

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ТОМСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
ФАКУЛЬТЕТ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ

УТВЕРЖДАЮ

Декан факультета иностранных языков

 С. К. Гураль

«*4*» *августа* 200*1* г.

SOME ASPECTS OF BRITAIN AND THE USA
Part II (Great Britain)

Методическая разработка

Томск 2002

РАССМОТРЕНА и ОДОБРЕНА методической комиссией
факультета иностранных языков
Протокол № 15 от «13» сентя 2002г.

Председатель метод. комиссии Зелич —
Н.И. ЗЕЛИЧЕНКО

Зав. каф. англ. яз. естественно-
научных и физико-математических
факультетов В.М. СМОКОТИН

Зав. каф. иностранного
языка О.А. ОБДАЛОВА

В.М. Смокотин
О.А. Обдалова

Данное пособие предназначено для студентов неязыковых специальностей и аспирантов. Целью данного пособия является углубить знания обучающихся в области страноведческих тем программы. Главной задачей пособия является развитие коммуникативных способностей. Упражнения и задания направлены на развитие видов чтения и общения на заданную тему.

Составители ст. преподаватель кафедры английского языка естественно-научных и физико-математических факультетов
Артамонова Л.В.

Преподаватель кафедры английского языка естественно-научных и физико-математических факультетов
Килина М.А.

Рецензент ст. преподаватель Цыба А.Я.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Text I

Exercise 1. Read carefully

Isles, geographical, island, coast, Europe, latitude, largest, usage, recognising, governing, Eire, Ulster, Channel, Irish.

The **British Isles** is the geographical term for a group of about 5,000 islands off the north-west coast of mainland Europe between the latitudes 50°N and 61°N. The largest island is **Britain** or **Great Britain**, which is also the largest island in Europe. It consists of **England**, **Wales** and **Scotland**. The next largest island is **Ireland**, which is made up of **Northern Ireland** (or **Ulster**) and the **Irish Republic** (also known as **Eire**). Britain and Northern Ireland, together with a number of small islands, form the **United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland**, more commonly known as the **United Kingdom** (which is almost 20% smaller than Italy). In everyday usage, however, Great Britain or Britain is used to mean the United Kingdom. The **Isle of Man**, between Ireland and Britain, and the **Channel Islands**, off the north-west coast of France, though recognizing the Crown, have their own parliaments and are largely self-governing.

Exercise 2. Find the translation of the names of places in the Appendix.

Exercise 3. Answer the questions.

1. How many islands do the British Isles comprise?
2. Is Britain the largest island in Europe?
3. What parts does Britain consist of?
4. Ireland is made up of Northern Ireland and Irish Republic, isn't it?
5. What is the difference between Eire and Ireland?
6. Are the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands parts of the United Kingdom?

Exercise 4. Match the terms with their correct definitions.

1 The British Isles	A England, Scotland and Wales
2 Britain	B A group of islands including Britain and Ireland
3 The United Kingdom	C England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and a number of small islands

Text II

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Kilometres, mountainous, region, highest, lowland, area, Grampians, Uplands, southern, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Pennine, undulating, Anglia, Severn, Thames, navigability, iron, ore.

Great Britain is just under 1,000 km long and just under 500 km across in its widest part. The most mountainous region is **Scotland** (with Britain's highest peak, **Ben Nevis** - 1,343 m), which also has a wide lowland area between the Grampians and the Southern Uplands, where most of the large towns, including Edinburgh and Glasgow, and three-quarters of the population are located. Much of **Wales** is also mountainous and in England the **Pennine Range** (the 'backbone of England') extends 224 km (although the highest peak is only 895 m high). The rest of England tends to be rather undulating, and not even the large agricultural plains of **East Anglia** are perfectly flat. In **Ireland** all the highland areas are around the edge, but there are no peaks over 1,100 m.

Rivers in Great Britain are quite short - the longest rivers are the **Severn** and the **Thames** - but their easy navigability has made them an important part of the inland transport network for the transportation of bulk products such as coal, iron ore and steel.

Exercise 2. Complete the table.

Highest mountain	
Longest mountain range	
Flattest area	
Longest rivers	

Exercise 3. Give the short summary of the text using the information from the table.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Population

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Population, populous, populated, estimated, although, females, births, mortality, average, density, square, inhabitants, densely.

With 57 **million** people, the United Kingdom ranks about fifteenth in the world in terms of population, with England (46 million) by far the most populous part (followed by Scotland 5 million, Wales 2.8 million and Northern Ireland 1.5 million). The population is increasing very slowly and in 1976-78 and 1982 actually fell. The estimated **age distribution** in 1985 was 21% <16; 64% 16-64; 15% >64.

Although there are about 6% more male than female births, the higher mortality of men at all ages means that there are more females than males (29 million as against 27.6 million).

The average **population density** in Britain is about 239 per sq. km, compared with, for example, 190 per sq. km in Italy. England, with 361 inhabitants per sq. km, is one of the most densely populated countries in the world (the rest of Britain is much lower: Wales 135 per sq. km, Scotland 65 and Northern Ireland 111).

Exercise 2. Make the summary of the text using the introductory phrases.

To start with, as far as something is concerned, as a matter of fact, in short, finally.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE**Exercise 1. Read carefully.**

Generally, mild, temperate, climate, weather, however, changeable, though, unpredictable, influence, masses, prevailing, extremes, temperature, Centigrade, current, consequently, peninsula, moderate, variations, pollution, altitude, annual, fairly, distributed, frontal, relief.

Britain has a generally mild, temperate **climate**. The **weather**, however, tends to be very changeable (though not necessarily unpredictable) as a result of the constant influence of different air masses. The prevailing winds are south-westerly, which bring warm air in from across the Atlantic. There are few extremes in **temperature**, which rarely goes above 32°C or below - 10°C. In summer, southern Britain is warmer than northern Britain because of its latitude, but in winter the North Atlantic Drift - a warm sea current - keeps the west milder than the east. Consequently Wales and the south-west peninsula have the most moderate climate and eastern England the most extreme. These differences are not great, however, and local variations arising from factors such as altitude and pollution are often greater. Annual **rainfall** is fairly evenly distributed, but ranges from more than 1,600 mm in the mountainous areas of the west and north to less than 800 mm over central and eastern parts. This is because depressions from the Atlantic bring frontal rainfall first to the west and because western Britain is higher and so gets more relief rain.

Exercise 2. Answer the questions.

1. What kind of climate does Britain have?

2. Why is the weather changeable?
3. Can one predict the weather in Great Britain?
4. Where is warm air brought from?
5. What are the extremes in temperature?
6. Are there any differences in rainfall distribution?

Exercise 3. Complete the table.

Weather features	Causes
Very changeable weather	
Few extremes in temperature	
South warmer than North	
West milder than East	
Frequent local variations	
West wetter than East	

**Exercise 4. Match the weather forecast with the correct chart.
Then write a weather forecast for the other chart.**

Cloud with a little rain will persist over south-eastern parts of England, but there will be sunny spells over much of the country. Showers will extend from the north west through western areas of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Some of these showers will be heavy and blustery on west-facing coasts. Temperatures will be quite mild for January, with a minimum of 7 degrees Celsius in northern Scotland and a maximum of 11 degrees Celsius in south-east England, but there will be a strong westerly wind with gales in the far south-west.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Offshore, high-pressure, accuracy, transportable, consumption, commercial, purposes, remainder, household, significant,

submarine, pipeline, refineries, refined, series, major, considerable, reserves, thermal, accounted, roughly, domestic, electricity, process, privatised, board, generate, maintaining,

Offshore **natural gas**, which is distributed through 5,600km of high-pressure pipelines, is used by industries, which require a fine degree of accuracy, but, because it is easily transportable, it has not created industrial areas in the way coal did. About half of the national consumption is used for industrial and commercial purposes, and the remainder for household use. The industry was sold back to the private sector as British Gas Pipe in 1986.

Britain is the world's fifth largest **oil producer** and, although production is expected to start declining slowly, Britain should remain a significant producer in the twenty-first century. About 80% of offshore production is brought ashore by submarine pipeline to one of the 14 refineries. There are also a series of onshore pipelines, which carry refined products to major marketing areas.

The main consumers of Britain's declining **coal industry**, which still has considerable reserves, are the thermal power stations, which in 1988 accounted for 73% of total consumption to produce roughly one-third of Britain's electricity. Only 10% was used by domestic users.

Britain was the first country in the world to have a public supply of **electricity**, but at the time of writing the industry is in the process of being privatised. The Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), which was responsible for generating electricity in England and Wales and for maintaining the national grid, has been split into three companies: PowerGen, National Power, and a national grid company. The twelve regional electricity boards, which are responsible for the distribution and sales of electricity, are being privatised as twelve supply companies. A similar process is happening in Scotland and Northern Ireland. In 1988 domestic users accounted for 35% of the electricity sold, industry 36%, and commercial and other users the rest.

Exercise 2.

I. Choose the synonyms:

- a) Accuracy, area, consumption, supply, production, expect, decline, significant, considerable, happen, require.
- b) Large, suppose, need, precision, decrease, use, provide, manufacture, district, take place, important.

II. Give antonyms:

- a) Decline, start, remain, production, supply, domestic, split, private, roughly, major.
- b) Minor, foreign, destruction, increase, change, precisely, finish, state, unite, consume.

NATIONAL PRODUCTION

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Membership, community, pattern, proportion, export, risen, Commonwealth, balance, visible, imports, regards, decline, heavy, product, microelectronics, technology, continuous, tertiary, industry, industrial, share, tourism, region, textile, steadily, therefore, incentive, encourage.

Membership of the European Community has had a major impact on Britain's pattern of trade. The proportion of Britain's exports of goods going to other EC countries has risen to around 50%, while that going to other Commonwealth countries has fallen to around 10%. In recent years, Britain has had a negative balance of trade as regards visible exports and imports, though the balance as regards invisibles is better.

Among the main trends in industrial activity in Britain during the 1970s and 1980s have been the decline in heavy industry and the growth of the offshore oil and gas industries together with related products and services; the rapid development of electronic and microelectronic technologies and their application to a wide range of other sectors; and a continuous rise in the service (or

tertiary) **industries'** share of total employment. **Tourism**, for example, is now one of Britain's most important industries and a growing source of employment (supporting an estimated 1 million jobs in 1985).

In certain regions, older industries, such as coal, steel, shipbuilding and textiles, have steadily declined. As a result **unemployment** is far higher in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the north of England. The Government has therefore provided various incentives to encourage industrial development in 'assisted areas'.

Exercise 2. Match the terms with their definitions.

Industry	Something, which encourages one to greater activity.
Export	Sending goods out of the country for sale.
Import	The business of providing holidays, tours, hotels, for tourists.
Tourism	The production of goods for sale.
Incentive	A branch of knowledge dealing with scientific and industrial methods and their practical use in industry.
Technology	Something brought into a country.

Exercise 3. Complete the table.

Declining industries	Growing industries
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

Exercise 4. Read the text given below and compare privatisation in Great Britain with that in Russia.

Privatisation

In addition to these structural changes there have also been important changes in ownership. The Thatcher Government returned many of the **nationalized** industries, such as British Airways, British Gas and British Telecom, to the **private sector**, although other industries in the same sectors, such as British Rail, British Coal and the Post Office, are still publicly owned. There has also been a growing trend towards the formation of massive **international corporations** through mergers and acquisitions.

Exercise 5. Give the main features of the British industry.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND FORESTRY

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Employ, employment, produce, requirements, account, dairying, cattle, rear, moor land, fattening, arable, southern, sufficient, poultry, supply, per cent, source, income, estimated, hectare, private, double.

Less than 3% of the working population (around 690,000 people) is employed in agriculture in Britain, yet the industry produces nearly two-thirds of Britain's food requirements, with gross output accounting for about 4% of the country's GDP. Just over three-quarters of the land in Britain is used for agriculture. About three-fifths of full-time farms are devoted to **dairying** or **beef cattle** and **sheep**. The majority of sheep and cattle are reared in the hill and moor land areas of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and south-western England, although beef fattening takes place in better grassland areas and arable farms. The farms devoted primarily to **arable crops** are found mainly in eastern and central southern England. **Pig production** occurs in most areas, but is particularly important in eastern and northern England. Britain is also broadly self-sufficient in **poultry meat** and eggs.

Britain is one of Europe's most important fishing nations. The **fishing industry** provides about 66% of British fish supplies and it is an important source of employment (16,150 fishermen in regular employment) and income in a number of ports.

Woodland covers an estimated 2.1 million hectares in Great Britain, but the rate of new planting - especially by private owners - is growing and home **timber production** is expected to double over the next 20 years (at present it provides only 10% of the nation's requirements).

Exercise 2. Give the names of the most important regions for:

- Sheep
- Cattle
- Pigs

Exercise 3. Say whether these statements are true or false. Give your reasons.

1. Less than 13% of the working population is employed in agriculture in Great Britain.
2. Over three quarters of the land in Britain is used for agriculture.
3. About, three-fifths of full-time farms are devoted to pig production.
4. The majority of sheep and cattle are reared in Scotland and Northern England.
5. The farms devoted to arable crops are found in eastern and central Southern England.
6. Pig production is particularly important in Wales.
7. The fishing industry provides about 66% of British fish supplies.
8. Timber production provides 50% of the nation's requirements.

Exercise 4. Make up 5 questions on the text beginning with the following words:

What, how many, where, why, when.

BRITISH INSTITUTIONS

The Constitution

The British Constitution is an **unwritten** constitution, not being contained in a single legal document. It is based on **statutes** and important documents (such as the **Magna Carta**), **case law** (decisions taken by courts of law on constitutional matters), **customs** and **conventions**, and can be modified by a simple Act of Parliament like any other law. It contains two main principles - **the rule of law** (i.e. that everyone, whatever his or her station, is subject to the law) and **the supremacy of Parliament**, which implies that there is no body that can declare the activities of Parliament unconstitutional and that Parliament can in theory do whatever it wishes. The constitutional safeguard of the **separation of powers** between **the Legislature** (the two Houses of Parliament), which makes laws, **the Executive** (the Government), which puts laws into effect and plans policy, and **the Judiciary**, which decides on cases arising out of the laws, is only theoretical.

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Unwritten, contained, statutes, Magna Carta, conventions, modified, supremacy, declare, safeguard, Legislature, Executive, Government, policy, Judiciary, theoretical.

Exercise 2. Complete the following table.

Constitution of the United Kingdom:

Main characteristic	
Based on	
Main principles	

Exercise 3. Match the following terms with their correct definition.

a)

1 rule of law	A There is no legal opposition to Parliament.
2 separation of powers	B Everyone is equal before the law.
3 supremacy of Parliament	C Laws are made, put into effect, and interpreted by different bodies.

b)

1 statute	A A group of people who controls and directs the affairs of a country using its political power
2 Government	B A system of laws and principles, usually written down, according to which a country is governed
3 constitution	C A law passed by a lawmaking body and formally written down

Exercise 4. Give Russian equivalents for:

Unwritten constitution, statute, Magna Carta, case law, customs, conventions, the rule of law, the supremacy of Parliament, separation of powers, the Legislature, the Executive, the Judiciary, the Houses of Parliament.

THE MONARCHY

The United Kingdom is one of six constitutional monarchies within the European Community and this institution dates back in Britain to the Saxon king Egbert. Since the age of absolute monarchy there has been a gradual decline in the Sovereign's power and, while formally still the head of the **executive** and the **judiciary, commander-in-chief of all** the armed forces, and temporal **governor** of the Church of England, nowadays *monarchs reign but they do not rule.*

By statute and convention no monarch may be of Roman Catholic faith, nor marry someone of that faith; and the title to the throne passes to the male line of the family in order of descent and, if there are no sons, to the daughters in order of descent.

Although many people consider the monarchy to be some a somewhat **anachronistic** and **undemocratic** institution, the Queen continues to enjoy the support of vast majority of Britons and she does have certain undeniably useful functions. Besides carrying out important ceremonial duties, she also acts as 'unifying force' in both the Constitution and the nation, lying outside of the political debate. Moreover, her regular meetings with successive Prime Minister and personal contacts with numerous foreign leaders mean that she is better informed than most ministers.

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Monarchy, European Community, Saxon, gradual, sovereign, commander-in-chief, temporal, Roman Catholic faith, throne, descent, anachronistic, majority, undeniably, ceremonial, unifying, debate, moreover, successive, Prime Ministers, foreign.

Exercise 2. List and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of monarchies and republics.

Monarchies		Republics	
Advantages	disadvantages	advantages	disadvantages
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•

Exercise 3. Answer the questions.

1. Who is the current monarch in the UK?
2. Are there any faith, sex or age limits for a monarch?
3. What do Britons think of their monarch?
4. Which of the Queen's functions are formal?
5. Which are real?

7. Which sentence in the passage summarizes the difference between her formal and real powers?

Exercise 4. Make the summary using the following introductory phrases:

To begin with, indeed, according to, however, moreover, although, thus.

THE LEGISLATURE

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Parliament, supremacy, legislative, authority, assembly, suffrage, constituency, resign, to be presided over, initiative, automatically, Lord Chancellor, Lord Temporal, representatives, archbishop, comprise, hereditary, maximum

Parliament is the supreme legislative authority and consists of three separate elements: the **Sovereign**, the **House of Lords** and the elected **House of Commons**. Over the centuries the balance between the three parts of the legislature has changed, so that the Queen's role is now only formal and the House of Commons has gained supremacy over the House of Lords.

The House of Commons

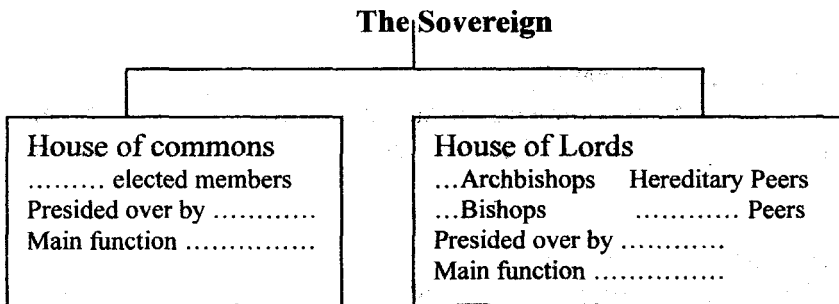
The House of Commons is a popular assembly elected by almost universal adult suffrage. There are 650 **Members of Parliament** (MPs) — each member representing one of the 650 geographical areas (**constituencies**) into which the country is divided for electoral purposes (523 for England, 38 for Wales, 72 for Scotland and 17 for Northern Ireland). If an MP dies, resigns or is made a peer, a **by-election** is held in that constituency to elect a new MP. Leaders of the Government and Opposition sit on the front benches of the Commons, with their supporters (**back-benchers**) behind them. The House is presided over by the **Speaker**.

The main function of the House of Commons is to **legislate**, but the strong party system in Britain has meant that the initiative in government lies not with Parliament but with the Government (most **Bills** are introduced by the Government, although they may also be introduced by individual MPs) and party members almost automatically pass whatever is put before them by their party.

The House of Lords

The House of Lords, which is presided over by the **Lord Chancellor**, is probably the only upper House in the democratic world whose members (1,175 in 1986) are not elected. It is made up of the **Lords Spiritual** and the **Lords Temporal**; the former consist of the representatives of the Church of England (the Archbishops of York and Canterbury and 25 bishops); the latter comprise all **hereditary** and **life peers** (life peers, named by the Sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister, do not pass on their title when they die). The House of Lords can revise Bills sent to it by the House of Commons but it can only delay a Bill from becoming law for a maximum of 12 months.

Exercise 2. Complete the diagram.



Exercise 3. Match the following terms with their definitions.

1 constituency	A special election held to fill an unexpected vacancy
2 by-election	B electoral district
3 back-bencher	C MP who does not hold the office in government or opposition
4 Speaker	D person who presides over in the upper House
5 Lord Chancellor	E person who has been elected to represent people in the House of Commons
6 Sovereign	F person who controls the course of business in the House of Commons
7 Member of Parliament	G person with the highest power in a country

Exercise 4. Give the Russian equivalents for:

Sovereign, universal, adult, suffrage, constituency, to resign, by-election, back-benchers, to preside, the Speaker, to legislate, bill, Lord Chancellor, Lord Spiritual, Lord Temporal, hereditary and life peers.

THE EXECUTIVE

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Obtain, formally, recommend, affair, attend, regular, the Cabinet, single, accept, Shadow Cabinet, relevant, spokesman, major issues.

Prime Minister and Cabinet

The leader of the party, which obtains a majority of seats in a **general election**, is named **Prime Minister** and is formally asked by the Sovereign to recommend a group of ministers to form a Government. The position of Prime Minister is based on convention, not statute, and dates back to when George I left the

running of the country's affairs to his ministers. A number of ministers are invited by the Prime Minister to attend regular meetings to discuss policy and this group of ministers is known as the **Cabinet**. It is a political convention for the Cabinet to act as a single man, which means that a minister who cannot accept a Cabinet decision must resign. (The main opposition party forms a **Shadow Cabinet**, which is more or less as the Government would be if the party were in power, and the relevant members act as opposition spokesmen on major issues.)

Exercise 2. Discuss the following.

1. Is there any difference between the way the Prime Minister is chosen in Britain and in your country?
2. Is the role of the Opposition different in any way?

Exercise 3. Answer the following questions to obtain a summary of the passage.

1. How is the Prime Minister chosen in Britain?
2. What is the Cabinet?
3. What must a Cabinet Minister do if he/she disagrees with a Government decision?
4. What is the job of a Shadow Minister?

Powers of Government

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Patronage, constitutional, hangovers, immense, contentious, Prerogative, surrendered, Whitehall, "Glorious Revolution", Emeritus, Charles, reign, declare, ratify, treaties, appointments, device, reference, Privy Council, hallmark, secrecy, briefed, divulge, oath, weapon, formidable, armoury, committed, revealed.

The wide powers of patronage held by the Prime Minister and the strong party system, together with certain constitutional

hangovers from the past, have given the Government immense power.

The most contentious hangover from the age of absolute monarchy is the Royal Prerogative, surrendered by the Crown in 1688 and given not to Parliament, but to ministers and Whitehall. It has left Parliament weaker than it was before the "Glorious Revolution" for although monarchs had more power and authority before, they still had to go to Parliament for money for their secret services, for example, or for funds to make war. Professor John Griffith, Emeritus Professor of Public Law at the London School of Economics, has said:

"Despite the great constitutional changes that have taken place between the period of the first Elizabeth and today, the struggle is so far from ended that it may be said the executive today has more control over the Commons than Charles I had at any period of his reign."

Prerogative powers enable the Government to exercise powers — to make war, declare peace, ratify treaties, recognise foreign governments, make appointments, for example — without Parliament having any say. They also enable the Government to bypass Parliament by making "Orders in Council", a useful device and a reference to the monarch's Privy Council. The hallmark of the Privy Council is secrecy. When its members are briefed by ministers "on Privy Council terms" it means that they were given "state secrets" that they must not divulge, especially not to ordinary Members of Parliament. The Privy Councillor's oath, drawn up in about 1250, is the earliest weapon in the Government's formidable armoury defending official secrecy. "You will," it states, "keep secret all Matters committed and revealed unto you."

From *The Guardian*, 3 January 1990

Exercise 2. Complete the following sentences.

1. Parliament was stronger before 1688 than now because ...

2. Prerogative powers mean that Parliament cannot stop the Government...

3. The Government can use the Privy Councillor's oath to ...

Exercise 3. Give the summary of the text using introductory phrases listed below:

Firstly, secondly, thirdly, consequently, despite, besides, in my opinion.

ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Elections

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Virtually, resident, lunatics, candidates, registered, irrespective, overall majority, entitled, clergymen, bankrupts, associations, deposit, expired, nowadays, electorate, particular, Mrs. Thatcher, Falklands, distributed, various, co-exist, minority, undue, affairs.

The right to vote in elections has gradually been extended to virtually every British subject over 18 who is resident in Britain (members of the Royal Family and lunatics are not allowed to vote). People vote for any one of the candidates in the **constituency** in which they are registered. The candidate that obtains the most votes in that constituency, irrespective of whether he or she has an overall majority, becomes its **Member of Parliament** and the other votes are 'wasted'.

Anyone over 21 who is entitled to vote (except for clergymen, civil servants, felons and bankrupts) can stand as a candidate. Candidates are normally selected by the local party associations, but independent candidates can also stand. Each candidate has to pay a deposit (currently £500), which is returned if a candidate obtains at least 5% of the total number of votes cast in that constituency. It is now a tradition for there to be a few humorous

candidates in all general elections (such as the 'Don't-Vote-For-Me Party' in the 1987 election).

General elections must be held at least every five years, but the Prime Minister has the right to call elections before the five-year term has expired. Nowadays, the electorate often votes for a particular party leader rather than the party itself, so Government leaders try to hold elections at moments of particular popularity, e.g. Mrs Thatcher after her victory in the Falklands War.

The one-candidate (or **first-past-the-post**) system means that a party can obtain a considerable number of votes nationally but have very few MPs in the Commons, because these votes are distributed evenly among the various constituencies. While not very representative and making it difficult for more than two major parties to co-exist, the system produces stable governments and prevents minority parties from having an undue say in the running of national affairs.

Exercise 2. Answer the questions.

1. Who can vote in elections in Britain?
2. How many candidates does a person vote for in a general election?
3. What must a candidate do to be elected?
4. Who may stand as a candidate?
5. What does it mean when you 'lose your deposit' in an election?
6. How often are General Elections held?
7. Why can elections in Britain be said to have become 'personalized'?

Exercise 3. Say whether these statements are true or false. Give your reasons.

1. Every British citizen has the right to vote.
2. The British people can vote at any place of their country, irrespective of where they are at the moment of elections.
3. The candidate, who has got the second place, also becomes an MP.

4. People under 21, clergymen, civil servants, felons and bankrupts can not stand as candidates.
5. General elections are always held every five years.
6. The current system does not reflect the real preferences of the British people.

Political parties

Exercise 1. Read carefully.

Predominant, Tories, Whigs, Conservatives, Liberals, Labour, Trade Unions, normally, criticizing, successor, aristocracy, gentry, increasingly, supported, parliamentary, associated, recently-formed, threaten.

As a result of the electoral system two parties have usually been predominant in Britain, at different times Tories and Whigs, Conservatives and Liberals, and since the 1930s Conservatives and Labour, with one party normally obtaining a majority of seats in the House of Commons and the other having its role limited to criticizing Government policy.

The **Conservative Party** was formed by Robert Peel from what was left of the old Tory party in the 1830s. Peel and his successor Benjamin Disraeli (the first Conservative Prime Minister) together shaped modern Conservatism. Originally the party of church, aristocracy and landed gentry, it has increasingly been supported by large business interests. The **Labour Party** was formed by James Keir Hardie in 1892 to represent the workers and was more or less the parliamentary wing of the Trades Unions, with whom the party continues to be closely associated. James Ramsay MacDonald became the first socialist Prime Minister in 1924.

At present, in addition to the Conservative (Tory) Party and the Labour (Socialist) Party, the recently-formed **Green Party** has begun to threaten the left-of-centre **Liberal Democratic Party** as the nation's 'third' party.

Exercise 2. Match the synonyms.

Predominant	Acquire
Obtain	Bound
Limit	Endanger
Successor	Follower
Represent	Principal
Endanger	Stand for

Exercise 3. Answer the questions.

1. How many parties have usually been predominant in England throughout history?
2. Who formed the Conservative Party and when was it formed?
3. When was the Labour Party formed and who headed it?
4. Whose interests does the Labour Party represent?
5. What are the 'minor' British parties?

APPENDIX

1. the Atlantic [ət'ləntɪk] Атлантический океан
2. Ben Nevis [ben 'neɪvɪs] гора Бэн Невис
3. the British Isles ['brɪtɪʃ 'aɪləz] Британские острова
4. Celsius ['selsjəs] шкала термометра Цельсия
5. the Channel Islands ['tʃænl 'aɪləndz] Нормандские острова
6. East Anglia ['i:st 'æŋɡliə] Восточная Англия
7. Edinburgh ['ednbərə] Эдинбург

8. Egbert ['egbət] Эгберт
9. Eire ['eɪrɪ, 'e(ə)rə] Эйре
10. Europe ['juərəp] Европа
11. European Community [,juərə'pɪən kəm 'jʊnɪtɪ]
Европейское сообщество
12. the Falklands ['fɔlkləndz] Фолклендские острова
13. Glasgow ['glɑ:zgəu] Глазго
14. the Grampians ['græmpɪənz] Грампианские горы
(Шотландия)
15. Great Britain [greɪt 'brɪtn] Великобритания
16. Ireland ['aɪələnd] о. Ирландия
17. Irish Republic ['aɪrɪʃ rə'pʌblɪk] гос-во Ирландская
республика
18. The Isle of Man [aɪləv 'ɪnæn] о. Мэн
19. James Keir Hardie [dʒeɪms kɪə 'hɑ:dɪ] Джеймс Кейр
Харди
20. James Ramsay MacDonald [dʒeɪms 'ræmsɪ
mæk'dɒnəld] Джеймс Рамси Макдональд
21. John Griffith [dʒɔn 'grɪfɪθ] Джон Гриффит
22. the Magna Carta ['mægnə 'kɑ:tə] ист. Великая хартия
вольностей 1215 г.
23. the North Atlantic Drift [nɔ:θ ət'læntɪk drɪft]
Североатлантическое течение
24. Pennine Range ['penaɪn 'rændʒ] Пеннинские горы

25. Roman Catholic ['rəʊmən 'kæθəlik] римская католическая (церковь)
26. Saxon ['sæksən] саксонский
27. Scotland ['skɒtlənd] Шотландия
28. the Severn ['sevən] р. Северн
29. Southern Uplands ['sʌðən 'ʌpləndz] Южно-Шотландская возвышенность
30. the Thames [temz] р. Темза
31. Thatcher ['θætʃə] Маргарет Тэтчер
32. Ulster [ʌlstə] Ольстер
33. Wales [weɪlz] Уэльс

Отпечатано на участке оперативной полиграфии
Редакционно-издательского отдела ТГУ
Лицензия ПД № 00208 от 20 декабря 1999 г.

Заказ № 143 "08" ОКТАБРЯ 2002 г. Тираж 300 экз.