

True or False:

1. People in different parts of Britain ~~like to~~ use the name England to refer to their country.

F (England is the most populous and wealthiest part of the country, so people sometimes refer to the whole country as England, a name that people of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland do not like very much.)

2. The Severn river is the longest river of Britain, which originates in Wales and flows through western England.

T (The longest river of Britain, the Severn river originates in mid-Wales and flows through western England to the Bristol channel and the Atlantic Ocean.)

3. Today, ~~more than half of the people~~ in Wales still speak the ancient Welsh language.

F (Its own language, Welsh, is spoken by about 20% of the population, much more than those who speak Gaelic in Scotland and Ireland.)

4. In terms of population and area, Northern Ireland is the ~~second largest~~ part of Britain.

F (Northern Ireland is the smallest of the four parts, both in population and in area.)

5. Although the climate in Britain is generally mild, the temperature in northern Scotland ~~often falls below minus ten Celsius degrees~~ in January.

F (The average temperature in January is around 0 Celsius degrees, and seldom falls below minus ten Celsius degrees, even in northern Scotland.)

6. The majority of the people in Britain are descendants of the Anglo-Saxons.

T (The majority of the population is descendants of the Anglo-Saxons, a Germanic people from Europe who went to England between the 5th and 6th centuries.)

7. The Celtic people were the earliest known inhabitants of Britain.

T (Most people in Wales and Scotland are descendants of the people who were the earliest known inhabitants of Britain.)

8. English evolved into what is now described as modern English from the late ~~16th~~ century.

F (From the late 15th century onward, the English language changed further into what is now described as modern English.)

9. British history before 55 BC is basically undocumented.

T (Recorded history in Britain began in the year 55 BC, when Julius Caesar and his Roman troops invaded the island in British history before that time is largely undocumented.)

10. The Anglo-Saxons came to Britain in the 5th century.

T (In 410 Germanic barbarians attacked Rome……soon after the Romans left, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes landed in Britain.)

11.The chief or king of the Anglo-Saxon tribes exercised power ~~at their own will~~.

F (The Anglo-Saxons were organized into tribes, governed by a chief or king……Private ownership can come into existence, but everyone was subject to control by the village as a whole.)

12.The Vikings began to attack the English coast in the 8th century.

T (In the 8th century, the Vikings from the Scandinavian countries of Northern Europe, Norway and Denmark in particular, began to attack the English coast.)

13.Henry II built up a large empire which included England and most of France.

T (Henry II built up a large empire which included England and more than half of France.)

14.The Magna Carta was designed to protect the rights of ~~both the privileged class and the townspeople~~.

F (Although the Magna Carta was made in the interest of the privileged class, it was of progressive significance in that it granted the townspeople freedom of trade and self-government.)

15.The Hundred Years' War was a series of wars fought between the British ~~and the Vikings~~ for trade and territory.

F (The hundred years' war was a series of wars fought between England and France over trade, territory, security and the throne.)

16.In an effort to make a compromise between different religious factions, queen Elizabeth the first actually defended the fruit of the reformation.

T (Although working for a compromise between different religious factions, she defended the fruits of the reformation in essence.)

17.Conventions are regarded less important than the statutory law in the workings of the British government.

T (Conventions are rules and practices which are not legally enforceable but are regarded as vital to the workings of the government.)

18.The British monarchy ~~has never been interrupted~~ throughout history.

F (The stability of the British government owes much to the monarchy. Its continuity has been interrupted only once in over 1000 years.)

19.In reality, the ~~British king or queen is the source~~ of all government powers.

F (In reality, they do everything on the advice of the prime minister, and their role is symbolic, ceremonial and unpolitical.)

20.The British Parliament is the law-making body ~~of the Commonwealth of Nations~~.

F (Parliament is the lawmaking body of Britain.)

21.The members of the House of Commons are ~~appointed rather than elected~~.

F (It is usually composed of 650 members of parliament, known as "MPs", who represent the 650 constituencies. ...After a government has been in power for five years, it must resign and hold a general election in which all British adults are given the chance to vote again for the MP who represents their constituency.)

22.The British prime minister is the leader of the majority party in parliament.

T (The prime minister is the leader of the majority party in Parliament.)

23.Cabinet members are chosen by the Prime Minister from ~~various political parties~~ in Parliament.

F (Cabinet members are chosen by the prime minister from members of his own party in parliament.)

24.The legal systems in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are much similar in terms of lore, organization and practice.

T (The judicial branch of the British government is rather complicated in that England and Wales, Scotland and northern Ireland all have their own legal systems with minor differences in law, organization and practice.)

25.Britain was the first industrialized nation in the world.

T (Britain was the first industrialized nation in the world and has remained an economic giant for the past two centuries.)

26.The British economy experienced a relative decline during the post-war period.

T (Although Britain remained a member of the Group of Seven after world war II, Its economy experienced a period of great difficulty and relative economic decline for the following reasons.)

27.~~Limited resources and high unemployment rate~~ were persistent problems that prevented rapid economic development in Britain after World War II.

F (However, inflation and trade deficit were persistent problems that prevented rapid economic development.)

28.Thatcher's revolution turned out to be a great success in dealing with ~~all~~ the British economic and social problems.

F (Thatcher's revolutions seemed in some ways to be a success as inflation came under control and business profits increased. However, the negative aspects of Thatcher's reform was a rapid increase in unemployment.)

29.The economic approach adopted by Tony Blair was different from that of the old labor party and the conservative party.

T (Tony Blair became prime minister, Blair called for the "Third way", which was different from

the old labor party's commitment to a nationalization of economy and conservative party's emphasis on extreme individualism.)

30.Blair made the Bank of England independent in order to separate politics from economic policy.

T (In order to separate politics and economic policy, Blair made the Bank of England independent.)

31.Britain is an important oil exporter since its oil industry ~~has a long history~~.

F (Britain's oil industry is relatively new.)

32.Nuclear power is one of the major energy sources in Britain.

T (Another major source of energy in Britain is nuclear power, with a first nuclear power plant constructed in 1956.)

33.The British government has been responsible for education since the ~~early 1800s~~.

F (Before 1870, only 40% of children under 10 went to school regularly. From then on, in response to changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution and social and political movements, the government started to take responsibility for education.)

34.Education in Britain is compulsory for all children between the ~~ages of 6 and 15~~.

F (Education in Britain is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 16(17 from 2013).)

35.The National Curriculum is compulsory in ~~both the state system and independent system~~.

F (The National Curriculum is compulsory in the state system, but optional in the independent system.)

36.When children finish their schooling at 16, they're required to take a national GCSE examination.

T (When children finish their schooling at 16, they are required to take a national examination, the General Certificate of Secondary Education(GCSE), which certifies that they have achieved the standard expected after 11 years of compulsory education.)

37.Graduates from state schools in Britain have less favorable chance to enter famous universities than those from independent schools.

T (As a result, graduates from independent schools are more likely than those of states schools to be accepted by famous universities.)

38.The Times is the world's oldest Sunday newspaper.

F (The Observer, first appeared in 1790, making it the world's oldest Sunday newspaper.)

39.The BBC World Service broadcasts ~~only in English~~ throughout the world.

F (The international branch of the BBC is the BBC World Service, which broadcasts in 32

languages throughout the world.)

40. Some British holidays are celebrated to mark important events in the Christian calendar and some others are related to local customs and traditions.

T (Some holidays are celebrated throughout the nation and mark important events in the Christian calendar. Other holidays are based on local customs and traditions.)

41. The Canterbury Tales is a representative work ~~of the Old English period~~.

F (The Canterbury Tales (1387-1400) is his masterpiece and one of the monumental works in English literature.)

42. The Renaissance is characterized by admiration of the Greek and Latin classic works.

T (During the 14th and 16th centuries an intellectual movement known as the Renaissance swept Europe. It is characterized by admiration of the Greek and Latin classic work.)

43. As a great English poet, Alexander Pope also translated Homer's Iliad.

T (Pope also translated Homer's Iliad and Odyssey.)

44. Jonathan Swift is probably the foremost prose satirist in the English language, and ~~Robinson Crusoe is his masterpiece~~.

F (Jonathan Swift is probably the foremost prose satirist in the English language. The novel Robinson Crusoe won Daniel Defoe great acclaim.)

45. ~~William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge~~ brought the Romantic Movement to its height.

F (The major second generation of Romantic poets include Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats. They brought the Romantic Movement to its height.)

46. ~~Lord Byron~~ distinguished himself by the musical quality of his short poems, such as "Ode to the West Wind"

F (The lovely musical quality appears in his (Percy Bysshe Shelley) short poems on nature such as Ode to the West Wind and To a Skylark.)

47. Jane Austen is a well-known novelist of ~~the stream of consciousness school~~.

F (Jane Austen is noted particularly for her vivid description and lively interplay of her characters, superb sense of comic irony and moral families…… James Joyce, Irish novelists, is another well-known novelists of the stream of consciousness school.)

48. Joseph Conrad is classified as a forerunner of Modernism, which prevailed before World War II.

T (Modernism prevailed before world war II……With the moral ambiguity of modern life, he's classified as a forerunner of Modernism.)

Single Choose:

1. The two main islands of British Isles are A
A. Great Britain and Ireland B. Great Britain and Scotland
C. Great Britain and Wales D. Great Britain and England

英国，全称为 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland，大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国。其中 Great Britain 由 England, Wales 和 Scotland 组成。Great Britain 和 Ireland 是不列颠群岛（British Isles）中的两个主要的岛屿。

2. B is the capital city of Scotland.
A. Belfast B. Edinburgh C. London D. Cardiff.

London 是 UK 的首都以及 England 的首府。Edinburgh 是 Scotland 的首府。Cardiff 是 Wales 的首府。

3. Among the four parts of the UK, D is the smallest.
A. England B. Scotland C. Wales D. Northern Ireland

北爱尔兰在人口和面积上是四部分中最小的。

4. English belongs to the C group of the Indo-European family of languages.
A. Celtic. B. Norman C. Germanic D. Roman

英语属于印欧语系中的日耳曼语族。

5. The introduction of Christianity to Britain added the first element of D words to English.
A. Danish and Finnish B. Dutch and German
C. French and Italian D. Latin and Greek.

古英语为 Anglo-Saxons (盎格鲁撒克逊人) 带来的语言，而 Celts (原凯尔特人) 的语言 Celtic 现在少量的存在于苏格兰、威尔士和北爱尔兰方言 Gaelic 中。

古英语被维京海盗所说的 Old Norse 所影响，其非常接近 German 和 Dutch。而基督教的传播加入了 Latin 和 Greek 的词汇。

诺曼征服(Norman Conquest)后，古英语逐渐进入中世纪英语，期间英语被 French 深远的影响着。许多东西有不同的词语表示，如 pork 和 pig 等。黑死病结束后，随着劳动阶级和商人阶级在经济和社会重要性的增长，英语比法语更加重要。

15 世纪后叶，英语进入现代英语时期。随着印刷术的兴起，英语逐步规范化。第一本英文字典于 1604 年发表。Samuel Johnson 在 1755 年发表的 A Dictionary of English Language 建立了拼写的标准。文艺复兴时期，英语进一步从 Latin 和 Greek 中吸取单词。

6. The evolution of middle English was reinforced by the A influence.
A. Norman B. Dutch C. German D. Danish

7. Samuel Johnson's dictionary was influential in establishing a standard form of C .

A. grammar B. handwriting C. spelling D. pronunciation.

8. At present, nearly C of the world's population communicates in English.

A. half B. a quarter C. one-third D. one-fifth.

据目前，全世界大约有 1/3 人口用英语交流。

9. The D attack on Rome and the Roman occupation in Britain in 410.

A. Norman B. Danish C. Celtic D. Germanic

410 年，Germanic barbarians 袭击罗马，罗马人从英国撤离。随后，盎格鲁撒克逊人登陆英国。

10. By the late 7th century D became the dominant religion in England.

A. Celtic Christianity B. Anglo-Saxon Christianity
C. Germanic Christianity D. Roman Christianity.

盎格鲁撒克逊人初到英格兰岛时并无宗教信仰。在 Pope Gregory I 的命令下，597 年 St. Augustine 和 40 名传教士一同抵达 Kent（肯特，七王国之一），随后许多盎格鲁撒克逊人皈依 Rome Christian。7 世纪后叶，Rome Christian 成为英格兰主流宗教。

11. The C marked the establishment of feudalism in England.

A. Viking invasions B. signing of the Magna Carta
C. Norman conquest D. adoption of common law

1066 年，Edward the Confessor 去世，由于没有后代，他的姐夫 Harold of Wessex（萨塞克斯，七王国之一）继位。Duke William of Normandy 杀了 Harold，成功继位英格兰国王，并开启了封建主义的建设。

12. The end of the Wars of the Roses led to the rule of C.

A. the House of Valois B. the House of York
C. the House of Tudor D. the House of Lancaster

玫瑰战争是 House of York（约克王朝）和 House of Lancaster（兰卡斯特王朝）为权力，财富和王位之间的战争。约克家族的家徽为白玫瑰，而兰卡斯特家族的家徽为红玫瑰。战争的起因是 Duke Richard of York 打算取代 King Henry VI of Lancaster。战争持续了 30 年，最终以 Lancaster 家族获胜，两大家族合并形成以 Henry Tudor 为 King Henry VII 的 House of Tudor（都铎王朝）结束。

13. The direct cause for the Reformation was king Henry VIII's effort to A

A. divorce his wife B. break with Rome
C. support the Protestants D. declare his supreme power over the church

罗马教会和英国国王之间存在着不可避免的冲突，导致革命的直接原因是 King Henry VIII 想

要休掉他的妻子 Catherine of Aragon，而当时离婚的权力在教皇手中。

Henry VIII 对修道院进行大规模的镇压并没收他们的财产。1534 年，Henry VIII 颁布了 Act of Supremacy（至尊法案），宣布他在英国教会的最高权力。

14. Along the English civil war broke out in 1642 between B

- A. the Protestants and the Puritans(清教徒) B. the Royalists and the parliamentarians
C. the noble and the peasants(农民) D. the aristocrats(贵族) and the Christians

17 世纪前叶，国王垄断自己喜欢的商品，市民没有允许不得购买这些商品，导致价格飙升，商人行商困难。议会宣布没有经过议会同意的垄断行为是违法的，然而 King Charles I 不满并于 1629 年解散议会。自此，Charles I 独掌大权，折磨资产阶级。

1642 年，Royalists（Cavaliers，保王党）和 Parliamentarians（Roundheads，圆颅党）之间的战争爆发了。

15. A was passed after the Glorious Revolution.

- A. The bill of rights B. The act of Supremacy
C. The provisions of Oxford D. The Magna Carta

1689 年，William 和 Mary 成为联合君主，史称 Glorious Revolution（光荣革命）。随后，议会通过了 The Bill of Rights（人权法案），限制君主的权力，保证了议会的权威，建立了君主立宪制（Constitutional Monarchy）。

16. The industrial revolution was accomplished in Britain by the middle of the C century.
A. 17th B. 18th C. 19th D. 20th

18 世纪，Industrial Revolution（工业革命）开始。19 世纪中叶，英国工业革命完成。工业革命使得工业产量大幅提升，大量城镇化，社会阶级结构改变。

17. The British government is characterized by a division of power between three of the following branches EXCEPT the C

- A. judiciary B. legislature C. monarchy D. executive.

英国政府由 legislature（立法机关），executive（行政部门），judiciary（司法机关）三部分构成。其中 Parliament 是立法机构，分为 House of Lords（上议院）和 House of Commons（下议院），Cabinet（内阁）和 Privy Council（枢密院）为行政部门，内阁成员由首相挑选，枢密院为顾问机构，无实际权力。首相掌管议会和内阁，为英国最高掌权人。司法机关相对复杂，英国四个地区有自己独立的法律系统，而在法律、组织和实践上区别不大。

18. The importance of the British monarchy can be seen in its effects on D

- A. passing bills B. advising the government C. political parties D. public attitude.

君主象征着整个政治体系的连续性和可行性，是英国整体的象征，是联系不同地区和文化人民的纽带。君主的重要性从民众意向中看出。

19. As a revising chamber, the house of lords is expected to B the house of Commons.
A. rival B. complement C. criticize d. inspect

立法工作主要由下议院进行，而上议院只是审查、修改、补充下议院的法案。原则上，上议院作为法案的修改院，应当作为下议院的补充而非竞争对手。当涉及到税收、公共支出等之类的货币法案的批准时，应及时批准而不作任何修订。

20. A is at the center of the British political system.
A. Cabinet B. The House of Lords C. The House of the Commons D. The Privy Council.

内阁是英国政治体系的核心，是最高决策机构。每周四上午内阁成员会在唐宁街 10 号举行例会，商讨最重要的政策。由于首相也是议会的领导者，因此首相和内阁通常能够影响立法。

21. The main duty of the British Privy Council is to B
A. make decisions B. give advice C. pass bills D. supervise the cabinet

枢密院充当行政部门的顾问机构，由内阁成员、各主要政党的领导人、议长、主教、高级法官和其他重要政治人物构成。现在枢密院的权力被内阁架空，枢密院更多是仪式性的。

22. Generally speaking, the British parliament operates on a B system.
A. single-party B. two-party C. three-party D. multi-party.

英国议会实行两党制，一方代表政府，另一方代表对立派。

23. The policies of the Conservative Party are characterized by pragmatism and D
A. government intervention B. nationalization of enterprises
C. social reforms D. a belief in individualism

保守党支持 free enterprises（自由企业）和 privatization of state-owned enterprises（国有企业私有化）。其反对过多的政府干扰，尤其是国有化。其政策主要特点是 pragmatism（实用主义）和 a belief in individualism（个人主义）。

24. In Britain, the parliamentary general election is held every C years.
A. three B. four C. five D. six

正常情况下，每五年英国进行一次大选。

25. The A in the early 1970s worsen an already stagnant economy in Britain.
A. oil crisis B. high inflation rates C. large imports D. unemployment problem

1973 年，oil crisis（石油危机）伴随着 fall of pound（英镑贬值）和 high inflation rates（高通货膨胀率）使得已经下滑的经济更加严重。

26. Of the following practices, C did not belong to Thatcher's social welfare reform.

- A. reducing child benefits B. shortening the period of unemployment benefits
C. reducing unemployment D. lowering old age pensions

撒切尔将国有企业私有化从而促进经济竞争意识 (promote more competitive spirit)。在社会福利方面，她减少养老金 (reduce old age pensions)，缩短无业福利的持续期 (shorten the period of unemployment benefit)，停止儿童福利 (cut child benefit)。她认为免费劳动市场对于成功的经济是至关重要的，并且她掌控了工会。

撒切尔的改革在控制通货膨胀和提高企业利润方面是成功的，但是这也导致了失业率的上升。1982 年，英国失业率和大萧条时期相当。

- 27.The Blair government was successful in all the following aspects EXCEPT D
A. limiting government spending B. keeping inflation under control
C. reducing unemployment D. reducing inequality

布莱尔政府采取和老工党和保守党不同的政策。老工党政策侧重减少不平等 (reduce inequality)。而他使得 the Bank of England 独立出来，将政治和经济政策分离。他在限制政府支出 (limit government spending)，控制通货膨胀 (keep inflation under control) 和减少失业率 (reduce unemployment) 上取得了成功。

- 28.Britain has devoted about C of its land area to agriculture.
A. 50% B. 60% C. 70% D. 80%

英国投入了 70%的土地进行农业，其中 2/3 为畜牧业做保留。

- 29.Britain's important fishing areas include all of the following EXCEPT D
A. the North Sea B. the English Channel
C. the sea area around the Irish coast D. the sea area between Britain and Ireland

英国的主要捕渔区在 the North Sea, the English Channel, the sea area off the Irish coast, the sea area between Britain and Ireland

- 30.Coal mining industry in Britain provides B of the energy consumed in the country.
A. one-third B. one-fourth C. one-fifth D. two-thirds.

煤矿工业为英国供应了总消耗量 1/4 的能量。

- 31.The car industry in Britain is mostly A
A. foreign-owned B. state-owned C. joint-venture(合资企业) D. privately-owned.

英国自动汽车工业多为外资所有 (foreign-owned)

- 32.Of the following sectors in Britain, C has experienced spectacular growth since the end of world war II.
A. agriculture B. the energy industry C. the service sector D. the manufacturing industry

和绝大多数发达国家一样，英国在第二产业上相对紧缩，而在服务业上有着惊人的发展。主要原因有服务业消耗原料少，需要大量人力，可以提供相对较多的就业机会。

33. In Britain, the division between grammar schools and vocational schools was ended by the introduction of the comprehensive schools in the D
A. 1930s B. 1940s C. 1950s D. 1960s

1960 年代，综合学校取代了文法学校和职业学校。

34. Over C of British children receive primary and secondary education through the independent system.
A. 5% B. 6% C. 7% D. 8%

35. Partially funded by central government grants, most of the universities received their remaining funds from all the following sources EXCEPT B
A. tuition fees B. loans C. donations D. corporate contributions

除了白金汉大学和 BPP 大学，其他所有大学资金部分来源于政府资助，剩下的来自学费、捐赠和企业贡献。

36. To be admitted to Open University, one needs B
A. some educational qualifications
B. no educational qualifications
C. the General Certificate of Education -- Advanced Level
D. the General Certificate of Secondary Education

开放大学提供非传统路线的大学教育并颁发学位证。开放大学无需任何证书。

37. Among Britain's quality press, the following newspapers are regarded as the "Big Three" EXCEPT C
A. the Times B. the Guardian C. the Observer D. the Daily Telegraph

The Times（泰晤士报）、The Guardian（卫报）、The Daily Telegraph（每日电讯报）为英国质报的“Big Three”。

38. Life on Earth is a kind of C program produced by the BBC and is popular worldwide.
A. radio B. drama C. documentary D. soap opera

BBC 纪录片，尤其是野生节目，如畅销片 Life on Earth，深受喜爱。

39. D is Britain's top pay-television provider.
A. BSB B. sky TV C. BBC D. BSkyB

BCB 和 Sky TV 融合成为 BSkyB, 英国顶级收费电视供应商。

40. The following Christmas traditions are particularly pretty EXCEPT A

- A. Trooping the Color B. the Queen's Christmas message
C. Boxing Day D. the Christmas Pantomime

圣诞节具有英国特色的三大传统包含 the Christmas Pantomime (圣诞童话剧)、the Queen's Christmas message (女王致辞), Boxing Day (节礼日)。
Trooping the Color 是每年六月第二个星期六庆祝女王生日的阅兵仪式。

41. The most significant achievement of the English Renaissance is B

- A. poetry B. drama C. novel D. pamphlet

英国文艺复兴时期最高荣誉无疑是戏剧。

42. C is viewed as Romantic poetry's "Declaration of Independence".

- A. "I Wondered Lonely as a Cloud" B. Don Juan
C. The preface of Lyrical Ballads D. Prometheus Unbound

Wordsworth 在 Lyrical Ballads (抒情歌谣集) 序言中阐述了他对诗歌源于强烈情感自然流露的信仰, 该序言被誉为诗歌中的独立宣言。

43. Of Dickens' novel, B is considered most autobiographical.

- A. A Tale of Two Cities B. David Copperfield
C. Oliver Twist D. Great Expectations

44. D is a representative of English Critical Realism at the turn of the 19th century.

- A. Robert Louis Stevenson B. John Milton
C. Joseph Conrad D. Thomas Hardy

Robert Louis Stevenson 是 Neo-Romanticism 的代表人物。John Milton 是 Neoclassical 的代表人物。Joseph Conrad 是 Modernism 的代表人物。

45. Of the following books, C is NOT written by Thomas Hardy.

- A. Jude the Obscure B. Tess of the d'Urbervilles
C. Adam Bede D. The Return of the Native

Adam Bede 是 George Eliot 的代表作。

46. A is NOT included in the modernist group.

- A. Oscar Wilde B. Virginia Woolf C. William Butler Yeats D. T. S. Eliot

Oscar Wilde 是 Aestheticism (唯美主义) 代表人物。

47. Of the following writers, B is NOT a Nobel Prize winner.

A. Samuel Beckett B. James Joyce C. William Golding D. V. S. Naipaul

48. Waiting for Godot is written by A

A. Samuel Beckett B. George Orwell C. William Golding D. D. H. Lawrence

Brief Answers:

1. Why do tourists from all over the world like to go to Scotland?

Tourists from all over the world like to go to Scotland to enjoy the beautiful Scottish scenery, to drink Scotch whisky and to see Scotsmen wearing kilts and playing bagpipes.

2. How many periods can the development of the English language be divided into and what are they?

The development of the English language can be divided into three periods: Old English, Middle English and Modern English.

3. Why did English become more important after Black Death?

The laboring and merchants classes grew in economic and social importance after the Black Death, so English thus grew in importance compared to French.

4. What were Queen Victoria's major achievements?

Queen Victoria made tremendous achievements in almost every aspect. She promoted further industrialization, the building of railways and the growth of trade and commerce. During her reign, Britain developed into an empire including about a quarter of the global population and a quarter of the world's landmass.

5. What were the two camps in World War I?

In World War I, the two camps were the Central Power--mainly Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and the Allies--mainly France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy and from 1917, the United States.

6. Why did Britain cooperate closely with the United States after World War II?

Britain cooperated closely with the United States after World War II since they were allied during World War II and shared the same concerns about the Soviet Union.

7. What are the three functions of the House of Commons?

The three functions of the house of Commons are: to draft laws, to scrutinize the activities of the government and to influence future government policy.

8. What kind of public images does the Liberal Democrats have in common?

The Liberal Democrats is perceived as a "middle" party between the Conservative Party and the Labor Party. Many people see it as comparatively flexible and pragmatic in its balance of

the individual and the social. It emphasizes the need for a change in Britain's constitutional arrangements to make the government more democratic and accountable.

9. Why are independent candidates unlikely to win in the general election?

Independent candidates are unlikely to win in the general election because even if they were elected, they would be powerless in Parliament against the larger parties. Therefore, voters usually do not vote for them.

10. What was the negative aspect of Thatcher's reform in the early 1980s?

However, with the negative aspect of Thatcher's reforms in the early 1980s, also rapid increase in unemployment in 1982, the unemployment rate reached the level of the great depression years, with 3,000,000 people out of work.

11. What are the characteristics of Britain's agriculture?

Britain's agriculture is characterized by a small proportion of the population engaged in agricultural activities with a high degree of mechanization. Although it employs only about one point, 5% of the country's labor force, it meets around 60% of the national demand for food.

12. What happened to Britain's beef industry in the mid-1990s?

Britain's beef industry was hit badly by BSE in 1996, resulting in a ban on its beef exports until 2006.

13. What used to be the major functions of grammar schools and vocational schools in Britain. Grammar schools were to train the most academically capable students and prepare them for university, whereas vocational schools were to help the less successful students to learn a trade.

14. What kind of subjects do British comprehensive schools provide?

British comprehensive schools provide a general education, offering both academic subjects like literature and science, and more practical subjects like cooking and carpentry.

15. In what ways do British universities enjoy complete academic freedom?

British universities enjoy complete academic freedom because they can appoint their own staff, decide which students to admit, provide their own courses and award their own degrees.

16. What role does the media play in British leisure culture?

The media plays an essential role in British leisure culture since it helps to shape the public's opinion, determined people's moral and political orientation, and consolidate or undermine the rule of a government.

17. What are the three categories of Shakespeare's plays and their representatives?

Shakespeare's plays fall into three categories: comedy, tragedy and historical play. His representative comedies include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *As*

You Like It, and Twelfth Night. His great tragedies are represented by Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet. His major historical plays include Richard III, Henry V, and Anthony and Cleopatra.

18. What is Critical Realism?

Critical Realism is a literary school which flourished in the 1840s and the early 1850s. The critical realists described the chief traits of society and criticize the capitalist system from a democratic viewpoint. The greatest English critical realist is Charles Dickens.

19. What are the two new literary trends prevailing at the end of the nineteenth century?

The new literary trends that prevailed at the end of the 19th century are Neo-Romanticism and Aestheticism. Those who advocated Neo-Romanticism put emphasis on the invention of exciting adventures and fascinating stories, and those of Aestheticism believed in "art for art's sake".

20. What is the stream of consciousness?

The stream of consciousness is a writing technique which puts the unorganized flow of thought onto page. Writers who adopt this technique give precedence to the depiction of the characters' mental and emotional reactions to external events rather than the events themselves.

Understanding:

1. Who are the British people?

The earliest known inhabitants of Britain were Celts who were the ancestors of the Welsh, Scottish and Irish people. Then came the Anglos, the Saxons and the Jutes who brought with them the English language. Many people from other countries came later. In modern times, there are a lot of immigrants from many former colonies of the British Empire, Britain is thus a country of mixed cultures, and the British people are of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

2. What is Standard English?

Standard English is based on the speech of the upper class of southeastern England. It is preferred by the educated and is widely used in the media and taught at schools. It has developed and has been promoted as a model for correct British English. It is also the norm carried overseas today. Standard English is codified to the extent that the grammar and vocabulary are much the same everywhere in the world where English is taught and used.

3. What were the results of the Industrial Revolution in Britain?

The Industrial Revolution changed Britain in many ways. First, its industrial productivity increased dramatically. Britain became the most advanced industrial country in the world. Second, urbanization took place. Many new cities sprang up. Third, it caused great changes in the social class structure. The capitalist class became the most important force in the country and the proletariat class(无产阶级) emerged.

4.Explain the rise and fall of the British Empire.

Colonization of Newfoundland in 1583 marked the beginning of the British empire. By 1837 Britain had been an empire which included the colonies in Canada, India and many small states in the west Indies. During the mid-19th century, the British government consolidated the existing colonies by bringing them under the direct control of the government. By the end of the 19th century, the British empire included about a quarter of the global population and a quarter of the world's landmass. Before World War I, Britain was the largest colonial empire in the world. However, Britain suffered a great loss of its manpower in the two world wars and exhausted its reserves of gold, dollars and overseas investments. Most of Britain's colonies gained independence as a result of world war II, which inevitably led to the fall of the British Empire.

5.What do British electoral campaigns usually involve during the process of a general election?

The electoral campaigns usually involve advertising in newspapers, door-to-door campaign and leaflets. The main parties are given short periods of time on national television to present their policies to the public. Apart from the parties on publicity, newspapers and TV programs spend a lot of time discussing the campaigns, interviewing politicians and predicting the results.

6.What is the Commonwealth of Nations?

The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of independent sovereign states, all of which acknowledge the British monarch as the symbolic head of the association, the Commonwealth is not a political union, and its member states have full autonomy to manage their own internal and external affairs. It is primarily an organization in which countries with diverse economic backgrounds have an opportunity for close and equal interaction after gaining independence. Its primary purpose is to advocate democracy, human rights and to promote economic cooperation and growth within its members.

7.What were the major causes of Britain's relative economic decline in the post-war period?

Britain's economy experienced relative decline in the post-war period for several reasons. First, Britain suffered great losses in the two World Wars and had gone heavily into debt to finance the wars. Second, the era of the British Empire was over by the mid-20 century. India and other British colonies which provided raw materials and large markets for British goods, gained independence. Third Britain was forced to maintain an expensive military presence in many overseas locations until the end of the 1960s. What's more, Britain had to make substantial financial contributions to NATO and the U.N. Security Council. Finally, Britain failed to invest in industry after World War II, whereas its competitors like Germany and Japan caught up by investing in industry.

8.Why do developed nations like Britain encourage the development of the service industry.

The service industry has played an increasingly important role in economy in the developed countries. On the one hand, it requires a large group of people working in it so that abundant employment opportunities are provided. On the other hand, the service industry causes little

pollution.

9. What are the general features of Britain's independent schools?

Britain's independent schools require fees from students. Although the National Curriculum is optional in the independent system, most independent schools teach what the curriculum demands. Independent schools get their funding through the private sector as well as tuition fees, with minimal government assistance. Since they are generally better funded than most state schools, they are likely to recruit the best teachers and provide superior facilities. However, the high tuition fees have become an obstacle for many students to enroll although graduates of independent schools are more likely to be accepted by famous universities.

10. What are the "quality press" and "tabloids" in Britain?

Among the 10 daily national newspapers in Britain, about half of them are regarded as the "quality press" since they carry in-depth articles of political and social importance, reviews and feature articles about "high culture", and they are generally read by well educated people. The Times, The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph are good examples. The "tabloids" with color photos and striking headlines, usually covers scandals and gossip about celebrities, a typical example is The Sun on Sunday.

11. What is romanticism?

Romanticism is a trend that appeared in English literature at the turn of the nineteenth century. It's a revolt against the prescribed rules of Classicism. Writers of romantic literature are more concerned with imagination and feeling than with reason and intellect. Discontent with the development of capitalism, they seek literary refuge. William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge began the trend with their joint work *Lyrical Ballads*, whose preface is viewed as Romantic poetry's "Declaration of Independence". It was the second generation of romantic poets such as Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats who brought the romantic movement to its height.

12. What are the characteristics of English literature in the twentieth century?

English literature in the twentieth century can be roughly divided into two periods: Modernism and Postmodernism. Modernism prevailed before world war II. It can be viewed as a deliberate departure from tradition and is characterized by the use of innovative forms of expressions. Modernist writing seems disorganized and hard to understand. It often portrays the action from the viewpoint of a single confused individual, rather than from the viewpoint of an all-knowing impersonal narrator. After world war II, Postmodernism began. Postmodernism differs in some ways from Modernism. Modernism, for example, tends to present a fragmented view of human subjectivity, but presents that fragmentation as something tragic and should be lamented as a loss. Postmodernism does not lament that idea of fragmentation, rather celebrates it. Modern is look for buried meaning below the confusing surface, while postmodernists abandon the search.