queen Elizabeth's full name?
- k. Why does The Queen have two birthdays?

**Match the questions in 1 with the answers below. The first one has been done for you.**

Q: What is Queen Elizabeth's full name?

A: Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor. She belongs to Britain's Royal House (Family) of Windsor. Her official title is: "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

Q: \_\_\_\_\_  
A: It's because of the British weather! The Monarch's official birthday is always celebrated in June when there is less chance of rain. The Queen was born on April 21, 1926 in London.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_  
A: The Queen was married to Philip Mountbatten, the son of Prince Andrew of Greece, on November 20, 1947. He is known as Prince Philip, not King Philip, because the husband of a female monarch does not have any special status. The wife of a male monarch, however, does take the title of Queen.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_  
A: The oldest son of the reigning monarch will become the next king. If there are no sons, the oldest daughter becomes queen. The following list is the current order of succession to the throne: 1. Prince Charles 2. Prince William 3. Prince Henry 4. Prince Andrew 5. Princess Beatrice 6. Princess Eugenie 7. Prince Edward 8. Princess Anne 9. Peter Phillips 10. Zara Phillips.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_  
A: The Queen's coronation was on June 2, 1953 in Westminster Abbey in London. She is currently the world's second longest reigning monarch.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_  
A: The Queen is the highest power of Parliament, the government and the law. In reality, she simply acts on the advice of her ministers. She has a meeting with the Prime Minister every week. The Queen is also the head of the Church of England and the Commander in Chief of the armed forces. She has many ceremonial functions and she is patron of over 700 organisations. She has about 300 official engagements each year.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: The Commonwealth consists of a number of states that once belonged to the British Empire. The Commonwealth includes Australia, Canada and New Zealand and a number of smaller states such as Jamaica, the Bahamas and Fiji. Queen Elizabeth is Head of the Commonwealth and is also Head of State of seventeen of the countries within the Commonwealth.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: The Crown Jewels have been used by English kings and queens for many centuries. They include regalia (items used at a coronation), crowns, robes and medals. The original collection has been kept in the Tower of London since 1303.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: The British National Anthem is God Save The King, which was first played in 1745 at the Theatre Royal in London. It was to show support for the King, who had just lost an important battle. The first verse of the National Anthem is:

*God save our gracious Queen,*

*Long live our noble Queen,*

*God save the Queen.*

*Send her victorious,*

*Happy and glorious,*

*Long to reign over us,*

*God save the Queen.* *Worksheet C*

*Queen Elizabeth II and the British Monarchy*

Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: The Union Jack is the national flag of the United Kingdom. It is so called because it includes the flags of all the countries of the United Kingdom: England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Royal Standard is flown above the Royal Palaces when the Queen is in residence and on the Queen's cars, aircraft and boats.

Q: \_\_\_\_\_

A: Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. She also has private residences at Sandringham in Norfolk and Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

# **EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN**

## **EDUCATIONAL ACT IN GREAT BRITAIN**

While speaking of Educational Act in Great Britain one means Forster Act (1870), Balfour (1902), Fisher Act (1918) and Bulter Act (1944). The first act of public education was adopted in Great Britain in 1870 starting thus the state system of school education. According to it primary education of children from 5 to 12 at elementary school was declared compulsory. In 1902 there was promulgated an act obliging local authorities of public education to establish state grammar schools. In 1918 the period of compulsory education was prolonged till the age of 14. The Act of 1944 extended the compulsory age range to 15. This act is in the basis of contemporary system of public education in Great Britain. This act also provided three stages of education: primary, secondary and further education. Since 1973 the years of compulsory schooling are from 5 to 16.

## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Children normally begin primary education when they are 5. Primary education is up to about the age of 11. Nearly all the primary schools for boys and girls together. Promoting from one class to another occurs automatically by age and not by internal examinations. Unsuccessful pupils do not repeat a year, but are placed in a new form, a stream of below average ability. The transfer from primary to secondary education was traditionally made by the results of the selective eleven-plus examination. Eleven-plus examination known as an intelligence quotient test is not much used now as it has been criticised as not a fair, predictor or a fair measurer of children's abilities. Officially it is a test to decide what form of secondary education is most suitable for each individual child.

## **PRIMARY EDUCATION**

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## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Children moving from maintained primary to secondary education are still selected for different types of schools according to their current level of academic attainment;

1. grammar schools;
2. modern schools.
3. technical schools.

Secondary grammar schools provide a mainly academic course for selected pupils from the age of 11 to 18 or 19. Many grammar schools in England were formed in the 16th century or earlier. The first grammar school was founded in the 9th century in Canterbury. The subjects normally offered in grammar schools include religious instruction, English language and literature, modern languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish), Latin, Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, History, Geography, Art, Music.

Secondary modern schools provide a general education up to minimum school leaving age of 16, although their pupils can stay beyond that age. The modern school types of children are the future unskilled workers. The general level of education in these schools is low, concentrate for the most part on practical work. The number of periods for practical subjects in these schools is much more greater than for academic ones. In recent years there has been a strong trend towards the introduction of extended vocational courses for the abler pupils of modern schools. Some of these courses are a preparation for the examinations leading even to the General Certificate of Education.

Secondary technical schools provide a general academic education up to the age of 18, but put a considerable emphasis on technical subjects, on craft or trade.

## **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS**

Up to the 1960's there were 3 kinds state secondary schools in England: grammar, technical and modern. The distribution of children among these schools was on the basis of elevenplus examinations, the so-called 10 tests. In 1965 the school system of England was reorganised and a new type of school — a comprehensive school was formed. The majority of schools are 6-year comprehensives (from 11 to 18). The comprehensive schools were designed to contain all kinds of children under one roof. But they were not to be all in one stream: the comprehensives have their own grammar school classes leading to the university, and their own technical and modern classes. The importance of comprehensives is that they allow children to change after 11 and also to mix out of classes with other children.

## **NON-MAINTAINED SCHOOLS**

There are non-maintained schools in England and Wales which receive no grants from public funds but are financed from fees and endowments. Two well-known groups of independent schools are the preparatory schools and the public

schools. Most public schools are single sex, but there are some mixed schools. Pupils are often streamed according to overall ability and, to a large extent, independent schools concentrate their academic work on achieving results in the General Certificate of Education (GCE - O - level and GCA - A - level examination). The most famous public schools are Eaton, Harrow and Winchester. They have very high educational standards.

## **GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION**

Pupils at secondary school in England have two main exams to worry about, both called General Certificate of Education. The first exam is called "O" (ordinary) level. Most people take "O" level in about 7 or 8 different subjects. You may leave school when you are fifteen. But if you stay at school after taking "O" level, you go into the 6th form and start working for the second main exam: "A" (advanced) level. Most people take "A" when they are about 28. It is quite a difficult exam, so people don't usually take it in more than 3 subjects. Three "A" level are enough to get you in to most universities. For others, such as Oxford and Cambridge you have to take special exams as well. If you don't want to go to university, two or three "A" levels can get you quite a good job.

## **FURTHER EDUCATION**

Further education is a broad term usually taken to refer to all post-school non-university education. There is a wide range of further education establishments: the polytechnics colleges of technology, technical colleges, tertiary colleges, colleges of commerce, colleges of art, agricultural colleges, adult education centres, institutes of higher education. In addition there are many independent (private) special establishments such as secretarial and correspondence colleges and colleges teaching English as a foreign language, a number of voluntary and private colleges providing cultural and general education.

These are regarded as further educational institutions, in contrast to universities and colleges of education which are classed as higher education institutions, because they award degrees. But during recent years some newly polytechnics now have higher education courses, leading to a degree. As a result only the universities are now entirely higher education institutes.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION UNIVERSITIES**

There are 36 universities in England and Wales and 8 in Scotland. The universities of Oxford and Cambridge date from the 12th and 13th centuries. The typical academic programme for university students in Great Britain is composed of a varying number of courses or subjects within a field of specialisation. There are three categories of academic activity - lectures, tutorials and examinations which provide the means for preparing students in specialised fields of knowledge.



The University of London includes internal and external students, the latter coming to London only to sit for their examinations. Actually most external students at London University are living in London. The three terms into which the British University year is divided are roughly eight to ten weeks. Each term is crowded with activity, and the vacations between the terms - a month at Christmas, a month at Easter and three or four months in summer - are mainly periods of intellectual digestion and private study. A person studying for a degree at a British University is called an undergraduate, one who has taken a degree is called graduate.

Degree titles vary according to the practice of each University. The most common titles for a first degree are Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BC) and for a second degree Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (M Sc) or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph D). Each higher degree is awarded by thesis supplemented by an oral examination and where required, by written examination.

***Choose the correct answer.***

1. The period of compulsory education in Great Britain is:
  - a) from Still 12;
  - b) from 6 till 14;
  - c) from Still 16.
  
2. Unsuccessful pupils:
  - a) repeat a year;
  - b) do not repeat a year, but placed in a new form;
  - c) are expelled from school.
  
3. Secondary grammar schools provide:
  - a) a mainly academic course for selected pupils from the age of 11 for 18 or 19;
  - b) a general academic education but put a considerable emphasis on technical subjects;
  - c) a general education, concentrating for the most part on practical work.
  
4. Schools which receive no grants from public funds but are financed from fees and endowments are called:
  - a) non-maintained schools;
  - b) comprehensive schools;
  - c) technical schools.
  
5. The most important exams at secondary schools are:
  - a) eleven-plus examinations;
  - b) General Certificate of Education.
  
6. To get you into most universities it's necessary:
  - a) to pass "O" level exam;
  - b) to pass three "A" levels;



## HOLIDAYS IN THE UK

1. Guy Fawkes Day is always on November 5<sup>th</sup> when you eat turkey in mid-summer to celebrate independence a public holiday
2. Boxing Day is on 26<sup>th</sup> December on 2<sup>nd</sup> January different each year once a month
3. New Year's day is a public holiday only celebrated in Scotland an ordinary working day a holiday only for schools
4. Easter is on the same day every year when you eat pancakes always in April when you eat chocolate eggs
5. Christmas is always on Sunday when you make good resolutions when you have a decorated tree when you eat a leg of lamb
6. Good Friday is the Friday before Christmas the Friday before Easter when you give presents to celebrate the Queen's birthday
7. A Bank Holiday is only celebrated in Wales only a holiday for people who work in banks when the Queen gives money to the poor
8. Mother's day is always on Saturday when mothers give presents when mothers get presents always in May
9. St/ Valentines's Day is to celebrate a patron saint of England when you send romantic cards to your loved ones a public holiday the shortest day of the year
10. A leap year is when a year ends with "0" (eg 1990) every 5 years a year with 366 days when there is a new King or a Queen

<b>Public Holidays 2012</b>	<b>Day Observed</b>	<b>Date</b>
New Years Day (*)	January 1	Monday, January 2, 2012
2nd January (S)	January 2	Tuesday, January 3, 2012
Saint Patrick's Day (NI)	March 17	Monday, March 19, 2012
Good Friday (*)	April 6, 2012	Friday, April 6, 2012
Easter Monday (ENIW)	April 9, 2012	Monday, April 9, 2012
Easter Tuesday (NI)	April 10, 2012	Tuesday, April 10, 2012
May Day Holiday (*)	1st Monday in May	Monday, May 7, 2012
Victoria Day (S)	3rd Monday in May	Monday, May 21, 2012
Spring Bank Holiday (*)	Last Monday in May	Monday, June 4, 2012
Queen's Diamond Jubilee (*)	June 5, 2012	Tuesday, June 5, 2012
Orangeman's Day (NI)	July 12, 2012	Thursday, July 12, 2012
Orangeman's Day (NI)	July 13, 2012	Friday, July 13, 2012
Summer Bank Holiday (S)	1st Monday in August	Monday, August 6, 2012
Summer Bank Holiday (ENIW)	Last Monday in August	Monday, August 27, 2012
Christmas Day (*)	December 25	Tuesday, December 25, 2012
Boxing Day (*)	December 26	Wednesday, December 26, 2012

**Key**

E – England  
 NI - Northern Ireland  
 S – Scotland  
 W – Wales  
 \* - All

## **MEDIA IN THE UK**

In Britain today there are four quality papers: “The Times”, “The Daily Telegraph”, “The Guardian” and “The Independent”.

“The Daily Mail”, “The Daily Mirror”, “The Sun”, “The Daily Express” and “The Daily Star” are usually considered to be “populars”.

“The Times” was founded in 1785. It is read by the minority of people today. It has a small circulation (100,000 copies a day), but it has a great influence. It is an establishment newspaper, read by lawyers, politicians, and businessmen, by all those who work in the government at large.

“The Daily Telegraph”, founded in 1855, is a very conservative paper. It has a circulation twice as big as that of “The Times”, “The Guardian” or “The Independent”. It has a nickname – “The Torygraph” after the nickname “Tory” of the Conservative Party. This newspaper has rather a comprehensive news and sports coverage. (more objective reporting of world happenings).

“The Guardian” has a slightly bigger circulation than “The Times”. It is a liberal newspaper, noted for its lively reporting and campaigning support for “worthy causes” such as education, medical reforms, the problems of aging people and retirees, protection of the environment, etc.

“The Independent” was founded in 1986 and has rapidly acquired a reputation for its excellent news coverage, intelligent reports, informal commentaries, and a good balanced sense of humour.

“The Sun”, founded in 1964, has a circulation of around four million and outsells all other “populars”.

“The Daily Mirror” with a circulation of about three million, was founded in 1903 and has always traditionally supported the Labour Party.

“The Daily Mail” and “The Daily Express” have circulations of about a million and a half, and were founded in 1900 and 1896 respectively. The Mail is the most sophisticated. The populars express no news, though they are mass circulation papers. There you will find leading articles about murders, games, bingo and lotteries. Because they are in constant competition with each other, and want to sell more copies than their competitors in an effort to increase the readership and circulation, they actually all have nude girls in unconventional poses on page three or seven, devote much room to advertising holidays, vacation tours, etc.

### ***Quality Press vs. Popular Press***

“All newspapers in Britain, daily or Sunday ones, can broadly be divided into **the quality press** and **the popular press**. The quality newspapers are also known as “heavies” and they usually deal with home and overseas news, with detailed and extensive coverage of sports and cultural events, financial reports, travel news and book and film reviews.

The “**populars**” are also known as **tabloids** as they are smaller in size being half sheet in format. Some people also call them the “gutter press” offering news for the people less interested in daily detailed news reports. They are characterised by large headlines, carry a lot of big photographs, concentrate on the personal aspects of news,

with reports of the recent sensational and juicy bits of events, not excluding the Royal family. The language of a tabloid is much more colloquial, if not specific, than that of quality newspapers”.

<http://eng.1september.ru/2002/08/1.htm>

### **All newspapers in Britain (the quality and popular ones) have their *sister Sunday issues***

The Sunday Times”, founded in 1822, leads the field in the Sunday qualities. It has a circulation of over a million and is known for its excellent reporting in eight separate sections: a main news section and others devoted to sports news review, business, the arts, job advertisements, fashion and travel as well as book reviews.

“The Observer” is the oldest Sunday paper. It was founded in 1791 and today has a circulation of around half a million and is politically moderate in views.

“The Sunday Telegraph”, founded in 1961, is more right-wing and its circulation has been steadily declining.

“The News of the World” has a circulation of over five million, and it has a reputation for its detailed reports of crime and sex stories but also for its sports coverage. It’s the best-selling Sunday popular newspaper.

“The Sunday Mirror” offers a lot of photographs and gossip.

The Sun”, which is, as it has already been stressed, a very low-quality newspaper.

#### **FORMATS:**

\*Tabloid newspaper format (Ex: Daily Mail);

\* "**compact**"(tabloid size, different name to avoid down market connotation );

\*Broadsheets (Larger newspapers, traditionally associated with 'higher-quality' journalism) ;

\* Berliner (sized between the tabloid and the broadsheet)

#### **FREQUENCY:**

\* daily newspapers,

\* weekly or semi-weekly (tabloids);

\* Sunday Papers

#### **REMEMBER:**

A Tabloid tends to sensationalize and emphasize or exaggerate **sensational** crime stories, **gossip columns** repeating scandalous about personal lives of celebrities and sports stars, and other so-called "**junk food news**". Tabloid newspapers are sometimes pejoratively called the gutter press.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

**Broadsheet format:**        *Daily – The Daily Telegraph*

*Financial Times*

*Sunday - The Daily Telegraph*

*- The Sunday Times*

**Berliner Format:** Daily – *The Guardian*  
 Sunday – *The Observer*

**Compact Format:** Daily – *The Independent*  
*The Times*  
 Sunday – *Independent On Sunday*

**Tabloid -** Daily – *Daily Star*  
*The Daily Mirror*  
*The Sun*  
*The Morning Star*  
*Daily Express* \*  
*Daily Mail* \*  
 Sunday – *The People*  
*Sunday Mirror*  
*The Sunday Sport*  
*News of the World*  
*Sunday Express*\*

\*Middle-Market (entertainment + news black-top masthead,)

After reading the above information, complete the following table, also using the statements provided below.

	QUALITY PRESS	POPULAR PRESS
EXAMPLES		
LANGUAGE		
CONTENTS		
SIZE		
AIMED GROUP		
GENERAL CLASSIFICATION		

- articles do not contain slang or colloquialisms;
- Background information provided;
- Formal speech;
- simplified vocabulary;
- aimed at an educated middle or upper-class reader;
- everyday, colloquial language;
- objective;
- international(world news and events);
- stock exchange, economy, business, housing, travel, cars, sports, culture;
- everyday life (diets, real-life stories, fashion, etc);
- gossip, stories involving famous people (private life and career);
- partial and influenced;
- slang words;
- dramatic use of direct speech (not always truthful);

- sensational language;
- Precise and concise;
- subjective: many quotations from witnesses and people in general;
- provocative (exaggerating; sometimes offensive and insulting articles);
- manipulating;
- working to middle-class reader
- information
- entertainment

**A - READ THESE NEWS: 1 AND 2.**

**B – NOW COMPARE THEM, AND MENTION THE DIFFERENCES BASED ON THE CUES GIVEN ABOVE.**

**C – DON'T FORGET TO SAY WHICH ONE IS A TABLOID AND WHICH IS A BROADSHEET. EXPLAIN WHY.**

TEXT 1:

The home secretary, Theresa May, said an attack in the UK by dissident republicans is now a strong possibility. Photograph: Lewis Whyld/PA

MI5 today announced there was a "strong possibility" of an attack on the British mainland by dissident Irish republican terrorists, in addition to the continuing risk of al-Qaida-inspired terrorism.

The Guardian has learned of three reasons that have led the domestic intelligence agency to raise the threat level from moderate to substantial.

There is growing concern over the sophistication of attacks being carried out in Northern Ireland. Second, bomb makers with expertise gained from the long Provisional IRA campaign of violence are believed to be now helping dissident republican terrorists. And the capability of the dissidents to stage attacks is thought to be nearly as dangerous as was that of the Provisional IRA.

Today's announcement by the home secretary, Theresa May, means MI5 believes the threat is at its highest for at least a decade. Security officials are combating this threat, plus what is assessed to be the greater threat from al-Qaida-inspired terrorists, who remain "highly likely" to stage an attack.

The Irish assessment was made public on the eve of the two main party political conferences. Labour begins today in Manchester, and is followed next week by the Conservatives in Birmingham.

Dissident republicans have for some time been assessed as wanting to attack the mainland, and now their capability is believed by security officials to be increasing. One source said: "It's of concern that they are getting more sophisticated in their attacks in Northern Ireland. They are getting in former IRA people with [explosives] expertise.

"The dissident Republicans started with crude devices. These have increased in their level of sophistication. They are getting closer to the IRA's capability."



Officials added that the dissidents are not thought able to mount a sustained campaign, but do have British economic or security targets in their sights, the kind that the IRA chose in the early 1990s. Such targets might be banks, the City of London, or army bases or police stations, officials added.

A counter-terrorism official said the raising of the threat level was because of the growing ambition of the dissident Republican terrorists, although MI5 was not aware of any specific targets being identified for attack.

Two weeks ago the Real IRA told the Guardian that future attacks would alternate between "military, political and economic targets".

Last week MI5 head's, Jonathan Evans, opened a speech in London by warning of the growing threat to the UK mainland from Irish-related terrorism.

May said Today: "The director-general of the security service has informed me that he has raised the threat to Great Britain from Irish-related terrorism from moderate to substantial, meaning an attack is a strong possibility. Judgments are based on a broad range of factors, including the intent and capabilities of terrorist groups.

"This is the first time we have published the Irish-related threat assessment to Great Britain. This is in the interests of transparency and to encourage people to remain vigilant."

May added: "We have been consistent in stating that the threat to the UK from terrorism is real and serious.

"The balance we aim to strike is keeping people alert but not alarmed. I would urge the public to report any suspicious activity to the police and security services in their continuing efforts to discover, track and disrupt terrorist activity."

## **TEXT 2:**

**CHEATING soccer star Peter Crouch will wed WAG Abbey Clancy next year on a stunning love island, The Sun can reveal.**

A dream ceremony has already been booked at the magnificent Isola Del Garda on Lake Garda in northern Italy.

The England and Spurs striker, 29, and model Abbey, 24, will exchange vows next June in romantic scented gardens.

Their 120 guests - made up of a galaxy of footie stars - including fellow love rat Wayne Rooney - and celebs will be ferried to the bash at the neo-Gothic villa.

Abbey, who is expecting £70,000-a-week Crouch's baby, is overseeing preparations after forgiving him over his romps with a hooker in July.

A pal said last night: "Abbey's thrilled about the island - it's a paradise where everything is perfect."

**Decide which type of papers do these characteristics go for.**

- ✓ IT SHOWS BRIGHT AND COLOURFUL PICTURES OF FAMOUS PEOPLE.
- ✓ THE TITLES ARE QUITE SCANDELOUS AND APPEAR IN LARGE SCALE.
- ✓ THIS TYPE OF NEWSPAPER COVERS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS, USUALLY RELATED TO ECONOMY, POLITICS, WAR.
- ✓ THE NEWS IS FOCUSED ON PEOPLE'S LIFE.
- ✓ THERE ARE SOME ARTICLES ABOUT DIFFERENT ISSUES, LIKE: POLITICS, EDUCATION, ETC.
- ✓ THE TITLES CAN BE RATHER SHOCKING.
- ✓ SOME PAPERS ARE BIGGER THAN OTHERS.
- ✓ THE TEXTS ARE SMALL AND QUICKLY TO READ.
- ✓ THE HEADLINES ARE LONG AND ABOUT SERIOUS NEWS.
- ✓ SOMETIMES NEWS IS BASED ON RUMOURS OR LIES.
- ✓ THE PRICE IS MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE THEN WHEN COMPARED TO SOME OTHER PAPERS.
- ✓ THESE PAPERS ARE USUALLY BIAS.
- ✓ READING THE HEADLINES IS USUALLY ENOUGH FOR THE READERS, AS THE IMAGES AND THE ARTICLES ARE SMALL AND THE IMAGE OCCUPIES A LOT OF SPACE
- ✓ THE PRICE OF THESE PAPERS IS RELATIVELY LOW.