
Английский язык

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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

*Методические указания
по развитию навыков устной речи
для студентов отделения политологии*

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Методические указания включают как общие темы (например: "Семья", "Высшее образование"), так и тексты по политической системе Великобритании (например: "Политические партии", "Выборная система", "Монархия"). Все темы снабжены вопросами по содержанию и упражнениями по закреплению лексики по данным вопросам.

Цель работы – развитие навыков чтения, говорения, перевода.

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Методические указания по развитию навыков устной речи для студентов отделения политологии

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Family structure

The British live longer, marry later, have fewer children and are more likely to get divorced than ever before. Young people leave home earlier, though not necessarily to get married. More women now go out to work and more people, especially the old, live alone. The nuclear family (parents and perhaps two children) has largely replaced the extended family where several generations lived together.

Although patterns are changing, most people in Britain still get married and have children and stay together until the end of their lives. People are marrying later: the average woman gets married at twenty-four to a man who is just over two years older (although it is estimated that 40 per cent of couples live together before getting married).

Mrs Average now has her first child at the age of twenty-seven, but she will have only one or two children: only one mother in four has more. Nine out of ten married women will have children at some point in their lives. And despite the changes in working habits it is usually the woman who has overall responsibility for domestic life: the traditional division of family responsibilities still persists. Britain has one of the highest divorce rates in Western Europe: approximately one in three marriages ends in divorce, half of them in the first ten years of marriage. As a result more people are getting remarried and there are now over a million single parents looking after 1.6 million children. There has also been a sharp rise in the rate of illegitimacy: about 30 per cent of babies are born outside marriage.

Topical vocabulary

To marry, to get married, to remarry,	Responsibility
marriage, to divorce	Rate
Nuclear/ extended family	Single parents
Average	Illegitimacy
Couple	To be born
Working habits	Generation

Exercises

Ex. 1. Find the antonyms in the text.

Many, to marry, after, to stay, alone, to start, fall, inside, early, nuclear.

Ex. 2. Degrees of comparison.

a) Make comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives:

Long, many, bad, few, much, traditional, high, old, usual, late, large, responsible, early, little, happy, good, easy.

b) *Make your own sentences with these adjectives.*

c) *Read the following and express your opinion:*

The more you learn the more you know.

The more you know the more you forget.

The more you forget the less you know.

Ex. 3. Form adverbs from the following adjectives adding the suffix -ly.

Necessary, especial, large, usual, traditional, approximate, sharp.

Ex. 4. Numerals.

a) *Read the following cardinal numerals:*

25, 15, 64, 11, 35, 43, 79, 13, 100, 86, 58.

b) *Read the following ordinal numerals:*

1st, 3rd, 5th, 9th, 19th, 2nd, 4th, 8th, 12th, 20th, 26th.

Ex. 5. Agree or disagree with the statements.

1. The British live longer, marry earlier and have more children than ever before.
2. The nuclear family consists of parents and two children.
3. There are only 2 generations in the extended family.
4. A woman usually gets married at 21 and has her first child at the age of 22.
5. One mother in two has several children.
6. The woman has overall responsibilities for domestic life.
7. Britain has one of the highest divorce rates in Western Europe.
8. There is no rise in the rate of illegitimacy.

Ex. 6. Answer the following questions:

- a) 1. What happens to the British today?
2. What sort of people are most likely to live alone in Britain? What are the reasons for this?
3. What is the difference between a nuclear and an extended family?
4. What type of family is more widely spread nowadays?
5. What are advantages and disadvantages of a nuclear / an extended family?
6. At what age do people in Britain get married on average?
7. When does an average woman have her first child?
8. How many children are there usually in the family?
9. Who is responsible for domestic life?
10. Does the traditional division of family responsibilities still persist?

11. Does Britain have the lowest divorce rates in Western Europe?
12. What is the result?
13. What can you say about the rate of illegitimacy?
- b) 1. What about Russia? What is the number of children per family in Russia?
2. How big is your family?
3. Why do people marry?
4. What are the reasons for the divorce?
5. What is an optimal age for getting married?

Ex. 7. Make a short summary of the text.

About the English language

English is one of the most important and widely used languages. British 'colonial expansion in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries took the English language all over the world. Except Britain it became the official (or the second official) language of the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa and other countries. Economic, political and cultural influence of these countries in the world contributed to further spread of English in the 20th century. As a result we have a unique phenomenon in history: about 1 500 million people – over a third of the world's population – live in countries where English is used and taught. In fact it has become the language of international communication.

The English we study (the model used in the teaching of English overseas) is known as Standard English . Standard English is the official language used in Great Britain. It is taught at schools and universities. It is used in literature, by the press, the radio and television and spoken by educated people.

Besides Standard English there are very many local dialects in Great Britain. Under the influence of Standard English taught at school and the speech cultivated by the radio, television and the cinema the local dialects are undergoing a change. The old local dialects are mainly preserved in the countryside and for the most part in the speech of elderly people.

A few words should be said about Cockney English. It is known at least by name to a large number of people living outside the English speaking countries. Cockney is a class dialect spoken by about two million working-class Londoners – Cockneys – in the East End of London. It differs from Standard English by its peculiar pronunciation.

As a result of geographical separation English spoken outside the British Isles has developed certain differences in vocabulary and pronunciation but less in grammar. Differences in geographical features in the flora and fauna and in

the way of life call for new words which find their way in the general English vocabulary.

Contacts with other languages have also left their mark on English outside Great Britain. Contacts with various native languages, as for example, with Red Indian language in America, the languages of the Australian aborigines and the Maori in New Zealand have introduced new elements into the English vocabulary.

Topical vocabulary

<i>Nouns</i>	<i>Verbs</i>	<i>Adjectives</i>
Expansion	to use	official
Language	to contribute	unique
Influence	to develop	international
Separation	to introduce	peculiar
Vocabulary	to spread	<i>Adverbs</i>
Phenomenon	to call for	widely
Communication	to pronounce	mainly
Pronunciation	to preserve	

Word expressions

The way of life	Local dialects
In fact	To undergo a change
As a result	At least
Standard English	To leave smb's mark

Exercises

Ex. 1. Read these international words and guess their meanings. Mind the stress.

'Literature	co'lonial	uni'versity
'Radio	ex'pansion	sepa'ration
'Dialect	o' fficial	culti' vated
'Flora	re' sult	geo'graphical
'Fauna	vo'cabulary	abo'rigenes

Ex. 2. Memorize the following pairs of derivatives:

V+er -> N;	V+tion->N.
use – user	inform – information
teach – teacher	educate – education
find – finder	preserve – preservation
speak – speaker	pronounce – pronunciation
learn – learner	separate – separation
take – taker	investigate – investigation
leave – leaver	introduce – introduction

Ex. 3. Transform as in the models:

Model 1: to pronounce words – the pronunciation of words;
to improve pronunciation; to translate a text; to investigate a problem;
to introduce new elements; to develop certain differences;
to recognize a writer.

Model 2: problems of a language – language problems;
changes of a dialect; departments of the University; patterns of speech;
differences of (in) vocabulary; resources of vocabulary;
complexity of language.

Ex. 4. Match English and Russian equivalents:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. English speaking countries | a. претерпеть изменения |
| 2. to undergo changes | b. под влиянием |
| 3. peculiar pronunciation | c. во всем мире |
| 4. under the influence | d. различия в словарном составе |
| 5. differences in vocabulary
and pronunciation | и произношении |
| 6. all over the world | e. сохраняться в сельской местности |
| 7. to be preserved in the countryside | f. дальнейшее распространение |
| 8. further spread | g. англоязычные страны |
| | h. особое произношение |

Ex. 5. Complete the sentences:

1. English is one of the 2. English is spoken in 3. The English we study is known as 4. Standard English is used in 5. Besides Standard English there are many 6. English spoken outside the British Isles has developed certain differences in 7. In fact English has become the language of

Ex. 6. Choose the right word.

1. English is a widely used
a) dialect; b) language; c) pattern.
2. Standard English is an ... language.
a) artificial; b) official; c) local.
3. The old local dialects are mainly preserved in
a) the towns; b) the countryside; c) London.
4. The English spoken outside Great Britain has developed certain differences in
a) Literature; b) pronunciation; c) structure.
5. Differences in the way of life and culture call for new words in the general English
a) model; b) vocabulary; c) grammar.

Ex. 7. Agree or disagree with the following statements.

1. English is one of the most important languages.
2. British colonial expansion took place in the 12th century.
3. English became the official language in the USA, Canada and other countries.
4. It hasn't become the language of international communication.
5. We study Cockney English.
6. Standard English is taught at schools and universities.
7. Local dialects are preserved in cities and towns.
8. Cockney is a class dialect of people living outside Great Britain.
9. English spoken outside the British Isles has developed differences in vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar.
10. Contacts with other languages haven't left the mark on English outside Great Britain.

Ex. 8. Answer the questions on the text.

a) 1. Is English one of the world's most widely used languages? 2. In what countries is it spoken? 3. How many people speak English? 4. How do we call the official language used in Great Britain? 5. Where is Standard English taught and used? 6. What can you say about English dialects? Are there many of them? 7. What is the Cockney English? 8. Why has English spoken outside the British Isles undergone certain changes?

- b) 1. Why do you study English?
2. Who do you want to communicate with in English?
3. What do you want to practice most: reading, writing, listening or speaking?
4. How many hours a week can you spend studying English?
5. What equipment and materials do you need to study well?
6. What other languages would you like to study?

Ex. 9. Give a short summary of the text.

Ex. 10. Additional information.

a) *It's very important to know the names of the countries, languages and nationalities.*

Please, read the text below and write in three columns: country, language, nationality.

Mr. Priestley is English, he is an Englishman. He speaks English, his language is English.

Mr. Priestley: What country are you from, Mr. A., and what is your language?

Mr. A.: I am from Poland; I speak Polish, I am a Pole, my language is Polish.

Mr. Priestley: What country are you from, Mr. B.?

Mr. B.: I am from Italy; I speak Italian.

Mr. Priestley: What country are you from, Miss C.?

Miss C.: I come from Mexico; I speak Spanish.

Mr. Priestley: What are you, Mr. D.? Are you Spanish?

Mr. D.: No, I am not a Spaniard; I am a Portuguese.

Mr. Priestley: Are you Swedish, Miss E.?

Miss E.: No, I am not Swedish; I come from Denmark; I am a Dane; my language is Danish.

Mr. Priestley: Where are you from, Mr. F.?

Mr. F.: I come from Holland; I am a Dutchman. I speak Dutch, my language is Dutch.

Miss G.: I come from France, from Paris. I am French, a Parisian. My language is French. My friend comes from Finland; she is Finnish. She speaks Finnish; her language is Finnish.

Mr. H.: My brother and I come from Greece; our country is Greece. We both speak the same language – Greek; our language is Greek.

Mrs. K.: My husband and I come from Norway. Our language is Norwegian. We speak Norwegian.

b) Fill the spaces in the following sentences.

1. I come from France. My language is 2. You come from Spain. Your language is 3. They come from Their language is Greek. 4. He comes from He speaks Italian. 5. She is from China. She speaks 6. We come from Our language is Japanese. 7. They are from Denmark. They speak 8. He comes from Holland. He is a He speaks His language is 9. I am from My language is Hungarian. 10. The people in ... speak Swedish. 11. The people of the Argentine and those of Peru both speak 12. The ... come from Portugal. They speak Portuguese. 13. Her language is Norwegian. She comes from 14. The people of ... are English. They speak 15. He is from Poland. He speaks He is a His language is

Life at College and University in Great Britain

The academic year in Britain's universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education is divided into three terms, which usually run from the beginning of October to the middle of December, from the middle of January to the end of March, and from the middle of April to the end of June or the beginning of July.

There are 46 universities in Britain. The oldest and best-known universities are located in Oxford, Cambridge, London, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Southampton, Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham.

Good A-level results in at least two subjects are necessary to get a place at a university. However, good exam passes alone are not enough. Universities choose their students after interviews. For all British citizens a place at a university brings with it a grant from their local education authority.

English universities greatly differ from each other. They differ in date of foundation, size, history, tradition, general organization, methods of instruction, way of student life.

After three years of study a university graduate will leave with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine, etc. Later he may continue to take a Master's Degree and then a Doctor's Degree. Research is an important feature of university work.

The two intellectual centres of Britain-Oxford and Cambridge Universities - date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Oxford and Cambridge are the oldest and most prestigious universities in Great Britain. They are often called collectively Oxbridge. Both universities are independent. Only the education elite go to Oxford and Cambridge. Most of their students are former public schools leavers.

The Scottish universities of St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh date from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

In the nineteenth and the early part of the twentieth centuries the so-called Redbrick universities were founded. These include London, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield, and Birmingham. During the late sixties and early seventies some 20 'new' universities were set up. Sometimes they are called 'concrete and glass' universities. Among them are the universities of Sussex, York, East Anglia and some others.

During these years the Government set up thirty Polytechnics. The Polytechnics, like the universities, offer first and higher degrees. Some of them offer full-time and sandwich courses. Colleges of Education provide two-year courses in teacher education or sometimes three years if the graduate specializes in some particular subject.

Some of those who decide to leave school at the age of 16 may go to a further education college where they can follow a course in typing, engineering, town planning, cooking, or hairdressing, full-time or part-time. Further education colleges have strong ties with commerce and industry.

There is an interesting form of studies which is called the Open University. It is intended for people who study in their own free time and who 'attend' lectures by watching television and listening to the radio. They keep in touch by phone and letter with their tutors and attend summer schools. The Open

University students have no formal qualifications and would be unable to enter ordinary universities.

Some 80,000 overseas students study at British universities or further education colleges or train in nursing, law, banking or in industry.

Topical vocabulary

verbs

to divide

to be located

to pass (an exam)

to differ

to graduate

to date from

to found

to set up

to include

nouns

term

a graduate

bachelor

degree

research

feature

tutor

adjectives

necessary

enough

particular

word combination

further education

strong ties

to be intended for

to keep in touch with

to be able to

Exercises

Ex. 1. Make the following adjectives negative adding prefix:

- **un**: usual, known, important, like, able;

- **in**: formal, different, dependent.

Ex. 2. Match the words from 2 columns:

1. at least

2. an important feature

3. to date from

4. to set up

5. particular subject

6. further education

7. to be intended for

8. to keep in touch with

9. to be unable to

a. вести начало от

b. по крайней мере

c. быть не в состоянии

d. важная черта

e. поддерживать связь

f. определенный предмет

g. предназначать

h. учреждать

i. дальнейшее образование

Ex. 3. Find synonyms to the following words:

Semester, to last, to be situated, scholarship, to vary, lifestyle, to go on, to originate, to found, definite, to be present at, foreign.

Ex. 4. Complete the following sentences:

1. The academic year in Britain's universities is divided...

2. The best – known universities are located...

3. English universities differ from each other in ...

4. Oxford and Cambridge date from...

5. During the late 60s and early 70s the Government set up...
6. The Polytechnics offer...
7. Those who leave school at the age 16 may go to...
8. The Open University is intended for...
9. The Open University students are unable to...

Ex. 5. Agree or disagree with the statements:

1. There are more than 100 universities in Britain.
2. The oldest are located only in England.
3. Good A-level results in several subjects are quite enough to get a place at a University.
4. A university graduate leaves with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Science, Engineering, etc.
5. The Universities of London and Manchester are the oldest and most prestigious ones.
6. Oxford and Cambridge depend on the Government.
7. In 19th and the beginning of 20th centuries concrete and glass universities were set up.
8. The Polytechnics offer first and higher degree.
9. The Open University students have formal qualification and they can enter any university.

Ex. 6. a) Answer the questions:

1. How many terms are there in the academic year in British Universities?
2. Where are the best-known universities located?
3. What is necessary to get a place at a university?
4. What does a place at a university bring with it?
5. What do English universities differ from each other?
6. What does a university graduate get?
7. What are the oldest universities in Britain?
8. Who usually goes to Oxford and Cambridge?
9. When were Redbrick Universities founded?
10. What universities were founded in the late 60s – early 70s? What are they called?
11. What do Polytechnics offer?
12. What do Colleges of Education provide?
13. What is offered to those who leave school at the age of 16?
14. What is the Open University intended for?
15. Do the Open University students have formal qualification?
16. How many overseas students study at British Universities?

b) Discussions:

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying at a Russian University?
2. What does the University give you?
3. Do you like to study at the University?
4. What would you like to change at the University?

Ex. 7. Put general and disjunctive questions to the sentences:

1. The academic year is divided into 3 terms.
2. Universities choose their students after interview.
3. A place at a university brings with it a grant.
4. English universities differ from each other.
5. Redbrick universities were founded in the 19th- 20th centuries.
6. The Polytechnics offer first and higher degrees.
7. The Open University is intended for people who study in their own free time.
8. Students keep in touch by phone & letter with the tutor.
9. Many overseas students study at British Universities.

Ex. 8. Give a short summary of the text.

Introduction

Elections to the House of Commons, known as parliamentary elections, form the basis of Britain's democratic system. Unlike heads of Government in some countries, the Prime Minister is not directly elected by voters, although he or she is an elected Member of Parliament – an MP. Instead, the Prime Minister depends on the support of a majority of his or her fellow elected representatives in the House of Commons. These MPs back the Government because they are members of the party which the Prime Minister leads, although on some occasions governments have been made up of coalitions of more than one party. Most government ministers are MPs who belong to the governing party; the remainder are members of the same party in the House of Lords. MPs who belong to the other political parties are usually opposed to the Government of the day.

The British constitution

Unlike most other countries, Britain does not have a written constitution set out in a single document. Instead, the constitution, which has evolved over many centuries, is made up of Acts of Parliament, common law and conventions. The constitution can be altered by Act of Parliament, or by general

agreement to change a convention. It can thus adapt readily to suit changing circumstances.

Parliament. Parliament is the legislature and the supreme authority. It consists of three elements: the Monarchy, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. These meet together only on occasions of ceremonial significance.

The House of Commons consists of 651 MPs, who are directly elected by voters in each of Britain's 651 parliamentary constituencies.

The House of Lords consists of hereditary peers and peeresses – men and women who hold titles of nobility which can be passed on to their sons and, in some cases, daughters; life peers and peeresses – distinguished citizens who are given peerages and who hold their titles only during their own lifetimes; and two archbishops and 24 senior bishops of the Church of England.

Parliament has the following functions:

- passing, or abolishing, laws;
- voting for taxation, in order to provide the means for carrying on the work of government;
- debating government policy and administration and any other major issues.

The House of Lords cannot normally prevent proposed legislation from becoming law if the House of Commons insists on it, and it has little influence over legislation involving taxation or expenditure. The limitations on the power of the Lords reflect the convention that nowadays the main legislative function of the non-elected House is to act as a chamber of revision which does not seek to rival the elected House of Commons.

All legislation requires the formal approval of the Monarch, although in practice the Royal Assent has not been refused since 1707.

The executive. Although in law the executive is headed by the Queen, she reigns today as a constitutional monarch. She is Britain's head of State but has few absolute powers, instead, according to well-established conventions, the Queen acts on the advice of government ministers. As members of the legislature, government ministers are answerable to Parliament for the activities of their departments and for the general conduct of national policies. They take part in debates in Parliament and can be questioned by MPs. The executive also includes elected local authorities which administer many local services.

The judiciary. The judiciary determines common law and interprets Acts of Parliament. The House of Lords is the final court of appeal, but in practice appeals are heard by life peers who are senior judges or who have held high judicial office. Other peers do not take part in the judicial work of the Lords.

Topical vocabulary

Word combination

a single document
common law
changing circumstances
supreme authority
ceremonial significance
hereditary peers
constitutional monarch
local authorities
court of appeal

Verbs

to alter
to back
to abolish
to debate
to require

Nouns

legislature
issue
chamber
the executive
conduct
the judiciary
judge

Answer the questions:

1. What does the British constitution consist of?
2. Who can alter the constitution?
3. What does Parliament consist of?
4. What is the difference between the House of Commons and the House of Lords?
5. What are the functions of Parliament?
6. Who approves all legislation?
7. Who does the executive include?
8. What is the role of the judiciary?

The electoral system

Parliamentary constituencies

Britain is divided into 651 parliamentary constituencies. Each constituency is a geographical area; the voters living within the area select one person to serve as a member of the House of Commons. The average number of electors in each constituency in England is about 69,500; in other parts of Britain the average numbers are slightly lower. Constituency boundaries are approved by Parliament.

The system of voting

The simple majority system of voting is used in parliamentary elections in Britain. This means that the candidate with the largest number of votes in each constituency is elected, although he or she may not necessarily have received more than half the votes cast. Voting is by secret ballot.

Voters

Who may vote. All British citizens may vote provided they are aged 18 years or over and are not legally barred from voting. Subject to the same conditions citizens of other Commonwealth countries and the Irish Republic

who are resident in Britain may also vote at parliamentary elections. All voters must be registered as residents in a constituency on a specified date.

British citizens living abroad may apply to be registered to vote for up to 20 years after leaving Britain. They must register to vote in the constituency in which they were last resident. British citizens who are working overseas as British Government employees also have the right to vote, regardless of how long they have been abroad.

Voting in elections is voluntary. On average about 75 per cent of the electorate votes.

Who may not vote

The following people are not entitled to vote in parliamentary elections:

- peers, and peeresses in their own right, who are members of the House of Lords;
- foreign nationals, other than citizens of the Irish Republic residing in Britain;
- people kept in hospital under mental health legislation;
- people serving prison sentences; and
- people convicted within the previous five years of corrupt or illegal election practices.

Postal and proxy voting

Voters who are likely to be away from home at the time of an election – for example, on holiday or business – or who are unable to vote in person at the polling station, may apply for a postal or a proxy vote. The latter is a vote cast by a person authorized to vote on behalf of another. Postal ballot papers can be sent only to addresses in Britain.

Candidates

Any person aged 21 or over who is a British citizen, or citizen of another Commonwealth country or the Irish Republic, may stand for election to Parliament, providing they are not disqualified. Those disqualified include:

- people who are bankrupt;
- people sentenced to more than one year's imprisonment;
- clergy of the Church of England, Church of Scotland, Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church;
- members of the House of Lords;
- a range of public servants and officials, specified by law. They include judges, civil servants, some local government officers, full-time members of the armed forces and police officers, and British members of the legislature of any country or territory outside the Commonwealth.

Candidates do not have to live in the constituencies for which they stand. However, candidates who are on the electoral register in the constituencies for which they are standing may vote in their own constituencies.

Candidates must be nominated on official nomination papers, giving their full name and home addresses. A political or personal description of up to six words may be included.

Topical vocabulary

<i>Verbs</i>	<i>Nouns</i>	<i>Adjectives</i>
to elect	elections	parliamentary
to oppose	constituency	voluntary
to vote	voter	postal/proxy
to approve	citizen	<i>Word combination</i>
to nominate	Commonwealth	Prime Minister
to provide	resident	member of Parliament
to bar	employee	governing party
to register	electorate	majority system
to authorize		polling station
		secret ballot

Exercises

Ex. 1. a) Form nouns from the following verbs adding the suffix:

- **tion, ion:** to oppose, to elect, to divide, to provide, to register, to legislate, to corrupt, to convict, to nominate, to describe.

- **ment:** to approve, to employ, to prison, to judge, to govern, to arm.

b) Form adjectives from the following nouns adding the suffix –al

politics, person, opposition, condition, geography, government, nation, post.

Ex. 2. a) Find Russian equivalents to the following words:

on some occasions, to back, to be made up of, governing party, remainder, average number of, simple majority system, by secret ballot, resident, mental health legislation, postal, proxy, polling station, Commonwealth country, an official, official nomination papers.

b) Find English equivalents to the following words:

парламентские выборы, зависеть от, представитель, делить, избирательный округ, граница, при условии, за рубежом, добровольный, электорат, отбывать срок, вероятно, санкционировать, гражданин, духовенство, законодательство.

Ex. 3. Agree or disagree with the following statements

1. Elections to the House of Lords are known as parliamentary elections.
2. Prime Minister is elected by voters.
3. Most government ministers are MPs who belong to the governing party.
4. Britain is divided into 651 parliamentary constituencies.

5. The candidate may necessarily receive more than half the votes cast.
6. Voting in elections is obligatory.
7. Peers & peeresses may vote in parliamentary elections.
8. Members of House of Lords may stand for election to Parliament.
9. Candidates have to live in constituencies for which they stand.

Ex. 4. Answer the following questions:

1. What forms the basis of Britain's democratic system?
2. How is the Prime Minister elected?
3. Why do MPs back the Government?
4. What does the Government consist of?
5. How many parliamentary constituencies are there in Britain?
6. What is the average number of electors in each constituency?
7. Who approves Constituency boundaries?
8. What system of voting is used in parliamentary elections in Britain?
9. What does this system mean?
10. Is voting by secret ballot?
11. Who may vote?
12. What can you say about people living abroad?
13. Is voting voluntary?
14. What is the percentage of voting people?
15. Who may not vote?
16. When is postal and proxy voting used?
17. Who may stand for election to Parliament?
18. What people are disqualified?
19. Where must candidates be nominated?
20. What should be written in official nomination papers?

Ex. 5. Put all types of the questions to the following sentences:

1. Elections to the House of Commons form the basis of Britain's democratic system.
2. The Prime Minister is not directly elected by voters.
3. The Prime Minister depends on the support of a majority of the fellow representatives in the House of Commons.
4. Voting is by secret ballot.
5. Postal ballot papers can be sent only to addresses in Britain.
6. Candidates do not have to live in the constituencies for which they stand.

Ex. 6. Find the sentences with Passive Voice in the text.

Ex. 7. Make a short summary of the text.

Political Parties in Great Britain

Party organisation

Each of the parties represented in the House of Commons maintains its own organisation within Parliament in order to keep its members informed about parliamentary business and to maintain its parliamentary voting strength.

Outside Parliament, the basic units of organisation are normally local constituency parties, each of which corresponds to a parliamentary constituency. These are linked together in regional federations.

Each of the main parties has a national organisation. One of the main functions of the national organisations is to arrange the parties' annual conferences. These serve as channels of communication between the leading members of the parties in Parliament and their supporters in the country. All the main parties also have some form of central office which serves as a national headquarters. They are staffed by professional party workers.

The major parties

The Conservative Party. The origins of the Conservative Party – whose full title is the Conservative and Unionist Party – go back to the Tories of the late seventeenth century; the word 'Conservative' first came into use in the 1830s.

"The fundamental principles of the Conservative Party can be summarized as follows. First, individuals have an absolute right to liberty. Second, ownership is the strongest foundation of individual freedom, opportunity and independence. Third, Conservatives believe that freedom entails responsibilities – to family, neighbours, and to nation. Fourth, it is the role of Government to strengthen individual liberty and choice while protecting the most vulnerable members of the community. Fifth, in economic affairs the Government should establish a climate in which enterprise can flourish, without directing or over-regulating businesses. Finally, Conservatives believe that Britain must remain, strong, with secure defenses, in order to provide the surest guarantee of peace".

The Labour Party. The Labour Party's origins go back to the last decade of the nineteenth century. "The true aim of the Labour Party is the creation of a genuinely free society in which the fundamental objective of government is the protection and extension of individual liberty irrespective of class, sex, age, race, colour or creed.

To Labour, freedom is much more than the absence of restraint or the assertion of the rudimentary rights of citizenship. Protection from coercion – by state, corporate or private power of any sort – is only the first step towards liberty.

When so many men and women cannot afford to make the choices which freedom provides, the idea that all enjoy equal and extensive liberty is a

deception. Unless men and women have the power to choose, the right to choose has no value".

The Liberal Democrats. The Liberal Democrats, formally known as the Social and Liberal Democrats, were formed in 1988 following the merger of the Liberal Party, established in the 1850s, and the Social Democratic Party (SDP), established in 1981. The two parties had fought the general elections of 1983 and 1987 with a joint programme as the Liberal/SDP Alliance.

"The Liberal Democrats stand for the right of individuals to have control over their own lives. Individual liberty lies at the heart of their beliefs. They aim to enable men and women to develop their own talents to the full, free from the arbitrary interference of government. The role of government is to guarantee this freedom, to create an enterprising, sustainable, free-market economy, to provide services for those in need and to work for peace and prosperity across the planet.

Liberal Democrats are strongly associated with their policies for better education, environmental protection and constitutional reform to guarantee individual freedom."

Other parties. About eight other parties are represented in Parliament; they are regionally based in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are also a number of minor parties which are not represented in Parliament but which often put up candidates in parliamentary elections.

Topical vocabulary

<i>Verbs</i>	<i>Nouns</i>	<i>Adjectives</i>	<i>Word combination</i>
to represent	representative	annual	economic affairs
to maintain	supporter	vulnerable	genuinely free society
to arrange	headquarters	equal	arbitrary interference
to staff	ownership	minor	rudimentary rights
to summarize	opportunity	major	
to strengthen	responsibility		
to afford	guarantee		
to establish	objective		
to enable	prosperity		

Exercises

Ex. 1. Give Russian equivalents to the following combinations:

in order to, basic units, local constituency party, to be staffed, to be summarized, secure defense, fundamental objective, irrespective of, absence of restraints, merger, at the heart of, free-market economy.

Ex. 2. Complete the following sentences:

1. Each party maintains its own organization within Parliament in order to...
2. The basic units of organization are...
3. The main function of the national organization is...
4. Annual conferences are channels of communication between...
5. Headquarters are staffed by...
6. The origins of the Conservative Party go back to...
7. For the Conservatives ownership is...
8. The true aim of the Labor Party is...
9. From the viewpoint of the Liberal Democrats. Individual liberty is...
10. The Liberal Democrats are associated with...

Ex. 3. Say, what party the following statements belong to:

1. Any man can enjoy equal and extensive liberty.
2. Freedom is responsibility to family, nation.
3. The Government should establish a climate favorable for the development of enterprises.
4. An individual has the right to control his/her life.
5. Rudimentary rights of citizens should be protected.
6. The government shouldn't interfere into people's affairs.
7. Britain must provide the guarantee of peace.

Ex. 4. Answer the questions:

1. Why does each of the parties maintain its own organization within Parliament?
2. What are the basic units of organization outside Parliament?
3. What are the main functions of a nations organization?
4. What are the major parties?
5. What are the origins of the Conservative Party?
6. What are the fundamental principles of the Conservatives?
7. What are the origins of the Labor Party?
8. What is their aim?
9. How do they define freedom?
10. What steps should be taken towards freedom?
11. When and how were the Liberal Democrats formed?
12. What do they stand for?
13. What is their aim?
14. What is the role of the Government?
15. Are there other parties in Parliament?
16. Who do they represent?

Ex. 5. Put all types of the questions to the statements:

1. Each party informs its members about parliamentary business.
2. Local constituency parties are linked together in regional federations.
3. All the main parties have some form of central office.
4. Ownership is the strongest foundation of individual freedom.
5. The Labour Party's origins go back to the late 19th century.
6. They aim to enable men & women to develop their own talents to the full.
7. There are also a number of minor parties which are not represented in Parliament.

Ex. 6. Give a short summary of the text.

The Monarchy in Great Britain

The Queen is not only head of State, but also an important symbol of national unity. In law she is:

- head of the executive;
- an integral part of the legislature;
- head of the judiciary;
- commander-in-chief of all the armed forces of the Crown;
- the 'supreme governor' of the established Church of England.

As a result of a long process of evolution, during which the monarchy's absolute power has been progressively reduced, the Queen acts on the advice of her ministers. Britain is governed by Her Majesty's Government and the devolved authorities in the name of the Queen.

In spite of a trend during the past hundred years towards giving powers directly to ministers, the Queen still takes part in some important acts of government. These include summoning, proroguing – which means stopping Parliament meeting without ending the session and dissolving Parliament; and giving Royal Assent to Bills passed by Parliament and the Scottish Parliament. The Queen also formally appoints many important office holders, including government ministers, judge; officers in the armed forces, diplomats, bishops and some other senior clergy of the Church of England. She is also involved in pardoning people convicted of crimes; and conferring peerages, knighthoods and other honours.

An important function is appointing the Prime Minister: by convention the Queen invites the leader the political party which commands a majority in the House of Commons to form a government. She also appoints the First Minister on the recommendation of the Scottish Parliament to head the Scottish Executive and approves his appointment of other ministers.

In international affairs the Queen, as head of State, has the power to declare war and make peace, to recognise foreign states and governments, to conclude treaties and to annex or cede territory.

With rare exceptions – such as appointing the Prime Minister – acts involving the use of 'royal prerogative' powers are nowadays performed by government ministers. The ministers and Scottish Executive ministers are responsible to Parliament or the Scottish Parliament and can be questioned about particular policies. Parliamentary authority is not required for the exercise of these prerogative powers, although Parliament may restrict or abolish such rights.

The Queen also holds Privy Council meetings, gives audiences to her ministers and officials in Britain and overseas, receives accounts of Cabinet decisions, reads dispatches and signs state papers. Provision has been made to appoint a regent to perform these royal functions should the Queen be totally incapacitated. In the event of her partial incapacity or absence abroad, the Queen may delegate certain royal functions to the Counsellors of State, who are members of the royal family.

Topical vocabulary

Nouns

head
unity
commander-in-chief
knighthood
honour
incapacity
counselor

Verbs

to reduce
to take part
to summon
to dissolve
to appoint
to perform
to restrict
to abolish

Word combination

to conclude treaties
to be responsible to
royal family
Royal Assent

Exercises

Ex. 1. Read the following international words (Pay attention to the stress):

‘monarchy, ‘symbol, re’sult, ‘process, ‘regent, ‘national, in’tegral, ‘absolute, ‘session, ‘function.

Ex. 2. Agree or disagree with the statements:

1. The Queen is the symbol of national unity.
2. The Queen is the head of the executive.
3. The Queen acts on the advice of Parliament which governs Britain.
4. The Queen takes part in proposing new Bills.
5. The Queen actually appoints many important office holders.
6. She is the governor of the Church of England.

7. The ministers are responsible to the Queen.
8. The Queen holds Privy Council meetings.
9. The Queen may delegate some royal functions to the Government.

Ex. 3. Match the words from 2 columns:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. in law | a. распускать |
| 2. commander-in-chief | b. объявлять войну |
| 3. to dissolve | c. заключать мир |
| 4. armed forces | d. главнокомандующий |
| 5. international affairs | e. международные дела |
| 6. declare war | f. вооруженные силы |
| 7. to be responsible to | g. подписывать документы |
| 8. to abolish a right | i. по закону |
| 9. to sign papers | h. быть подотчетным |
| 10. to make peace | j. отменить право |

Ex. 4. Find the synonyms to the words:

to make smaller, to participate, to stop, business, documents, in the case of, inability.

Ex. 5. Answer the questions:

1. What does the Queen symbolize?
2. What is she in law?
3. How does she act?
4. Who governs Britain?
5. In what acts of government does the Queen take part?
6. Who does the Queen appoint?
7. What is she involved in?
8. What power does she have in international affairs?
9. Who nowadays performs acts in involving the use of “royal prerogative” powers?
10. Who are the ministers responsible to?
11. What else does the Queen do?
12. When is a regent appointed?
13. When & why may the Queen delegate certain royal functions?

Ex. 6. Give a short summary of the text.