

Religion

UK :

1. What is the relationship between church and politics in the UK?

The British monarch is required to be a member of the Church of England and holds the titles of Supreme Governor of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith. Though the main political parties are secular, the formation of the Labor Party was influenced by Christian socialism and by leaders from a nonconformist background. On the other hand, the Church of England has sometimes been nicknamed "the Conservative Party at prayer". The Church of England is represented in Parliament through 26 Lords Spiritual who sit in the House of Lords along with the secular Lords Temporal. The Church also has the right to draft legislative measures (usually related to religious administration), through the General Synod, that can be passed into law. The Prime Minister, regardless of personal beliefs, plays a key role in the appointment of Church of England bishops.

英国君主必须是英格兰教会的成员，并拥有英格兰教会最高总督和信仰捍卫者的头衔。尽管主要政党是世俗的，但工党的成立受到了基督教社会主义和非正统派领导人的影响。另一方面，英国国教有时被戏称为“祈祷中的保守党”。英格兰教会在议会中由 26 位精神贵族代表，他们与世俗的世俗贵族一起在上议院任职。教会还有权通过总议会起草立法措施（通常与宗教管理有关），这些措施可以通过成为法律。无论个人信仰如何，首相在英国国教主教的任命中都发挥着关键作用。

2. What are the current trends of religious life in the UK?

The most striking thing about religion in Britain today is that a large proportion of people are not really interested in it at all. Attendance figures at regular church services of all types have plummeted in recent years. Fewer than 2 million people are regular communicants at Anglican churches, and there are about the same number of practicing

Catholics. Nearly a third of the population express no particular religious faith at all and even those who are nominally members of a church rarely take part in its services. Although their numbers are relatively small, the non Christian faiths in England are in some ways much more vibrant. Occasional controversies have broken out in recent years because of clashes between traditional Islamic belief and the more permissive attitudes of secular Britain. The terrorist activities of some Muslim extremists in England have caused a considerable polarization of attitudes both within and outside of the Muslim community since the 2005 attacks in London.

当今英国最引人注目的是，很大一部分人对宗教根本不感兴趣。出席近年来，各类教堂常规礼拜的人数急剧下降。只有不到 200 万人是圣公会教堂的常客，而信奉天主教的人数大致相同。近三分之一的人口根本不表达特定的宗教信仰，即使是那些名义上是教会成员的人也很少参加教会的服务。尽管他们的人数相对较少，但在某些方面，英格兰的非基督教信仰要活跃得多。近年来，由于传统伊斯兰信仰与世俗英国更宽容的态度之间的冲突，偶尔会爆发争议。自 2005 年伦敦袭击事件以来，英国一些穆斯林极端分子的恐怖活动在穆斯林社区内外造成了相当大的态度两极分化。

US:

1. When and how did America become increasingly pluralistic in religion?

It began with the "new immigration" spurred by the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act, as people from all over the world came to America. With them have come the religious traditions of the world - Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and African. The people of these living traditions of faith have moved into American neighborhoods, with their altars and prayer rooms in storefronts and office buildings, basements, garages, and even recreation rooms.

它始于 1965 年《移民和归化法》引发的“新移民”，来自世界各地的人移居美

国。随之而来的是世界上的宗教传统——伊斯兰、印度教、佛教、锡克教和非洲。

具有这些生活信仰传统的人已经搬到了美国社区，他们的祭坛和祈祷室位于店面、办公楼、地下室、车库，甚至娱乐室。

2. In contemporary America, what has been the most prominent phenomenon in American religious life in terms of social and cultural influence, and why?

In terms of social and cultural influence, the most striking phenomenon in contemporary American society is the resurgence of Evangelical Christianity. Because of the sheer number of the evangelical movements, mainstream Protestant denominations like the Presbyterians and Methodists have lost ground to it. Additionally, evangelicals have resorted to television to preach their doctrine, thereby reaching massive new audiences through their exploitation of the electronic media. Thanks to the size of evangelicals as well as the application of electronic device, Evangelical Christianity has been able to exercise a great deal of social and cultural influence on American society.

就社会和文化影响而言，当代美国社会最引人注目的现象是福音派的复兴基督教。由于福音派运动的数量之多，长老会和卫理公会等主流新教教派已经失去了阵地。此外，福音派教徒通过电视宣传他们的教义，从而通过利用电子媒体接触到了大量的新受众。由于福音派的规模和电子设备的应用，福音派基督教能够对美国社会产生巨大的社会和文化影响。

Beliefs and Values

UK:

1. Why are the British considered conservative?

The British are conservative in many ways. For one thing, they tend to accept only those things that are familiar, and suspicious of anything that is foreign or unfamiliar. For example, they still maintain the monarchy and never cease to respect the Royal

Family, when most of the countries abolished it long ago. For another, the British are slow to make changes, and sometimes even refuse to make changes. For instance, in most other countries, drivers drive on the right side of the road; by contrast, the English drive on the left side. Similarly, men in Britain wore bowler hat for a long while when men in other western countries did not, and it made a comeback in 2010. Indeed, it was not until 2008 when judges in all civil and family cases began to wear a newly designed robe with no wig.

英国人在很多方面都很保守。首先，他们倾向于只接受那些熟悉的东西，对任何陌生或陌生的东西都持怀疑态度。例如，他们仍然维持君主制

当大多数国家很久以前就废除了王室时，他们从未停止过对王室的尊重。另一方面，英国人做出改变的速度很慢，有时甚至拒绝做出改变。例如，在大多数其他国家，驾驶员在道路右侧行驶；相比之下，英国人在左边开车。同样，英国男性戴圆顶礼帽的时间很长，而其他西方国家的男性则没有，这一现象在 2010 年卷土重来。事实上，直到 2008 年，所有民事和家庭案件的法官才开始穿上新设计的不带假发的长袍。

2. The British are known for their irony and sense of humor. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Yes, the British are known for their irony and sense of humor. One typical example is that the British do not always mean what they say, and one needs to "read between the lines" in order to understand precisely what they actually mean. For instance, a Briton may say to someone "What a charming behavior", when he actually means to say "How rude you were". "He has no sense of humor" can be one of the worst unfavorable judgments of a person.

Another indication of British irony and humor is their inclination to deprecate themselves. The British often laugh at their own faults and even failures, for example "How stupid I was!" or "What a mess I made at the yesterday party!" or "I managed to

muddle it again!" When stuck

in an embarrassing situation, the British have the ability to make fun of the situation. For instance, when somebody made a fool of himself on an occasion, instead of saying how awful he felt, he might say "Did I do something interesting to make you have a good time with me?"

是的, 英国人以讽刺和幽默著称。一个典型的例子是, 英国人并不总是言出必行, 人们需要“字里行间”才能准确地理解他们的实际意思。例如, 一个英国人可能会对某人说“多么迷人的行为”, 而他实际上是想说“你有多粗鲁”。“他没有幽默感”可能是对一个人最不利的判断之一。

英国讽刺和幽默的另一个迹象是他们倾向于贬低自己。英国人经常嘲笑自己的错误甚至失败, 例如“我真愚蠢!”或“我在昨天的聚会上搞得一团糟!”或是“我又把它弄糊涂了!”

在尴尬的情况下, 英国人有能力取笑这种情况。例如, 当有人在某个场合出丑时, 他可能会说:“我做了一些有趣的事情让你和我玩得开心吗?”

US:

1. As a long-held value, equality has evolved over time in American experience. Discuss briefly how equality has developed in America.

When The Declaration of Independence stated that "all men are created equal", it did not include women, blacks, Native Americans, and poor whites. Ever since then, such minority groups as women, blacks and Native Americans have been waging struggle to win equality for themselves. Through the Civil Rights and Women's Rights Movement, these minority groups have made great strides in improving their political, economic, social, and legal status in American society. Legally speaking, no discrimination against these minority groups is now allowed, though in practice there is still much room to be desired, particularly discrimination in subtle ways.

当《独立宣言》指出“人人生而平等”时，它并不包括妇女、黑人、美洲原住民和贫穷的白人。从那时起，妇女、黑人和美洲原住民等少数群体一直在为自己赢得平等而斗争。通过民权和妇女权利运动，这些少数群体在提高其在美国社会的政治、经济、社会和法律地位方面取得了长足进步。从法律上讲，现在不允许歧视这些少数群体，尽管在实践中仍有很大的空间，特别是以微妙的方式进行歧视。

2. What could be the possible relationship between equality and informality?

There is a fairly close relationship between equality and informality. For one thing, when people are on equal footing, they treat each other as equals, and therefore are obligated to show reverence for people around them. Accordingly, they do not have to stand on ceremony when talking to each other, and over time Americans have developed an informal way of greeting and addressing each other. If, on the other hand, people are in inferior- and-superior relationship, they have to behave in more formal way to show distinctions between people of different classes and statuses.

平等和非正式之间有着相当密切的关系。一方面，当人们处于平等地位时，他们平等相待，因此有义务对周围的人表示尊重。因此，他们在交谈时不必拘泥礼节，随着时间的推移，美国人已经形成了一种非正式的问候和称呼方式。另一方面，如果人们处于低人一等的关系中，他们就必须以更正式的方式表现不同阶级和地位的人之间的区别。

Education:

UK:

1. What have been the trends of British school reforms in curriculum and organization since 1988 ?

Regulated by the Education Reform Act 1988, a set of learning objectives was

established for each year of compulsory school and all state schools. The introduction of this curriculum is intended to have an influence on the subject matter of teaching. At primary levels, it emphasizes the 3R's, i.e. Reading, wRiting and aRithmetics, while at higher levels, it emphasizes science and technology. The emphasis is different from traditional British approach to education which emphasized arts and humanities to develop the well-rounded human beings. The national curriculum also brought in key stage tests, which means that pupils are assessed at various stages throughout their education. These national curriculum tests are popularly known as "SATS", even though the proper term would be "national curriculum" or "key stage" tests. Under the national curriculum, as a result of the Education Reform Act 1988, four Key Stages were established, respectively for ages 5-7, 7-11, 11-14, and 14-16.

根据 1988 年《教育改革法》的规定，义务学校和所有州立学校每年都制定了一套学习目标。该课程的推出旨在对教学主题产生影响。在初级阶段，它强调 3R，即阅读、wRiting 和 aRithmetics，而在更高层次，它强调科学和技术。这种强调不同于传统的英国教育方法，后者强调艺术和人文学科来培养全面发展的人。国家课程还引入了关键阶段测试，这意味着学生在整个教育阶段都要接受评估。这些国家课程测试通常被称为“SATS”，尽管恰当的术语是“国家课程”或“关键阶段”测试。根据国家课程，根据 1988 年《教育改革法》，分别为 5-7 岁、7-11 岁、11-14 岁和 14-16 岁设立了四个关键阶段。

2. What are the current problems of education in the UK?

The state school system in England and Wales has been going through a crisis for many years, caused by a lack of funding, crumbling infrastructure, shortage of books and other equipment, and above all, shortage of teachers. With the introduction of the national curriculum, teachers in schools have lost some of their autonomy. Teaching in schools has become a less popular occupation than it once was, mostly because of the pay and the ways in which successive governments have blamed teachers for the state

of education and the standards achieved by pupils. It is estimated the state school system has some 10,000 teaching vacancies, particularly in math and science, and the situation is deteriorating. Largely related to these problems, the UK's education system has had a bad press in recent years, and according to many surveys, is falling behind the leading countries, particularly in math and science. There is an inadequacy of vocational education and training in the UK, and general educational standards are inferior to those in many advanced industrial nations.

英格兰和威尔士的公立学校系统多年来一直在经历一场危机，原因是缺乏资金、基础设施崩溃、书籍和其他设备短缺，尤其是教师短缺。随着国家课程的推出，学校教师失去了一些自主权。在学校教书已经不像以前那么受欢迎了，这主要是因为工资以及历届政府将教育状况和学生达到的标准归咎于教师的方式。据估计，州立学校系统有大约 10000 个教学空缺，特别是在数学和科学方面，而且情况正在恶化。很大程度上是相关的。在这些问题上，英国的教育系统近年来受到了负面影响，根据许多调查，英国教育系统落后于领先国家，尤其是在数学和科学方面。英国的职业教育和培训不足，一般教育标准低于许多先进工业国家。

US:

1. What is the result of American education's aim to provide equality of education as well as excellence?

The result of American education's aim to provide equality of opportunity as well as excellence is manifold. For one thing, it has raised the overall level of education of Americans. For another, it has encouraged more Americans than ever before to study for advanced degrees and to become more involved in specialized research. For still another, it has convinced many Americans that the future of society depends on the quantity and quality of its educated citizens. All of this explains why a great many Americans are still willing to spend more money on education, even during times of economic difficulty.

美国教育旨在提供机会平等和卓越的结果是多方面的。一方面，它提高了美国人的整体教育水平。另一方面，它鼓励了比以往任何时候都更多的美国人攻读高级学位，并更多地参与专业研究。另一方面，它让许多美国人相信，社会的未来取决于受过教育的公民的数量和质量。所有这些都解释了为什么许多美国人仍然愿意在教育上花更多的钱，即使在经济困难时期也是如此。

2. What are the main functions of American education in addition to passing on knowledge to students?

The functions of American education can be understood and appreciated in several aspects. First, it has always been seen as a necessity in the democratization of American society. Secondly, it has been viewed as conducive to the goal of bringing people of various cultural and linguistic, religious, social and political backgrounds together, that is "Americanization". Thirdly, apart from viewing education as an instrument to reform society, education has been mostly seen as a way of "bettering oneself", or "rising in the world". This is, in fact, a fundamental part of the American Dream. The social and economic mobility of Americans comes largely from the relative easy access to education that most Americans have enjoyed. To most Americans, the first step up - whether the ultimate goal was money, status, power, or simply knowledge - usually started at the school door.

美国教育的功能可以从几个方面来理解和欣赏。首先，它一直被视为美国社会民主化的必要条件。其次，它被认为有助于实现将不同文化和语言、宗教、社会和政治背景的人聚集在一起的目标，即“美国化”。第三，除了将教育视为改革社会的工具外，教育大多被视为“改善自己”或“在世界上崛起”的一种方式。事实上，这是美国梦的一个基本部分。美国人的社会和经济流动性主要来自于大多数美国人所享有的相对容易的教育机会。对大多数美国人来说，第一步——无论最终目标是金钱、地位、权力，还是仅仅是知识——通常都是从学校门口开始的。