

## **Text 1**

### **Britain under Queen Victoria**

Victoria was a daughter of the Duke of Kent, one of the sons of George III. She succeeded her uncle, William IV, in 1837 when she was a girl of eighteen. She died in 1901 a fabulous old lady, having celebrated her Jubilee in 1887 and her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. These two Jubilees, marking Victoria's fiftieth and sixtieth anniversaries on the throne, were celebrated with enormous pomp and ceremony, and represented the British Empire at its height.

Queen Victoria was extremely popular in the opening years of her reign and during her marriage to the Prince Consort, Albert of Saxe-Coburg, a minor German prince. Prince Albert was earnest, conscientious and industrious, but perhaps too German in manner and outlook to please all the British of his day. After the early death of her adored Albert in 1861, Victoria remained in mourn and virtually retired from public life. This led to some unpopularity.

But the two Jubilees, her return to public life, and the great courage of the little old lady brought Victorias reign to a close in a blaze of popularity. She was a clever woman like great Elizabeth I and was limited in her tastes and out! But she had character and a great sense of public duty and responsibility. She was the best possible monarch for the nineteenth-century Britain.

During most of Victoria's reign, Britain held the position of world leadership now occupied by the United States. Britain, the centre of a vast empire which included Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, and many parts of Africa and Asia, was in those years the wealthiest, the most industrialized, and the most powerful country in the world.

Her military power didn't rest on her army, which was smaller than the armies of France and Germany, but on her navy, which was much stronger than any other navy. Though frequently engaged in small colonial wars, Britain kept clear of any major wars on the scale of the American War Between the States or the Franco-Prussian War of 1870—1871. Britain and the rest of the world had changed in many different ways during Victoria's reign, than it had in the past long centuries.

## Словарь

to succeed smb — сменять кого-то (на троне, на посту)

to celebrate Jubilee — праздновать юбилей

the Diamond Jubilee — бриллиантовый юбилей (60 лет правления страной, государством)

to mark anniversaries — отмечать юбилеи, годовщины

reign — правление, царствование

the Prince Consort — принц-консорт (титул, данный мужу правящей королевы)

earnest, conscientious and industrious — серьезный, добросовестный, трудолюбивый

in mourning — в горе, в скорби

in a blaze of popularity — в блеске популярности

the wealthiest — самый богатый (превосходная степень сравнения англ прилагательного от wealthy-wealthier-the wealthiest)

navy — военно-морской флот

to keep clear of smth — держаться в стороне от чего-то

## **Text 2**

### **THE HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

The history of Great Britain is long and interesting. The first human inhabitants of Britain appeared on its territory already in prehistoric times. The hunters of the Neolithic Age (New Stone Age) crossed the sea to Britain. They settled on its shores in their search for food. Soon after 700 BC Britain was occupied by the Celts.

Their language developed into the Celtic language of modern Wales. In AD 43 the Romans began an invasion. It resulted in the Roman occupation of Britain. The Romans built many towns. The largest of the towns was called Londinium. It was on the river Thames, where London is today. It became the capital city.

In the 5th century Britain was attacked by the Germanic tribes of the Jutes, the Saxons, and the Angles. The invaders settled down and formed a number of small

kingdoms. The Anglo-Saxons and Jutes gradually became one people. In the 7th — 9th centuries important changes took place in the Anglo-Saxons communities. Land became private property of separate families. It was the beginning of feudal relations. The Danish invasions of the 9th and 10th centuries brought a new wave of the development of feudal relations in England. At the beginning of the 9th century the Danes and Norsemen began to occupy the country. In the 11th century the invasion by the Normans under William the Conqueror began.

The development of the country during the Middle Ages (11th — 15th centuries) was characterized by the exploitation of the peasant by the feudal lords, development of trade, civil wars, the Wars of the Roses (1455—85), a struggle between two most powerful feudal families. But the Wars of the Roses could not prevent the economic development of the country. In the 15th — 16th centuries the clothing industry was well developed. It gave development to capitalistic relations. The English bourgeois revolution took place in a country where capitalism developed faster than in any other country of Europe. As a result of its development England 100 years later after the revolution became the first industrial state in the world, the largest colonial empire. The 18th century brought the Industrial Revolution and social changes. The working-class began to defend their rights.

Britain's relatively peaceful development ended in the year 1914. Britain entered World War I. Strikes and unemployment were the result of it. World War II was another difficult period in the history of Britain. The British people withstood heavy bombing with great courage. London itself was bombed for 76 nights continuously. When the USSR entered the war, the Britain's situation became better. After the war many social reforms and economic development took place. Now Britain is one of the leading countries in the world and the history of the country continues.

Словарь

BC ("before Christ") — до нашей эры

AD (Anno Domini, Latin — "in the year of Christ") — нашей эры

an inhabitant — житель

the Celts — кельты

feudal — феодальный

invasion — вторжение

continuously — постоянно

### Text 3

## TEENAGE LIFE IN GREAT BRITAIN

Life used to be fun for teenagers. They used to have money to spend, and free time to spend it in. They used to wear teenage clothes, and meet in teenage coffee bars and discos. Some of them still do.

But for many young people, life is harder now. Jobs are difficult to find. There's not so much money around. Things are more expensive, and it's hard to find a place to live. Teachers say that students work harder than they used to. They are less interested in politics, and more interested in passing exams. They know that good exam results may get them better jobs.

Most young people nowadays, worry more about money than their parents did twenty years. They try to spend less and save more. They want to be able to get home of their own one day. For some, the answer to unemployment is to leave home and look for work in one of Britain's big cities. Every day hundreds of young people arrive in London from other parts of Britain, looking for jobs. Some find work, and stay. Others don't find it and go home again, or join the many unemployed in London.

There used to be one kind of teenage fashion, one style, one top pop group. Then, the girls all wore mini-skirts and everyone danced to the music of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. But now an eighteen-year-old might be a punk, with green hair and chains round his legs, or a skinhead, with short, short hair and right wing politics, or a "rasta", with long uncombed hair and love for Africa. There's a lot of different music around too. There's reggae, the West Indian sound, the rock, there's heavy metal, country and western, and disco. All these kinds of music are played by different groups and listened to by different fans.

When you read the newspapers and watch the news on TV, it's easy to get the idea that British young people are all unemployed, angry and in trouble. But that's not true. Three quarters of them do more or less what their parents did. They do their best at school, find some kind of work in the end, and get married in their early twenties. They get on well with their parents, and enjoy family life. They eat fish and chips, watch football on TV, go to the pub, and like reading about Princess Diana. After all, if they didn't, they wouldn't be British, would they?

Словарь

unemployment — безработица

to look for work — искать работу

to join the many unemployed — присоединиться к большому числу безработных людей

top pop group — самая популярная музыкальная группа

right wing politics — правоцентристские политические взгляды

uncombed hair — неухоженные, нерасчесанные волосы

reggae — регги (направление в музыке)

to be in trouble - быть в опасности, быть в беде (иметь много проблем)

in one's early twenties — тот, кому за двадцать (возраст от 20 до 25 лет)

to get on well with smb — ладить с кем-то, поддерживать хорошие отношения с кем-то

## **Text 4**

### **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN GREAT BRITAIN**

In England Wales and Northern Ireland the term "public school" refers to fee-charging independent secondary schools. The earliest known reference to a "public school" dates from 1364, when the Bishop of Winchester wrote concerning "the public school" at Kingston in his diocese. The term public then distinguished between education in a school generally provided by a church and open to public applicants. The schools where admission was restricted to children from a particular aristocratic class (such as City of London Freeman's School, Westminster, Rugby School, Haileybury College, Winchester, Kings, Eton, Roedean School and Harrow). Nowadays, many public schools are highly academically selective and pupils usually need to pass the Common Entrance Examination before being admitted at all. Only the best scholars must be able to afford the considerable fees for tuition and (for boarders) room and board.

In Scotland, the term "public school" may have two meanings. Largely due to the earlier introduction of state-administered universal education in Scotland and opposed to the rest of the United Kingdom, the term became associated with state schools. Children in Scottish state schools typically start primary school, or attend a junior school, aged between four and a half and five and a half.

Private schools in England, Wales and Scotland are generally called "independent schools", because of the freedom to operate outside the government regulation. They are favoured by a minority of parents because of their reputation for high academic standards. Many independent schools are single-sex.

In the Republic of Ireland, a private school receives no state support. It is not subject to state control in relation to curriculum, school day, school year, etc. Irish private schools must still work towards the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate, for example. Many private schools in Ireland also double as boarding schools. Teachers in private schools are not paid for by the State and there are no requirements about their qualifications, unlike in public schools. However, most private schools do provide the basic national curriculum as set out for public schools.

The average fee is around €5,000 annually for most schools. If some of private and public schools provide boarding, then the fees may rise up to €25,000 per year.

## Словарь

fee-charging — платный, требующий оплаты

the Common Entrance Examination — общий вступительный экзамен

to afford smth — позволить себе что-либо; быть в состоянии что либо сделать

tuition and board — обучение и проживание; пансион

state administered universal education — всеобщее образование контролируемое государством

to operate outside the government regulation — действовать за рамками государственного контроля или управления

a single-sex school — школа раздельного обучения

the basic national curriculum — основная национальная программа обучения,

requirements — требования

to provide smth — обеспечивать что-то, снабжать чем-то