

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ  
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ  
ВЫСШЕГО ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ  
«САМАРСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

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**ПРАКТИКУМ ПО ТЕМАМ  
«GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF GREAT  
BRITAIN» И «LONDON AND  
LONDONERS»**

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Практикум по темам «Geographical Survey of Great Britain» и «London and Londoners» предназначен для работы со студентами 2 курса филологического факультета РГО и содержит тексты по указанной тематике, задания, ориентированные на семантизацию текстовых реалий, и упражнения, способствующие развитию навыков устной речи. Учебные тексты сопровождаются Topical Vocabulary. В качестве факультативных заданий предлагаются тексты для аудирования и видеоматериалы, обеспечивающие расширение тематического вокабуляра в ситуативных контекстах.

Тексты, содержащиеся в данном практикуме, расширяют возможности студентов при работе над темами, включенными в программу 2 курса по основному иностранному языку (английскому).

Задачей обучения на базе данных материалов является активизация навыков профессионального владения иноязычным материалом, расширение тематического вокабуляра в ситуативных контекстах, развитие творческой активности студентов при работе над предложенными заданиями.

Данный практикум может быть использован как для работы в аудитории под руководством преподавателя, так и для самостоятельной работы студентов.

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## TOPIC I

### GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF GREAT BRITAIN

#### Reading Practice

**1.1. Pre-reading:** Study the map of the British Isles carefully. Answer the following questions:

1) What are the largest islands of the British Isles? How many smaller islands are known? Name some of them.

2) Is Britain one country or four countries in one? Give their names.

3) Do the names 'the British Isles', 'Great Britain', 'the UK' mean the same? Prove it.

#### Brain-storming:

1) The result of what is the British love of compromise?

2) Do they speak only English in the UK?

3) Are the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands 'Crown dependencies'?

4) Which of the four countries of the UK has the greatest number of counties? And the smallest?

**1.2. Read the text ' Britain – is not one country, but four...' Do the tasks after the text:**

It has been claimed that the British love of compromise is the result of the country's physical geography. This may or may not be true, but it is certainly true that the land and climate in Britain have a notable lack of extremes. Britain has mountains, but none of them are very high; it also has flat land, but you cannot travel far without encountering hills; it has no really big rivers; it doesn't usually get very cold in the winter or very hot in the summer; it has no active volcanoes, and an earth tremor which does no more than rattle teacups in a few houses is reported in the national news media.

You are welcome to discover a country which boasts a historic legacy as rich as its landscape; where the modern blends with the traditional and ancient customs harmonize with 20th-century international commerce. Britain is actually four countries in one – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Each one offers something quite different in the way of traditions, history, the landscape, its people and their languages. All the countries except England have a second language inherited from invaders from the distant past, Welsh being the one that is perhaps still spoken and sung the most.

The British Isles form a group lying off the north-west coast of Europe with a total area of about 121,600 square miles (242,000 square km). Great Britain is just under 1,000 km from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland and just under 500 km across in the widest part.

The largest islands are Great Britain proper (comprising the mainlands of England, Wales and Scotland) and Ireland (comprising Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic – the capital is Dublin). Off the southern coast of England is the Isle of Wight\* and off the extreme south-west are the Isles of Scilly\*; off North Wales is Anglesey. Western Scotland is fringed by numerous islands and to the far north are the important groups of the Orkneys\* and Shetlands\* and the Hebrides\*. All these form administrative counties of the mainland, but the Isle of Man\* in the Irish Sea and the Channel Islands\* between Great Britain and France have a large measure of administrative autonomy and are not part of England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

England (including the county of Monmouth on the Welsh border) has a total area (including inland water) of 50,327 square miles and is divided into 40 geographical or 49 administrative counties. The population of England (Mid - 1995) is 48,9 million. The capital is London.

Wales (including Monmouthshire) with a total area of 8,017 square miles, has 13 counties. Its population is 2,9 million people. The capital of Wales is Cardiff.

Scotland, including its 186 inhabited islands, has a total area of 30,411 square miles and is divided into 33 counties. The population of the country is 5,1 million. Its capital is Edinburgh.

Northern Ireland, consisting of six counties, has a total area of 5,459 square miles. Its population in 1995 was 1,6 million. The capital of the country is Belfast.

In 1995 the total population of the UK was 58,6 million people.

**Notes:**

*the Isle of Wight* – is the first real island to be encountered in the English Channel.

*the Scilly Isles or Islands* – group of 140 small islands off Land's End, SW England, 5,5 sq. m. Anciently a haunt of pirates, and later of smugglers.

*the Orkneys or Orkney Islands* – archipelago off NE coast of Scotland, comprising Orkney county.

*the Shetlands or Shetland Islands* – archipelago off N Scotland, northernmost British territory of Europe. Fisheries, sheep and cattle raising, native horses (Shetland ponies). Long a Norse dependency, acquired by Scotland in 1472.

*the Hebrides* – or Western Islands – islands in the Atlantic Ocean W of Scotland, divided by the Little Minch (strait off NW coast of Scotland) into two groups: Outer Hebrides or the Long Island and Inner Hebrides, ceded by the Norway to Scotland in 13th century.

*the Isle of Man* – island in the Irish Sea off NW coast of England, held by Norse, Scots, English (from 14th century); has its own language (Manx), tourist centre.

*the Channel Islands* – British group of islands in the English Channel, (comprise Jersey, Guernsey, Aldemey and Sark, and several islets. Fertile is-

lands, exporting fruit, vegetables and flowers, chiefly to England. Inhabitants are part of Norman descent, part English.

### 1.3. Vocabulary practice

**Ex. 1.** Practise the pronunciation of the following proper names:

the British Isles, Great Britain, Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland, the Irish Republic, Northern Ireland, London, Dublin, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast, the Isle of Wight, the Isles of Scilly, Anglesey, the Orkneys, the Shetlands, the Hebrides, Outer Hebrides, Inner Hebrides, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands.

**Ex. 2.** Paraphrase or explain in your own words: 1. legacy, 2. distant past, 3. fringed, 4. haunt of pirates, 5. northernmost territory

**Ex. 3.** Find two synonyms for each verb. Choose them from the box:

boast, blend, discover, invade, divide, form, include, pound, excite, eddy

rouse, disclose, mix, brag, attack, contain, swirl, figure, provoke, strike, exult, incorporate, spin, thump, shape, intrude, separate, invent, part, mingle

### 1.4. Read the text “The Coastline of England. Land's End”.

**Study the map and find the places on it. Deliver a talk on the topic to the group.**

The British Isles, though so small, boast the most varied and romantic coastline of any islands in the world, and almost every mile of it would be suitable for some sort of holiday. There is something for everybody – big resorts with piers and bands and gleaming promenades, great ports with ships waiting in the docks, little fishing villages, and cliffs and sands and beaches of many kinds and colours.

Imagine that we board a vessel at Dover below the great white cliffs which are so often the first glimpse of England seen by the traveller. Dover is probably the oldest gateway to England.

As we sail west, we pass Folkestone. This is a big seaside resort built mainly on the top of the cliffs. Between Lyme and the little Devon town of Seaton is an unusual stretch of wild country where there was a landslide over a hundred years ago. Then part of the cliff slid down towards the sea and settled at a lower level, so making a mysterious "secret kingdom". Drake and Raleigh and many other British seamen-adventurers sailed out from Devon, and her red cliffs are famed throughout the world. Those who live in Devon claim that Plymouth harbour is the finest and the most beautiful in Britain. It seems fitting that the little wooded island you will see at the entrance to the harbour should be called Drake's Island.

Cornwall north and south coasts are magnificent. For centuries the granite cliffs have been pounded by the rollers of the Atlantic and here are exciting little coves, beaches of gleaming sand and caves. The north coast of Cornwall is ro-

mantic and spectacular for the massive ruin of the castle stands on a great hill joined to the mainland by a narrow tongue of rock. Here, tradition says, was the home of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table.

*Land's End* – there is something in the very meaning and sound of those two words that excites the imagination. The name is a magnet; let it but be spoken or written the tourists and the tramps will not be satisfied until they have journeyed, afoot or by car, over the ten long miles of hill, valley, and bleak tableland that lie between it and Penzance; until they have passed the hotel on the cliff top, turned right over the little intervening stretch of grass and boulders, and stood with the wind in their faces above the outcrop of pillared rocks, where the waters from north and south meet in white and swirling commotion.

Besides, there isn't much to be seen but waves and more waves, rising and falling with everlasting rumour across the three thousand miles of uninterrupted ocean between here and America. Against these waves the cliffs stand bastion, broken by bays, pierced by rumbling caverns, shaped into towering fantasies of pillar and ladder, of giant and monster. Standing put to sea, a mile and a half from Land's End itself, a snaggy scatter of submerged rocks, among which the water boils and eddies, ends in a higher rock, capped by a sturdy lighthouse. These are the Longships (rocky islets west of Land's End).

### **1.5. Listening Practice**

Listen to Text Nine "The Beauty of Britain" p. 26 («Тематические разработки по развитию навыков аудирования в помощь студентам 2-го курса РГФ»). Do the tasks given before the text.

### **1.6. Visual interpretation**

Watch the video film 'Introducing Great Britain', Part Two 'Cornwall'

### **1.7. Speaking Practice**

#### **Study COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES:**

#### **a. raising objections or difficulties**

It's all very well to say..., but...

Yes, but look, that would mean that...

Yes, but on the other hand...

Let's be realistic about this...

That's all very well, but you've got to take ...into account/consideration,

#### **b. breaking into a conversation**

If you'd let me get a word in edgeways I'd...

If you'd only listen to me...

That's nonsense / stupid / ridiculous!

#### **c. calming the argument**

Listen, please, all of you...

Wouldn't it be a good idea to...

Don't get upset / angry!

Well, you could always...

Keep your hair on!

One way out would be to...

**d. criticizing attitudes**

I think you're being rather unrealistic / inconsiderate...

I don't think you're being very helpful about...

You don't seem to realize/understand that...

**Discussion**

Cornish is a dead language. None of the people who speak Cornish today learnt the language as a mother tongue. Do you think it is a good idea to preserve old languages? Are there any dead languages in your country?

**While discussing make use of communication techniques.**

**1.8. Read the text 'The Islands of England'**

Let us make a rapid survey of the islands round the coasts of England, before examining them in more detail. Starting with the north-east coast off Northumberland, there is Lindisfarne or Holy Isle, with its ruined monastery. Holy Isle still retains its population and appears fairly prosperous. Someone may challenge its title to be a true island, since it is separated from the mainland by a wide stretch of wet sand at low tide, and can be reached on foot or by motor-car, but it has retained the true island flavour for all that.

A little further south are the Fame Islands (group of 17 small islands off NE coast of Northumberland), now preserved as a wild-life sanctuary: and further still are Coquet Island and St. Mary's Island. The Fame Islands lie about five miles south of Holy Isle, at a varying distance of two to five miles from the shore. There are from fifteen to twenty-eight islands, depending upon whether they are counted at high tide or low, for a number are only exposed by the ebb. The Fames are a better place for birds and rabbits than for men, and the dangerous rocks and reefs have been the scene of many a wreck.

Coquet Island lies at the mouth of the River Coquet, a mile off the Northumbrian shore. The white-walled lighthouse is the island's most conspicuous feature, for there is no vegetation to break the view, most of it having been destroyed by the terrific winds which sweep across the island.

Following the coast southward there are no true islands along the North Sea.

The Isle of Wight is the first real island to be encountered in the English Channel; it is the largest island off the English coast. In fact, it has been described as a miniature England – chalk, sand, clay and the rest-which are reflected in its many types of landscape, often dramatically contrasting, and the impressive variety of its coastline. Many visitors are surprised to discover that

though the Isle annually attracts thousands as holiday-makers it is also "home" to a great many people who daily cross the water to earn their livelihoods in Southampton, Gosport and Portsmouth.

Perhaps Wight has always been too accessible to England to be regarded as an island, but only a detached portion of the mainland.

In the south-west of England, off the coast of Cornwall, is a group of small islands, the Scilly Isles. Here is a land of flowers and storms. Frost and storm are almost unknown and a mild winter is followed by a very early spring. But storms and rain are common, and the houses, built of granite from the rocks, usually have an outside coat of cement to keep out the wet. If, in one of these houses, the cat is seen lying before the fire with its tail turned to the north, it is said to be a sure sign that a storm is coming. The people of the Scilly Islands get their living by fishing in the deep sea and by catching crabs on the shore, but chiefly by growing early flowers to sell to the other parts of the British Isles. The flower fields are square or oblong patches, no two of them are ever alike.

For many people the Isle of Man signifies merely the sophisticated pleasure resort of Douglas for the town has become better known than the island, and is visited annually by hundreds of thousands of visitors. But Douglas is no more the Isle of Man than London is England or Paris is France. Get away from the place and you will find yourself in quite a different world of hills and woods and glens and an enchanting coast. Man is neither English, Irish nor Scottish, but has affinities with all three countries. It has been inhabited in turn by Picts and Scots, Celts and Vikings and English, and in all sorts of out-of-the-way places you will find relics and memorials of these various peoples. Today Man remains a little kingdom in its own right, with its own government to make its own laws.

**Word-combinations:**

have a lack of  
harmonize with  
be fringed by  
be under at  
have a measure of  
be suitable  
be famed  
to make a survey  
in turn

**Vocabulary Notes:**

**extreme n.** 1. either end of anything; (fig.) highest degree; 2. (pl.) qualities, etc. as wide apart, as widely different as possible: e.g. Love and hate are ~s. **adj.** 1. at the end(s); farthest possible: the ~ edge of a field; in ~ old age: 2. reaching the highest degree: ~ patience/kindness: in ~ pain; 3. (of persons, their ideas) far from moderate: hold ~ opinions



**encounter** v. find oneself faced by (danger, difficulties, etc.): meet (an enemy); meet (a friend) unexpectedly: encounter **n.** ~ (with) sudden or unexpected (esp. hostile) meeting

**tremor** n. shaking or trembling: the ~ of a leaf. e.g. in a breeze: earth ~s. as during an earthquake; 2. thrill: e.g. A ~ of fear went through the audience.

**inherit** v. receive property, a title, etc. as heir: e.g. The eldest son will ~ the title. 2. derive (qualities, etc.) from ancestors: e.g. She ~ed her mother's good looks and her father's bad temper.

**offer** v. ~ smth to smb; ~ smb smth; ~ smth for smth; hold out. put forward, to be accepted or refused: e.g. I have been ~ed a job in Japan. He ~ed me his help.

**suggest** v. 1. ~ smth (to smb); ~ (to smb) that...: ~ doing smth, propose, put forward for consideration, as a possibility: e.g. I ~ed we go to the theatre. I ~ going home/that we should go home. 2. bring (an idea, possibility) into the mind: e.g. Your wheezing breathing ~s asthma.

**comprise** v. be composed of, have as part or members: e.g. The Committee ~s men of widely different views.

**consist** v. 1. ~ of (not in the progressive tenses), be made of: e.g. The Committee ~s of ten members. 2. ~ in, have as the chief or only element: e.g. The happiness of a country ~ in the freedom of its citizens.

**county** n. 1. division in GB, the largest unit of local government: the ~of Kent: 2. (in US and other countries) subdivision of a State

**borough** n. 1. (England) town, or part of a town, that sends one or more members to Parliament; town with a municipal corporation and rights of self-government conferred by royal charter: 2. (US) any one of the five administrative units of New York City.

**settle** v. 1. make one's home in (permanently, as a colonist); establish colonists in: e. g. By whom was Canada ~ed? 2. make one's home in. live in (not as a colonist): ~ in London/in Canada/in the country; 3. ~ (on smth). come to rest (on), stay for some time(on): e.g. The dust ~ed on everything.

**spectacular** adj. making a fine spectacle: attracting public attention: a ~ display of fireworks.

**reflect** v. 1. (of a surface) throw back (light, heat, sound): (of a mirror) send back an image of: e.g. The sunlight was ~ed from the water. 2. express, show the nature of: e.g. Her sad looks ~ed the thoughts passing through her mind. 3. ~smth on/upon smb.(of actions, results) bring (credit or discredit upon): e.g. Such behaviour can only ~ upon you.

**island** n. a piece of land surrounded by water: smth resembling an ~because it is detached or isolated: a traffic ~, a raised place in a busy street where people may be safe from traffic.

**isle** n. island (not much used in prose, except in proper names): e.g. the I~ of Wight; the British I~s

**islet** n. small island

**coast** n. land bordering the sea; seashore and land near it: e.g. The ship was wrecked on the Kent ~. There are numerous islands off the ~.

**shore** n. stretch of land bordering on the sea or a large body of water: e.g. a house on the ~(s) of Lake Geneva; go on ~ (from a ship)

**bank** n. land along each side of a river or canal; ground near a river: e.g. A river flows between its ~s. His house is on the south ~ of the river.

### 1.9. Vocabulary practice

**Ex. 1.** Transcribe the following words. Consult the dictionary for their meaning: survey, monastery, prosperous, challenge, flavour, sanctuary, conspicuous, miniature, annually, livelihood, accessible, sophisticated, affinities, relics, kingdom

**Ex. 2.** Fill in the gaps choosing the right verb ('to offer' or 'to suggest') in the required form. Translate into Russian:

1. My friend ..... to pay the fare as I had no change.
2. The dean ..... that the question should be discussed at the next meeting.
3. The guide ..... walking along the streets of the capital.
4. My friend ..... to go to the business trip instead of me.
5. The boy ..... the old woman to carry her basket.
6. He ..... going to the country for the week-end and ..... to give me a lift.
7. Mother ..... me some medicine.
8. She ..... we should go on with the work if we wanted to finish it within two days.

**Ex. 3.** Find in the text the English equivalents of the following:

более подробно, широкая полоса, сохранять (2), прилив, открываться, кораблекрушение, устье (реки), маяк, впечатляющее разнообразие, зарабатывать на жизнь (2), наружная облицовка, продолговатый, отдаленные места (2).

**Ex. 4.** Fill in the gaps with prepositions. Choose them from the box below the text:

#### The Vanishing Coastline

Britain is an island (1) ... constant attack (2) ... the surrounding sea. Every year, little bits (3)... the east coast vanish (4)... the North Sea. Sometimes the land slips (5) ... slowly. But (6) ... other times it slips (7) ... very suddenly. (8) ... 1993 a dramatic example (9) ... this process occurred near the town (10)... Scarborough (11)... Yorkshire.

The Holbeck Hotel, built (12) ... a clifftop overlooking the sea, had been the best hotel (13)... town (14)... 110 years. But (15)... the morning (16)... 4 June, guests awoke to find cracks (17) ... the walls and the doors stuck. When

they looked (18).....the window, instead (19) ... seeing fifteen metres (20) ... hotel garden, they saw nothing – except the sea. There was no time to collect their belongings. They had to leave the hotel immediately. During the day various rooms (21) ... the hotel started leaning (22) ... odd angles and then slipped (23)... the cliff. The Holbeck Hotel's role (24)... the tourism industry was over. However, (25) ... 'dying' so dramatically, it proved one last great sight (26) ... tourists. Hundreds (27) ... them watched the action throughout the day.

of, in, out of, for, away, at, into, under, by, from, on, down

**Discuss the following point:**

What can people do to protect the coastline from sinking?

**Ex. 5.** Choose only one suitable word from those given below to fill in the gaps:

1. Holy Isle still retains its population and ..... fairly prosperous.
2. The ..... rocks and reefs have been the scene of many a wreck.
3. The Isle of Wight is the first real island to be ..... in the English Channel.
4. The flower fields are..... or oblong patches, no two of them are ever alike.
5. Today Man remains a little ..... in its own right, with its own ..... to make its own laws.

square, destroy, storm, appears, feature, kingdom, surprised, dangerous, common, government, encountered, attracts

**Ex. 6.** Comprehension check:

1. Where is Lidisfarne ( Holy Island) situated? Can it be considered a true island?
2. Do the Fame Islands lie far from Holy Isle? Why does the number of the islands vary? Are they good for men?
3. What is the most conspicuous feature of Coquet Island?
4. Are there any true islands southward along the Northern Sea?
5. What is the first real island to be encountered in the English Channel? Why has it been described as a miniature England? What surprises the visitors?
6. Where are the Scilly Isles situated? What do people do to keep out the wet? How do the inhabitants learn about a coming storm? Do they get their living only by fishing? How else?
7. What does the Isle of Man signify for many people? Is Man English, Irish or Scottish? What is Man today?

## Reading Practice

### 2.1. Read the text 'Wales'

The history of Wales is the story of a small country fighting for its life against a big one. For two thousand years, the people of central and southern Britain have tried to control the small land in the west. In many ways, they have won. Since 1536, Wales has been governed from England. But the 2,9 million people of Wales still have a special spirit and life of their own.

Geographically, Wales is that part of Highland Britain which lies to the west of the English Midlands. Strangers find it difficult to understand the remarkable contrasts in many directions between Wales and England. To appreciate the intense nationalism of Wales, and the survival of the Welsh language and culture alike amongst the hill farmers and the intelligentsia, it is necessary to study both the geography and the history of the Principality, and the contrast which they offer to England.

The greater part of Wales lies at an elevation of more than 600 feet above sea-level; a few peaks rise to over 3000 feet, including Snowdon (3560 feet). (The Welsh mountains have a beauty which is rugged and forbidding, but the slopes are as green and fertile as the valleys and provide rich pasture for sheep and cows. In central and north Wales, farming is the main occupation, but the valleys of south Wales are very heavily industrialized). Geologically the older part of Wales is in the north-west, where the island of Anglesey has been worn down to a low plateau of pleasant farming land. To the south of Anglesey, on the mainland, rises the most rugged and beautiful range of mountains in the British Isles. With a winter or spring capping of snow, the mountains of the Snowdon range can match in dignity and grandeur mountains four times their height. The quieter scenery of Central Wales has in compensation several charming lakes – including those man-made lakes which supply water to Liverpool and Birmingham.

South Wales consists essentially of a great plateau deeply trenched by river valleys, and underneath lies the great South Wales coalfield. In the eastern part of Central Wales, between the coalfields and the mountains of Central Wales, is a triangular area occupied by Old Red Sandstone. Part of this forms one of the wildest and most desolate upland areas in Britain – the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains – but the eastern part ranging into Herefordshire is a sheltered basin with orchards and smiling cornland and hop-gardens. The eastern margin of the Welsh borderland is a line of hills stretching from north to south from the Wrekin, through the Malvern Hills. There is a small fragment of South Wales, the Vale of Glamorgan, which is quite different from the rest of the country and really belongs to the agricultural region of Lowland England.

The only big towns in Wales are along the south coast and in the nearby coalmining valleys which run down from the southern hills. Less than half of the Welsh people live in the remaining nine-tenths of the country's area, most of which is mountainous and full of medieval ruined castles. The greatest of these,

Caernarvon, in the north, was used, according to tradition, for the investiture of Queen Elizabeth II's eldest son and heir, Prince Charles, as Prince of Wales.

Like the other highland areas of the British Isles, Wales is a region of heavy rainfall. It lies, however, on the warmer western side of Britain, and despite the height of the mountains snow does not lie for long, whilst the valleys of the west coast are sheltered from the cold east winds and enjoy a very mild climate.

Wales has never been thickly populated; the lowland margins on the west attracted immigrants by sea, the lowland margins on the east invaders by land.

Welsh nationalism is mainly cultural and linguistic. Many official jobs are reserved for people who have at least some ability to speak Welsh. Public documents and notices are in Welsh and English, and road signposts show place names either in Welsh only or in both Welsh and English spelling. Nobody drives to Cardiff without knowing it by that name, but the signposts also call it Caerdydd.

The national flag, with its fine dragon, is regularly displayed, the Welsh national anthem played and sung. Wales has been called "The Land of Song". The Welsh people are renowned for their good voices. The 800-year-old National Eisteddfodd, a festival of Welsh music and poetry dating from the twelfth century, is held each year in Llangollen in Clwyd with official help. Singers, dancers, musicians and poets come from all over the world to compete for the awards, often wearing colourful national costumes.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. How long has Wales been governed from England?
2. Do strangers find it difficult to understand the remarkable contrasts between England and Wales? Why?
3. What is peculiar about the geographical position of Wales?
4. Is Wales a mountainous country?
5. Does the south differ from the northern and western parts?
6. What are the most populated areas?
7. How is Welsh nationalism revealed?
8. Why is the country called "the Land of Song"?

**Listening Practice.**

Listen to Text Four "Cardiff" p.20 ( «Тематические разработки по развитию навыков аудирования в помощь студентам 2-го курса РГФ»). Do the tasks before the text.

**2.3. Read the text "The Islands of Wales".**

**Deliver a talk on the topic to your group. Use the map.**

a) At 276 square miles, Anglesey is the biggest island off the Welsh and English coasts, separated from the mainland by the tidal Menai Strait, which is only a few hundred yards at its narrowest point, between Bangor and Menai Bridge. Its sea-facing shores are a heaven for migrating birds: thousands of puf-

fins and guillemots nest on the 600-million year-old perpendicular cliffs of South Stack. There is a spectacular bird sanctuary here.

b) The north is rocky and wild, and mining has left its scars along Parys Mountain; but to the east and west the shoreline grows gentler, and is dotted with shingle and sand beaches. Compared with the mountains of the mainland, Anglesey is quite flat, rising no higher than 500 feet and harbouring saltmarshes and wide estuaries at its lowest levels. Its biggest lake, the 777-acre Llyn Alaw, was created by the flooding of northern marshlands. Seals and porpoises can be seen basking off the north coast of the island.

c) It is an enchanting isle possessing such magic and variety. The short trip across the Menai Strait from mainland Wales to Anglesey seems like a journey into another world. There is something about this island, known to the Welsh as 'Mon, Mam Cymru' – "Anglesey, Mother of Wales", that makes it stand out from the rest of the nation. For centuries its lush farmlands fed the barren Welsh highlands: and when white-robed druids were the leaders of Celtic life, Anglesey was their headquarters.

d) The bridges that carry you to and from the mainland were the high-tech marvels of their day: Menai Suspension Bridge, the first iron bridge of its kind in the world, built by engineering genius Thomas Telford in 1818: and Britannia Bridge, whose wrought-iron tubes opened to trains in 1850 – and were rebuilt in 1970 after two boys on a bat-hunt set them on fire.

e) There's a prosperous, holiday atmosphere about the towns strung along the Menai Strait. The Georgian houses and gabled Victorian villas of Beaumaris give this neat sailing town an air of seaside gentility: this is the kind of place where you can take a promenade along the quayside, watch the boats bobbing up and down on the strait and the soak in the fine view across to Snowdonia. Further west along the coast, at the end of the Britannia Bridge, is Anglesey's worst-pronounced village:

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwymdrobwillantysiiiogogoch (57 letters)!!!

f) The original name was plain old Llanfairpwllgwyngyll; its extended title was invented by a 19<sup>th</sup> century wag, with an eye to the tourist trade. Llanfair PG, as its known to locals, has two grand monuments to its past glories: Plas Newydd, the 18<sup>th</sup> century home of the Marquess of Anglesey, and the 90-foot Anglesey Column, which rivals Nelson's in Trafalgar Square; built in 1816 to honour the Marquess's impressive war record as second-in-command to the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo.

## **2.4. Visual interpretation.**

Watch video film "Introducing Great Britain", Part 2 'Wales'.

## **3.1. Read the text 'Scotland'.**

a) A lot of people think that Scotland is a part of England. But it certainly is not. It was a separate kingdom, with powerful local lairds, until 1603, when its

King James VI became King James I of England too. From then onwards the two countries had the same monarch, though the Act of Union was not passed until 1707. This Act incorporated Scotland with England in the United Kingdom, but the Scots kept their own legal system, religion and administration and still keep them now. Thus Scotland has never been united with England in the same way as Wales.

b) Scotland is now governed from London, but in some ways it is still a separate nation. It has its own capital city (Edinburgh), its own law, and its own stamps. It even has a language of its own, spoken now by only a few people in the islands.

c) There are only about five million Scots, and most of them live in the southern half of the country, but they have kept a special culture and way of life of their own. Their own church, the Church of Scotland, is different from the Church of England. They have their own kind of music (the traditional "bag-pipes"), their own kind of clothes (the colourful Scottish "tartans"), and their own kind of food and drink, including their famous whisky.

d) Scotland is a country of incredible natural beauty. It is also very empty. In the Highlands, the population is small, and it is getting smaller all the time. Perhaps that is why visitors always come back. They enjoy the quiet, empty country after the noise and dirt of the town. They like fishing in the clean rivers, and skiing on the snow-covered mountains. They like visiting romantic castles built by warlike chiefs and tragic kings and queens. There's only one problem. They can never be sure that the sun is going to shine.

e) The most interesting and beautiful part of Scotland – and of the whole of Britain – is the north and west, or the region commonly called "the highlands and islands". Great sea-lochs, or fjords, not unlike those of Norway, alternate with wild and empty hills. Cone-shaped, boggy mountains of 1.000 to 1.300 meters high, separated by deep valleys, cover the whole inland area as well as parts of some islands. Agriculture is hard and poor. Vast new and dull coniferous forests have been planted on the mountains, helped by government subsidies. They give some employment but spoil the scenery. Shooting and fishing are rich men's sports, pursued mainly on estates belonging to old aristocrats or new tycoons of commerce, some of them English, some foreign. The old small towns and villages have hotels and caravan sites, but the country has not been spoiled by overdevelopment. Thousands of holiday-makers visit the Highlands in the summer, hoping for good luck with the weather.

***It is interesting to know:***

tartan – woolen fabric with stripes of various colours crossing at right angles. Traditionally, tartan is recognized around the world as unmistakably Scottish; the cloth has its origins in the ancient Highland "clan" system. The family clan each wore their own distinctive badge or insignia – the tartan -making them

instantly recognizable to others, friend or foe. Regrettably, tartan kilts are now usually worn only on special occasions.

### 3.2. Vocabulary practice

**Ex. 1.** Find words in the text which mean:

<i>Paragraph a</i>	forceful, strong united in one body or group
<i>Paragraph b</i>	rule, direct
<i>Paragraph c</i>	embody, encompass
<i>Paragraph d</i>	unbelievable militant, aggressive
<i>Paragraph e</i>	make useless follow, persist powerful businessman

### Ex. 2. Comprehension check

Agree or disagree with the following statements. Make use of the phrases: I quite agree with you, true enough, beyond all doubt, looks like that; I doubt it, far from it, just the other way round, surely not, I object to it.

1. A lot of people think that Scotland is a part of England.
2. The Act of Union of 1707 incorporated Scotland with England.
3. Scotland is now governed from Edinburgh.
4. Their own church, the Church of Scotland, is not different from the Church of England.
5. Scotland is a country of incredible natural beauty.
6. Visitors dislike fishing in the clean rivers and skiing on the snow covered mountains.
7. The north and west of Scotland is commonly called 'the highlands and islands'.

### 3.3. Visual interpretation.

Watch video film "Introducing Great Britain", Part 1 'Edinburgh'.

### 3.4. Read the text 'The Islands of Scotland'.

**Deliver a talk on the topic to the group, make use of the map.**

Round the coasts of Scotland there are seven hundred and eighty-seven islands. Some are tiny, some are large, some lie close together, scattered over the sea, others lie alone, detached and self-sufficient. On some people live, on others sheep are the sole inhabitants, while still others are companionable only by sea, wind and weather, by birds and grey seals. But all are part of Scotland.

The very sight of these islands, the Orkneys and the Shetlands, where life goes on in a water-bound world, has its own enchantment. Over all is the far northern light, pure and clear. It has a translucent quality, and is quite different



from the lights of southern lands. The short winter days are forgotten when summer comes and the interval between the evening glory of a setting sun and the fresh promise of morning is barely perceptible. The Islanders call these magical charm moments the "summer dim". It is one of the very special treasures of these northern islands.

They have others. Amid the grey houses of Kirkwall, Orkney's chief town, rises the grand eight-hundred-year-old Cathedral of St. Magnus, a landmark to sailors far out at sea. In the harbour of Lerwick, gaily painted boats of Norwegian design mix with the herring drifters. And in the same town every year comes a day in January when the streets are crowded with people clearly in holiday mood. The winter solstice is past; spring with its promise of returning sunlight waits round the corner.

A journey by air is quick and easy. Scotland, strangely flattened, lies beneath. Islands dot the sea, gleaming sands catch the light. "The farthest Hebrides" seem ridiculously near after all! There to the north is the greatest of these, Lewis, of which the southern part is called Harris, while, an infinite variety of other smaller islands straggles to the south. In certain parts there are impressive cliffs, notably in the extreme north of Lewis, where rises a great arch of rock. The story goes that it was formed by the devil, so that he could attach a chain to the island and drag it away with him to the sea.

In Harris there are bare and lovely mountains of a considerable height and in other islands, too, there are hills but much of the landscape that lies before us is low and undulating covered by moor and bog. Peat, like a muffling thick blanket, lies on the ground to a depth of many feet, stifling all growth. This land of bog and moor is now practically uninhabitable. The Islanders live on a fringe by the sea, many on the exposed Atlantic shore. Above these beaches, between the sea and the peat, is the slope of gently undulating fertile land known as marchair. On it lies sand from the shore, continually blown there by the prevailing south-west winds. It is enriched by the ocean tangle, or seaweed, which the busy Islanders, collecting it by pony and cart, spread over it. It is on the marchair that the Islanders have their crofts, or small holdings of arable land. In July the wild flowers and millions of blue butterflies, seen against a background of blue sea and sky, white waves and pale yellow sand, make a brilliant picture contrasting with the duller tone of the interior.

Crofting life is a hard one. Unfortunately it is not always possible to achieve by farming alone even with modern aids, an adequate standard of living, and subsidiary or part-time occupations are necessary.

Lewis, with Harris, forms the most northerly portion of the hundred-mile long string of islands called the Outer Hebrides, or the Long Island. Lewis is the most mountainous where it adjoins Harris. The mountain is Melasbhal, in the parish of Uig, and Beinn Mhor, in the parish of Loch, rise to over 1,800 feet, while the rest of the Island consists chiefly of a low, mossy plain. It is evident from the numerous tree stumps found embedded in the peat, that the surface of

the island was once totally different from its present brown, heathy, unprepossessing condition. It is difficult to picture Lewis forested, with alder, birch, ash, rowan and hazel, where now lies only bogland. There is ample evidence that people lived in Lewis thousands of years ago.

When the Norsemen colonized Lewis in the eighth and ninth centuries, it led to the practical extermination of the existing population and its replacement by ruthless, heathen foreigners. These invaders were called Vikings and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records their arrival on a Northumbrian beach in 787 A.D. The Lewis tenantry have over the centuries shown themselves capable of wrestling a living from the infertile soil of their island and the treacherous seas around it. The constant struggle with the elements on sea and shore, made these Islanders one of the most versatile races, a faculty which stood them in good stead when they became colonists. They had to be self-sufficient and self-reliant to perform the many varied operations connected with husbandry and fishing. The people were on the whole, physically, mentally and morally well-equipped to face life. They were all shrewd, industrious, hospitable, and capable of enduring much hardship, especially at sea, and many of them lived to great age.

It would be unthinkable to visit Scotland without seeing Skye. It is one of the most picturesque of all the islands off the Scottish mainland, it is steeped both in history and fable.

***It is interesting to know.***

English is not the only language spoken in Britain. In England, there are thousands of native speakers of Urdu, Bengali, and Hindi in cities such as Bradford, Birmingham, and London. In other parts of Britain, languages other than English are also spoken. In Wales 19% of the population speak Welsh, a Celtic language; in Scotland 2% of the population speak Gaelic, another Celtic language.

**Reading Practice**

**3.5. Read the text 'The Shetland Islands'. Deliver a talk on the topic to the group. Use the map.**

The Shetland Islands have always been more or less of a mystery to people in southern lands. At one time they were regarded as a myth. Today they are in some respects as unknown as they were a century ago.

On maps of Scotland the islands are not as a rule shown in relation to the mainland. They are classed with Orkney, both being considered a unity, although the two groups lie far apart and have no direct connection or any community of interest social or economic. All they have in common is parliamentary representation.

Shetland is not only a county, it is a country. The various isles and districts are like Scottish counties, having their own customs, traditions and brand of dialect.

The county consists of over 100 islands, islets and skerries, of which well under half are inhabited. The largest is Mainland, but of the rest only Yell and Unst are of any size. They are the most northerly group of the British Isles. Their coasts are generally very ragged, with deep bays, or voes and fjords.

The landscape of the Shetland Islands will amaze, even appeal, those who come from more sheltered climes. The islands are virtually treeless. Only in the hollows out of the wind do bushes and shrubs manage to survive; otherwise they are bent and twisted by the wind or scoured out of existence by the salt in the air.

The one exception to this generality is the island of Fetlar, the Garden of Shetland, still largely without trees, but a paradise of wild flowers in the spring and early summer; ablaze with purple heather in the autumn.

The coastline is a mixture of rugged cliff and white sand beach, dramatic and attractive, and the whole island group is a seabird paradise. There are nature reserves on Fetlar, Unst, at Spigga Loch on Mainland and on the island of Noss, where the cliffs of the Nope of Noss offer a home to a huge seabird colony. Another island popular with birdwatchers is Papa Stour, famous for its population of puffins. Also worth visiting is St Ninians Island, which has a tombolo, a long sandspit connecting the island to the shore.

Lerwick, the capital, lies on the main island, Mainland, on the natural harbour of Bressay Sound. Lerwick has become rich on the oil boom, and much of the revenue so earned is being re-invested in local developments. It is the main port and the only town of any size in the Shetland islands. Small, rather attractive and set around a harbour, Lerwick has a fair selection of pubs, shops and hotels, and is the jumping off point for tours around other islands. It also has the County Museum with exhibits including Stone Age implements, spinning wheels and a traditional Shetland room.

Just across the harbour lies Scalloway, the former capital, which retains a castle built in 1600. One place that should be visited here is the museum which contains, among other exhibits, one relating the story of the Shetland Bus, those boats which ferried secret agents and resistance fighters to Norway in the Second World War.

A small fishing community lives on Whalsay, one of the most northern islands of the group, but the majority of the islands are uninhabited except by seabirds and visited only by snugly dressed groups of birdwatchers.

Out on its own, set between the Shetland and Orkney islands, is Fair Isle, which both island counties have claimed over the years, though it now belongs to Shetland. The main centre of population on Fair Isle is Stony-breck and the main occupation knitting those colourful Fair Isle sweaters, and these days, tourism, especially eco-tourism.

Most of the smaller islands are just specks of land in the midst of the ocean, none more so than Unst, which is the last inhabited island before Norway. Beyond that lies Out Stack, the most northerly uninhabited island.

The Shetland islanders have made their living for centuries by fishing and running small crofts. Today, most of their income is derived from tourism – especially birdwatchers, and of course North sea oil.

It is doubtful if any other county has a historical background so romantic or presents a field of research bristling with so many interesting problems. Most visitors come under the spell of the islands. There is a sense of remoteness and detachment from the rest of the world, an austere yet wistful loneliness, a silence and peace independent of the accidents of weather. It is not the depressing loneliness of desolation and emptiness, of the loneliness of a city, but one that braces and heals and invigorates. Shetland is a crofting country. It is in croftland that one comes closest to the soul of the people, a very shy and inarticulate soul which takes some time to know. The Shetland character is different from that of the Highlander. The Highlander is grave, proud and emotional; Shetlanders do not possess his Celtic feeling for romance and poetry. "We are a prosaic matter-of-fact people", they say.

Quiet, simple, unassuming, courteous, and hospitable, Shetlanders do not have the quick temperament produced by city life and seem reserved and unresponsive. In Shetland a township is a family, the members of which take a kindly interest in each other. Reciprocal sympathy and help is a natural element in their lives.

***It is interesting to know.***

***Shetland famous names***

The most famous name in the islands belongs not to a person but a pony. The Shetland pony, a classic breed, was bred at its best on the island of Bressay, where there was a stud which bred these sturdy little ponies by the thousand, most of them destined for work underground, in the low tunnels of coal mines.

Shetland also has the distinction of having its own breed of sheep dog (15 inches high) and sheep which are also small, or 'peerie' as they say locally.

**3.6. Read the text ' Northern Ireland (Ulster)'. Deliver a talk on the topic to the group.**

Ireland is divided into Northern Ireland or Ulster (capital Belfast) and the Irish Republic of Eire. Ulster is Protestant and Eire is Catholic. Eire (independent since 1922. capital- Dublin) settled boundary with Northern Ireland in 1925.

**East Ulster**

This region is inhabited by almost one-quarter of the population of Ireland, and forms, in the three counties of Antrim, Down and Armagh, half the governmental province of Northern Ireland. Nearly half its people live in Belfast. East Ulster is a country of careful farming and industrial towns.

Over almost all the area, the rural landscape prevails. Less than three miles from the Belfast City Hall there is open country over 1.000 feet high and on the east side of the city the transition to a farmed countryside is almost equally sharp. Placed on the reclaimed land around the Lagan, the raised beaches, and

the low ridges between the rivers. Belfast has become the great economic and political focus not merely of three counties but of all the territory known as Northern Ireland. The rise of Belfast to the status of a major city is the most significant of many geographical changes within the past hundred years.

All the three counties Antrim, Down and Armagh still have less than one-third of their population in towns and are, in spite of numerous factories, almost as distinctly rural in their life as the rest of Ireland.

Physically the Lough Neagh lowland is apparently designed by nature to draw travellers from many sources by road and rail to its focus in Portadown or the ancient and dignified ecclesiastical capital Armagh.

Two rivers, the Blackwater and the lower Bann, with Lough Neagh between them provide a possible western boundary for this region. These rivers still separate the closely settled east of Ulster from the less intensively occupied west. But no clear southern boundary exists. When the six counties were separated from the remaining twenty-six, it was not intended that the Border (the frontier line between Eire and Northern Ireland) should retain its present position, and the British Government set up a commission to make a readjustment based on social, including economic and geographical, factors.

### **West Ulster**

West Ulster, in its fullest extent, is the country of hills and lowlands that extends from the river Bann to the treeless shores of the Atlantic in Donegal; so viewed, it is in the basin of the Foyle and the Strule, together with various smaller river valleys approached by passes through cols in the hills that surround the basin. Londonderry town is its natural focus and the Foyle its great artery of commerce by river, road and railway.

Any border would be difficult to establish in an area such as West Ulster, which is essentially a passage land, physically of some complexity but consisting primarily of lowlands through which roads and railways are engineered with little difficulty and agricultural settlement is continuous, except in the Sperrin mountains and a few lesser uplands.

In West Ulster the impact of industry has been less sharply felt than in East Ulster, yet the agricultural life shows elements of the same intensity. All the various hills of West Ulster have gently rounded outlines with long smooth peat-covered sides, and are traversed by valleys generally wide and open but including some deep glens.

Over the greater part of its course, the Erne spreads into a maze of waterways called lakes for convenience; thus the two Erne loughs are separated only by the river crossing at Enniskillen and the upper Erne lough is divided only by a few miles of complex waterways. All these lakes have numerous islands and peninsulas and in effect form one vast sheet of water between various drumlins (a ridge, a long narrow hill often separating two parallel valleys), and low hills; around them is an extensive network of bog and alluvium (deposits of

earth, sand, etc. left by water flowing over land that is not permanently submerged; esp. those left in river valleys and deltas) in which a number of "loughlets" (*a small lough; let-diminutive suffix*) exist.

Communications in West Ulster follow the various river routes: on prime importance is the Foyle, with Londonderry as its port and natural market centre.

The West Ulster landscape is essentially agricultural and the patches of mountain or lowland bog or of woodland appear as little more than an occasional interruption of the farmlands. The fields are generally small and the landscape shows the fragmentation that is also characteristic of East Ulster and indeed of the whole northern sector of Ireland.

Londonderry city stands as the one regional capital in the west of Ulster. Its very distance from Belfast, over seventy miles by rail or road, combined with the lack of any nearer competing town of comparable size, assures it of some economic strength. The city of Londonderry (Derry) is a town of great antiquity built on a hilltop over 100 ft. higher than the Foyle, here 300 yards wide. This hill is surrounded by the Mary Blues Bum, an old channel that is still below the level of high water at spring tides, which are kept back by retaining walls. The nucleus of the town is the old walled city with its cathedral built in 1633 on the site of an earlier church, and its stately eighteenth-century buildings. Londonderry profits comparatively little from its nearness to the Atlantic as the commercial strength of Belfast is incomparably greater. Nevertheless, it remains the regional capital of the northwest and small as it may seem, is still the fourth town of Ireland.

**Agree or disagree with the following:**

1. In West Ulster the impact of industry has been more sharply felt than in East Ulster.
2. Communications in West Ulster follow the various river routes.
3. Londonderry is thirty miles from Belfast by rail.
4. The commercial strength of Belfast is incomparably greater.

**3.7. Read the text "Wild life in Britain". Give a talk on the topic to the students.**

There are no longer any really dangerous wild mammals in Britain, except the wild cat, occasionally found in the depths of Scottish forests. The wolf died out several centuries ago and there are no bears or wild boars, as in some parts of continental Europe. The largest wild animal is the stag, for wild deer are found in Scotland and in south-west England. More or less tamed deer are kept on many big estates and in big parks, such as Richmond Park near London. Deer are shy beasts but, like almost any wild animal, will attack a man in defence of their young, and an angry stag is a dangerous creature, especially if he has his full antlers.

Foxes are found all over Britain, though chiefly in England. They are still hunted with hounds, and deer are also hunted, but many people are against blood-sports, which will perhaps be forbidden one day. The rabbit, a natural prey of the fox, used to infest the countryside literally in millions. However, an

epidemic of a terrible disease (myxomatosis) wiped out vast numbers of rabbits, although rabbits are becoming more numerous again now. As a consequence, foxes take an even greater interest in domestic poultry, and are of course much disliked by farmers. The hare, the rabbit's "cousin", is still fairly frequent. Two small bloodthirsty animals, the stoat and the weasel also prey on rabbits as well as on other small animals.

The badger, whose hairs provide, it is said, the best shaving-brushes, comes out at night and is useful because he eats slugs, snails and other garden pests. So also does the hedgehog, which is common in the countryside and in gardens all over the country, and unfortunately is often run over when crossing a road.

Reptiles and amphibians are few. Only two snakes are found in Britain: both are small. The grass-snake is harmless but the adder is poisonous, though its bite is rarely fatal. There are no adders in Ireland.

As regards fishes, there are various species of fresh-water fishes and angling is a nationwide pastime, whether in lakes and rivers or in the sea, where there are also many kinds of fishes, such as perch, roach, grayling and pike. Pollution of both inland waters and the sea is being slowly (perhaps too slowly) brought under control. Trout and salmon are present in many rivers, particularly in Scotland. Fishermen grumble about the quantities of fish eaten by seals and otters, and concern has been expressed about the possible extermination of these animals.

Birds are numerous and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds does much for their preservation. It manages a large number of nature reserves, amongst other activities. Many birds are protected by law, especially the rarer species, such as the eagle and the osprey. There are about 430 species of birds. About 230 species are resident and the rest are regular visitors to Britain. The chief song-birds are the nightingale and the blackbird. Owls help to keep down the mouse population. There are more kinds of birds in Britain than can be enumerated here but let us mention the pretty robin redbreast, a frequent character on Christmas cards. Of sea-birds the most common are the various kinds of gulls.

There are more than 21,000 different kinds of insects, most of them small, in the British Isles. The insect fauna in Britain is less varied than that of continental Europe and lacks a number of common European species.

With modern methods of pest control, extensive insect damage to crops or timber and serious outbreaks of diseases commonly spread by insects are exceptional in Britain.

### **Writing Practice.**

#### **Write essays on the suggested topics:**

1. The differences of lifestyle on islands and on the mainland.
2. Dangers of environment pollution.
3. Preservation of wild life.
4. Wild life in your own country.
5. Wild birds and beasts in towns.

## TOPIC II

### LONDON AND LONDONERS

#### Reading Practice

**1.1. Pre-reading: scan (read quickly) the text 'Going to London' to answer the questions:**

1. Why is London in some ways untypical of the rest of the country?
2. Does London have any pattern? Does it look a glorious muddle?
3. What is peculiar about the names of streets and squares of London?

**1.2. Read the text and do the tasks after it:**

Like many other large cities, London is in some ways untypical of the rest of the country in that it is so cosmopolitan. Although all of Britain's cities have some degree of cultural and racial variety, the variety is by far the greatest in London. A survey carried out in 1980s found that 137 different languages were spoken in the homes of just one district.

If you flew over London you would see the city spread out below you. There would be the Monument\*, the tall buildings in the City packed so closely together, the wide Queen Victoria Street leading to the Thames. Next, you'd probably see the tall newspaper buildings in Fleet Street\*, and very soon afterwards the clock tower of the Palace of Westminster\* which contains Big Ben.

You'd think that London has very little pattern, because from the air you see a kind of jig-saw picture in which the streets look tiny compared with the mass of buildings. And you'd be right. London has no pattern because in the past it spread in every direction; one century has built on fields in the west, another to the south, yet another to the north and to the east. What a glorious muddle it looks!

But how dull it would be if every street were straight, if every open space were a square, and if you knew exactly what you were going to find wherever you went.

Fortunately, London is not like that. It's a mixture of fine streets side by side with narrow courts and alleys of really old buildings facing those built, so to say, the day before yesterday.

There is another curious fact about this town. Our ancestors were never careful how they named their streets. You'll find quite a number of Charles Streets, and Duke Streets; though recently the authorities have tried to avoid the muddle thus caused by renaming them: one Charles Street has become Charles I Street, and a Duke Street has become Duke Street. St. James's.

Then there are lots of 'Squares' which have not got four sides. 'Crescents' which are not crescentic, and 'Gardens' which have no garden. But once you



have begun to know London, you'll realize that the Londoner has never bothered much about whether there is one Trafalgar Square or more than one.

That's what London is, a mixture of very old, not so old and new. In London we shall find almost every variety of architecture, ranging from a piece of old Roman Wall\* to the most modern buildings such as the Bank of England and Bucklersbury House. You will find, too, a few medieval churches which escaped the Great Fire\* of 1666 and a number of buildings dating from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

**Notes:**

*the Monument* – column in London commemorating fire of London in 1666.

*Fleet Street* – a street in London where many newspaper offices are situated.

*the Palace of Westminster* – the Houses of Parliament

*the Roman Wall* – built in 121-26 A. D. by the Roman occupation forces to hold back the fierce Picts (ancient inhabitants of Eastern Scotland) and Scots who made frequent surprise raids. The Roman Wall stretches 73 miles from the mouth of the Tyne to Solway Firth inlet of the Irish Sea on the boundary between England and Scotland. There is a second Roman Wall, 36 miles long between the Firths of Forth and Clyde. Besides the Romans built some 56 walled towns.

*the Great Fire* – on the night of the third of September 1666 the Great Fire of London broke out at a baker's shop near London Bridge, on the spot on which the Monument now stands as a remembrance of those flames. The fire burned for three days. The whole way from the Tower to Temple Bar was a desert, composed of the ashes of 13 000 houses and 89 churches.

**Comprehension check.**

**Find evidence in the text to support the following statements.**

1. London is so cosmopolitan.
1. From the air you see a kind of jig-saw picture of London.
2. Our ancestors were never careful how they named their streets.
3. The Londoner has never bothered much about whether there is one Trafalgar Square or more than one.
4. London is a mixture of very old, not so old and new.

**2.1. Read the text “Piccadilly Circus”. Do the tasks after the text:**

Not far from Trafalgar Square is Piccadilly, a very well-known London name, but do you know its origin? It is said that Piccadilly was named after Robert Baker, who lived near where Piccadilly is now, towards the end of the sixteenth century. Here he manufactured shirt frills of 'pikadills' which earned his house the nickname of 'Piccadilly Hall', and in time Piccadilly we use to describe the surrounding area.

In the middle of Piccadilly Circus there is a statue said to be of Eros, the God of Love. Few people know that it really represents the Angel of Christian Charity. It has an interesting history. It was originally erected in 1893 as a memorial in honour of the seventh Earl of Shaftesbury who had greatly helped the poor people in the local area. It was designed by a young artist called Alfred Gilbert who sculptured naked, winged archer to represent the Christian goodness and kindness of Lord Shaftesbury. Many people were so shocked at the naked memorial of the earl that Gilbert, who lost his reputation and a fair amount of money, went to live abroad and only returned on a few occasions. One of these was in 1932 when he eventually received a knighthood for his masterpiece, which is now one of the most famous statues in London, although it is wrongly called Eros, the Greek God of Love. This statue is the first that was ever cast in aluminium. On Cup Final night and New Year's Eve it is boarded up to prevent over-enthusiastic revellers from climbing onto it.

The buildings around the Circus are rather nondescript though some of them are large and rather imposing. Many of them are decorated with bright neon signs advertising goods and entertainments; Piccadilly Circus at night is a colourful sight.

Underneath Piccadilly Circus there is an important tube station with escalators leading down to two different lines. The ticket-hall, which is just below street level, is a vast circular hall with show-cases, hired by various stores, let into the walls. There are entrances from all the main streets that converge at the Circus.

It is difficult to say what is the real centre of London, but many people would choose Piccadilly Circus. This is because it is not only central but also the heart of London's entertainment world. Within a few hundred yards of it we find most of London's best known theatres and cinemas, the most famous restaurants and the most luxurious night clubs.

It is particularly in the evening that Piccadilly Circus is thronged with people going to the theatre or the cinema, or perhaps to a restaurant. Many others have come for an evening stroll; they will probably have a cup of coffee or a glass of beer before they go home. The crowd is a motley one, for it is composed of people of many nationalities. The peoples of the British Commonwealth are well represented, as there are many Indians, Pakistanis, West Indians and Africans in London; they are either working here or studying. Some of them wear their national dress. Many foreign visitors mingle with the crowd, some from the Continent, some from more distant places. It is interesting to try to identify different nationalities by their style and type of clothing. This is no longer as easy as it used to be. The atmosphere is distinctly cosmopolitan, and one hears around a great variety of languages. It has been said that if you listen carefully, you may even hear English!

## Vocabulary Practice

### Ex. 1.

1. What is meant by the word 'Circus' in Piccadilly Circus?
2. Name three sorts of public entertainment.
3. What is meant by the word diverge?
4. When we go for a stroll, are we in a hurry?
5. Explain the difference in meaning between cloths and clothing.
6. When an Englishman speaks of the Cup Final, to what is he referring?
7. What do we call a man who shoots with bow and arrow? What is the name of the sport he practises?

### Ex.2.

1. In the word «climb» the «b» is not pronounced. Give other words, ending in a silent «b», for the following.
  - a) the young of a sheep
  - b) a place where someone is buried
  - c) a weapon that explodes with great violence
  - d) something with which to arrange one's hair
  - e) an arm or a leg
2. Mark the strong syllables in the words given below: luxurious, Piccadilly Circus, converge, atmosphere, restaurant, monument, escalator, nationality, particular.

### Ex.3.

1. Give abstract nouns corresponding to the following adjectives:  
famous, luxurious, enthusiastic, important, various
2. Insert the correct prepositions in the following sentences:
  - a. The square was thronged ..... people.
  - b. The salad was composed ..... lettuce, tomatoes and cucumber.
  - c. Several detectives mingled ..... the shoppers.
  - d. ....night the lights illuminate a merry scene.
  - e. Let's go ..... a walk.
  - f. The square was full..... people.
  - g. The building was decorated ..... coloured lights.
  - h. He went out ..... the evening.
  - i. The statue was made ..... aluminium.
  - j. There will be a ball..... New Year's Eve.

### Ex.4. Fill in the articles where necessary:

1. It is safe to say that the three most famous buildings in England are ... Westminster Abbey, ... Tower of London and St Paul's Cathedral. Seen across ... Parliament, ... Abbey looks overshadowed by its neighbour, ... Palace of Westminster. It does not stand out. The outlines of... Tower and St Paul's have come

to represent London to people all over the world. The area which these two buildings together dominate – ... area of ... City – is one in which ... feel of old London has lingered longest. ... names of ... streets and alleys. ... names of the churches above all, take one back to ... middle Ages and to ... days before ... Great Fire.

2. All through ... nineteenth century, London was spreading. It was creeping outwards on all sides, down towards ... Chelsea, up to ... Highgate and ... Hampstead which is quickly swallowed.

3....General post office is in ... Newgate Street, leading to the west. Not far away is ... Faraday Building, which links the globe by telephone, radio and cable.

4.... Thames in London is now only beautiful at certain times of day. in certain lights, from certain viewpoints – from ... Waterloo Bridge at dawn or on a summer evening for example, and at night from ... Cardinal's Wharf on ... South Bank.

### **2.1. Read the text “A Street that is Unique”. Do the tasks after the text:**

Do you know the only street in London where the police have no power to arrest a man, unless they summoned by someone living there?

This is the street where no police ever patrols. There are gates guarding the entrance and a porter wearing a livery on which you'll notice a Bishops mitre. This is Ely Palace which was originally the property of the Bishops of Ely and the old palace there was built by Bishop Arundel\* in 1388. The palace has long since disappeared but we can see St. Etheldreda's\* chapel on the west side.

Sir Christopher Hatton\*, after whom Hatton Garden is named borrowed money from Queen Elizabeth I which he spent improving the property. He leased it for twenty-one years, then asked the Queen to make the Bishop hand over the estate to him.

Since those days, the estate which the Queen demanded from the Bishop has long been built over, and all that remains today are the two rows of houses and the little chapel. But the privilege of freedom from arrest in this street has never been cancelled and no policeman patrols this street. The gates are closed at 10 p. m. when a watchman calls out 'Past ten o'clock, all's well.'

It is often the unexpected which you meet in London. We have just seen a street, now merely a small cul-de-sac, which you'd probably not look at twice unless you knew its history. If we now walk along Holborn Viaduct from Ely Palace, we shall find ourselves looking down from a bridge – not on a river or a railway cutting, but on another street. This 'street over a street' came about like this. Charterhouse Street runs sharply downhill to meet Faningdon Street. This latter street is on a much lower level than Holbom, which is the main route to the City. Until a hundred years ago this was a sleep hill, Holbom Hill, and all around were small streets with overcrowded houses. It was not a nice neighbourhood and was a favourite haunt of rough men, who used to amuse themselves by rolling women down Holborn Hill in barrels. Then, between 1863

and 1869 Holborn Viaduct was constructed over what had formerly been the Holborne part of the Fleet River.

If you look over these railings, at the corner of Cork Lane and Guiltspur Street you can see the statue of a fat boy. This is supposed to be placed there to mark the spot where the Great Fire of 1666 had been arrested. The boy has been regilded and looks complacently on the world from his pedestal. This boy is supposed to represent the sin of gluttony, because the fire began in Pudding Lane and finished at Pye (pie) Corner!

Downing Street is so called after the owner of the property in it the political adventurer George Downing. A former British Ambassador to Holland, Downing received money from Cromwell for spying on the exiled Charles the First's son, but also from the King's son for informing him of the activities of Cromwell. After the Restoration of the Monarchy the grateful Charles the Second rewarded this double agent with a Knighthood and presented him with a portion of land on which he built Downing Street. For more than two hundred years the official residence of the Prime Minister of Great Britain has been No 10 Downing Street.

**Notes:**

*Bishop Arundel* (1353-1414) – English prelate. Bishop of Ely.

*Etheldreda* (630 ? – 670) – Queen of Northumbria, founded an abbey at Ely; consecrated.

*Sir Christopher Hatton* (1540-1591) – English statesman, lord chancellor known as 'the Dancing Chancellor' because he first attracted attention of Queen Elizabeth by his graceful dancing at a court masque.

*Elizabeth I* – daughter of Henry VIII was the first of long-reigning queens in British history (the other two are Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II). During her long reign she established, by skillful diplomacy, a reasonable degree of internal stability in a firmly Protestant England, allowing the growth of a spirit of patriotism and general confidence. She never married, but used its possibility as a diplomatic tool. She became known as “the virgin queen”. The area which later became the state of Virginia in the USA was named after her by one of the many English explorers of the time (Sir Walter Raleigh).

## **2.2. Vocabulary practice**

### **Ex. 1. Practise the pronunciation of the words:**

police, policeman, chapel, estate, privilege, cul-de-sac, viaduct, sharply, latter, neighbourhood, formerly, route, statue, complacently, pedestal, exiled

### **Ex. 2. Give the English equivalents of:**

вызывать в суд, охраняющие вход, передать, сторож, грубиян (хулиган), развлекаться, место, самодовольный, обжорство, брать в аренду, двойной агент, посвященный (религ.)

**Ex. 3. Match a word in column A with its definition in column B:**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
1. patrol	a. to give up or call off (a planned activity)
2. livery	b. a place where someone goes regularly
3. property	c. uniform belonging to a particular person or group: worn by servants
4. cancel	d. to be the king or queen
5. haunt	e. something which is owned; possession(s)
6. reign	f. go at regular times round (an area) to see that there is no trouble

**Ex. 4. Render the following text into English:**

*Особа серьезная*

«Старая леди» с Треднидл-стрит – столь странное для твердыни финансового мира прозвище принадлежит Английскому банку, уверенно вросшему в землю седым гранитом стен, воздвигнутых на века, именно на Треднидл-стрит.

У «Старой леди» своя, не лишенная романтики и грусти история. В 1811 году молодой банковский клерк по имени Филипп Уайтхед вызвал подозрение владельцев банка расточительной жизнью. Они предупредили юношу о возможных последствиях. Оскорбленный Уайтхед бросил службу в банке и ударился в азартные игры. Вскоре он безнадежно запутался в долгах, пытался подделать чек банка и закончил жизнь на виселице Нью-гейтской тюрьмы.

Из сострадания казнь Филиппа скрыли от его сестры Сары – 19-летней девушки, не чаявшей души в брате. Ей сказали, что Филипп отправился по поручению банка в длительную заокеанскую поездку.

Сара верила этой истории до тех пор, пока неосторожный банковский служащий не выболтал ей страшную тайну.

Сара сошла с ума. С тех пор 25 лет подряд она ежедневно являлась в банк с одним вопросом: «Вернулся ли мой брат?» «Нет, мисс, – следовал неизменный ответ, – он еще не вернулся». Свой минутный разговор она всякий раз заканчивала обещанием прийти снова на следующий день. Шли годы, десятилетия. Сара состарилась. Однажды старая леди не появилась в обычное время. Она умерла, оставив банку в наследство свое прозвище.

Сейчас банк процветает. «Старая леди» – особа серьезная и требует к себе уважения.

**Writing Practice**

Make a survey of your native town (or district). Find some interesting information (or facts) about a street (or a place) that can be unique in a way. Write an article about it.

### 3.1 Pre-reading:

#### Answer these questions about your attitude to language:

1. Do you speak differently at home to how you speak at college or work?
2. Do you like the way you speak?
3. Has the way you speak been affected by where you live?
4. Have you ever made fun of the way somebody else speaks?
5. Have you ever been put off by the way someone speaks?
6. Do you speak the same way as your parents?

#### Read the text "The Cockney". Do the tasks after the text:

Almost everyone who has heard of London has heard of the term 'Cockney'. Strictly speaking, in order to call oneself a Cockney one should have been born 'within the sound of Bow bells', that is to say within the sound of the bells of the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, which stands nearly in the centre of the City of London.

The term is commonly used to denote people who come from a wider area of the innermost eastern suburbs of London and also an adjoining area of the Thames.

But, in fact, all London's citizens who were born and bred in the city may call themselves Cockneys if they wish. However, the term is generally reserved for the Londoner with a 'Cockney accent'. 'Cockney' is also used to describe a strong London accent and, like any such social accent, is associated with working-class origins.

The Cockney accent is not a particularly pleasant or melodious one and the Cockney's distortion of the English language is such that the foreigner often finds it impossible to understand the speaker until his ear has become acclimatized to the peculiar tones. The principal characteristics of the Cockney accent consist in a general slurring of consonants (the aspirate aitch is often ignored) and a distortion of vowel sounds. The best known example of Cockney speech in modern English literature is that of Eliza Doolittle, the heroine of Bernard Shaw's play, 'Pygmalion' and of the musical adapted from it, 'My Fair Lady').

But if Cockney speech is unpleasant, the Cockney himself is usually far from being so. The average Cockney is distinguished by his quick wit, his ready sense of humour, his ability to 'carry on' under unusual or difficult conditions and by his willingness to be of help if he can. The Cockney's humour is often satirical but it is never vicious; he is very ready to laugh at other people's peculiarities but he is equally ready to laugh at his own. He often makes jokes under the most difficult conditions, a quality that was very apparent during World War II. This rather lugubrious type of humour is well exemplified by the title of an old Cockney song: 'Ain't It Grand To Be Blooming Well Dead'.

Nowadays, as the tempo of life in big cities grows ever faster (although the Cockney opposes this process when he can), the opportunities for the Cockney to exercise his wit and humour diminish. But if one keeps his ears open on

buses, in railway stations, in street markets and similar places, it will soon become evident that the spirit of Cockney humour is still very much alive, although the old Cockney pronunciation is less common than hitherto.

Most colourful of London's Cockneys are the Pearly Kings and Queens – so called because their traditional costumes are decorated with hundreds of pearl buttons.

Many Cockney expressions seem mysterious because they are based on 'rhyming slang', where the original words are replaced by words that rhyme with them. For example:

apples and pears = stairs	Uncle Ned = bed
mince pies = eyes	bees and honey = money
plates of meat = feet	loaf of bread = head
wife = trouble and strife	custard and jelly = telly (television)

Some rhyming slang has passed into general informal British usage; some examples are 'use your loaf' which means 'think' (from 'loaf of bread' = 'head') and 'have a butcher's', which means 'have a look' (from 'butcher's hook' = 'look').

Most people who call themselves Cockneys usually do so with some pride. And, by and large, they are justified.

### 3. 3. Vocabulary Practice

#### Ex.1.

1. Find an alternative for the word «bred».
2. What does “melodious” mean? Name three sounds which you consider to be particularly melodious.
3. What is the literal meaning of “acclimatized”? In what sense is it used in the passage?
4. Find a synonym for principal in the phrase 'principal characteristics'.
5. How would you define slurred speech?
6. What is satirical humour?
7. Find an alternative for lugubrious.
8. What is the tempo of life?
9. What does a thing do when it diminishes?

#### Ex. 2. Comprehension check.

Answer the questions:

1. What is the strict definition of a Cockney?
2. Where is the church of St Mary-le-Bow situated?
3. What are the main characteristics of the Cockney accent?
4. What are the characteristics of the Cockney himself?
5. When were these characteristics very noticeable?
6. Why are the opportunities for the exercise of Cockney wit and humour diminishing?
7. Where might one still expect to hear examples of Cockney wit?



8. How do the Cockneys feel about their name?

**Ex. 3. Write an essay on any group of people who, like the Cockney, have characteristics peculiar to themselves.**

### **3.4. It is interesting to know**

#### **Read the article.**

Dr Honey, socio-linguist and teacher of English at Kumamoto University, Japan, and author of “Does Accent Matter?”, boldly uses the word “class” when he talks about accent. In his book he describes research in which people are played tapes of the same messages being read in various ways, then asked to award attributes to the voices they have heard.

The stereotypes are consistently confirmed: people ascribe competence, efficiency and even (ludicrously) cleanliness and good looks to voices which speak in 'Received Pronunciation'. Speakers of RP are thought likely to be lawyers and bank managers.

Regional accent persistently fall into a hierarchy with Yorkshire, West Country and, anomalously, Geordie (Newcastle) near the top. Lodged at the bottom are the five accents of the working-class industrial cities – Cockney (London), Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow and Belfast. People still imagine the owners of these accents to be manual workers: on television these are the accents of comics and villains.

John Honey has no scruples about telling people they should jettison their working-class accents: he thinks they are a huge barrier to progress towards equality. 'We have to choose between the museum approach, which keeps these accents on in glass cases even though they are rotting the chances of the people who use them, or we recognize that the world would be a drearier but a fairer place if we got rid of them'.

And how do we do that? In schools, of course, where much more attention should be paid to the English language – grammar and spelling as well as clear, intelligible speech. But to Dr Honey's disappointment, the new National Curriculum contains no requirement to teach Received Pronunciation. Brian Cox, who advised the Government on its development, sympathizes with Honey's ideas but says they are impracticable. Consequently, the curriculum requires only that children be taught 'to speak Standard English in an accent which is clear and comprehensible'.

#### **Read the factfile. Does anything surprise you?**

##### FACTFILE: ACCENTS

1. Only about 3% of the British population speak RP.
2. Accents seem to have greater power to affect an individual's life in Britain than in many other comparable countries.

3. In the 1930s many schools taught elocution but since the 1960s any mention of accent has been taboo in state schools.

4. The very posh form of RP traditionally spoken by the Royal Family is nowadays widely downgraded.

5. The BBC's RP ranks at the top of the accent hierarchy with popular London speech at the bottom.

### **3.5. Listening Practice**

Listen to the text, p. 28 («Тематические разработки по развитию навыков аудирования в помощь студентам 2-го курса РГФ: английское отделение»).

#### **4.1. Read the texts and compare the duties of a city policeman and a village policeman.**

##### **a) “The British Bobby”**

The English policeman has several nicknames but the most frequently used are 'copper' and 'bobby'. The first name comes from the verb to 'cop' (which is also slang), meaning to 'take' or 'capture', and the second comes from the first name of Sir Robert Peel, the 19-th century politician, who was the founder of the police force as we know it today. An early name for the policeman was 'peeler', but this one has died out.

Whatever we may call them, the general opinion of the police seems to be a favourable one; except, of course, among the criminal part of the community where the police are given more derogatory nicknames which originated in America, such as 'fuzz' or 'pig'. Visitors to England seem, nearly always, to be very impressed by the English police. It has, in fact, become a standing joke that the visitor to Britain, when asked for his views of the country, will always say, at some point or other. 'I think your policemen are wonderful'.

Well, the British bobby may not always be wonderful but he is usually a very friendly and helpful sort of character. A music-hall song of some years ago was called, 'If You Want To Know The Time Ask A Policeman'. Nowadays, most people own watches but they still seem to find plenty of other questions to ask the policeman. In London, the policemen spend so much of their time directing visitors about the city that one wonders how they ever find time to do anything else!

There is still a great deal of public sympathy for the police. It is felt that they are doing an increasingly difficult job under difficult circumstances. The assumption that their role is to serve the public rather than to be agents of the government persists. Police officers often still address members of the public as 'sir' or 'madam'. Senior officers think it is important for the police to establish a relationship with local people, and the phrase 'community policing' is now fashionable.

Two things are immediately noticeable to the stranger, when he sees an English policeman for the first time. The first is that he does not carry a pistol (although all police stations have a store of weapons), and the second is that he wears a very distinctive type of headgear, the policeman's helmet. His helmet, together with his height, enables an English policeman to be seen from a considerable distance, a fact that is not without its usefulness. From time to time it is suggested that the policeman should be given a pistol and that his helmet should be taken from him. but both these suggestions are resisted by the majority of the public and the police themselves. However, the police have not resisted all changes: radios, police-cars and even helicopters give them greater mobility now.

The policeman's lot is not an enviable one. even in a country which prides itself on being reasonably law-abiding. But, on the whole, the English policeman fulfils his often thankless task with courtesy and good humour, and an understanding of the fundamental fact that the police are the country's servants and not its masters.

#### **b) "P. C. Summers: the village policeman"**

These days, the police are often in the news, and popular ideas about them are changing. Many people still admire them for the work they do, but they are worried that the policemen are becoming too powerful and too violent. They are filmed on city streets trying to control angry crowds, fighting gunmen, or racing about in fast cars. Young people, especially blacks, are often stopped and questioned by the police without a good reason.

But miles away from London, in the eastern villages of Suffolk, the world of Police Constable (P.C.) Summers is very different. He lives and works in Button village, in the heart of the Suffolk countryside.

P. C. Summers's day starts at eight o'clock, when he phones his head office in the nearest town to collect any messages. There's always something new. A dog has bitten the postman in the next village. Children have been stealing pears from a farmer's fields. Shooting has been heard in a wood during the night. P. C. Summers gets into his car and starts his daily work. A call comes through on his radio. An old woman wants him to go to her neighbour's house. She can hear a terrible fight going on.

'A lot of my work is just giving advice,' P. C. Summers says. 'When there's a fight someone calls the police, and then I have to try to quiet things down. I hear all about people's marriages. Often they just need someone to talk to.'

P. C. Summers likes his job because he can be independent. But even the work of a village policeman is changing. 'It was better before we had cars,' he says. 'The old village policeman on his bike knew more about the local people. He was closer to village life. Of course, we can get to trouble spots faster now and call in more men on our radios in a few minutes. But we don't have the chance to deal with problems on our own.'

P. C. Summers is a countryman at heart. When his work is done he spends his free time growing vegetables in the garden beside his police cottage, or singing in the local male voice choir. And although he works from a car and not from a bicycle, he still knows a lot about what goes on in the village. 'Take my advice,' he says. 'Don't go into the woods near the river tonight. Strange things happen down there when the moon is full.'

#### **4.2. Vocabulary Practice**

##### **Ex.1.**

1. What is a nickname?
2. What is meant by derogatory?
3. The word criminal in the passage is an adjective, can you give two nouns derived from this word?
4. What is a standing joke?
5. What do you do when you direct somebody?
6. What adjective can be derived from mobility?
7. Find a more common, simpler synonym for headgear.
8. Find a synonym for 'task'.

##### **Ex. 2. Answer the questions:**

1. Who was Sir Robert Peel?
2. What is the general opinion of the English police?
3. Which people disagree with it?
4. What comment is always expected, sooner or later, from a visitor to Britain?
5. Why is it no longer necessary for most people to ask a policeman, if they wish to know the time?
6. What do policemen in London spend a large part of their time in doing?
7. What two things does a stranger immediately notice about an English policeman?
8. Why can an English policeman be seen from some distance away?
9. What fundamental fact is the English policeman aware of?

#### **5.1. Read the following texts and deliver a talk on the topic “Public transport in London”.**

**A)** Public transport services in urban areas, as elsewhere in Europe, suffer from the fact that there is so much private traffic on the roads that they are not as cheap, as frequent or as fast as they otherwise could be.

An interesting modern development is that trams, which disappeared from the country's towns during the 1950s and 1960s, are now making a comeback.

When you visit London, the best way to get around is the Londoner's way – by public transport. Central London and the suburbs are well served by both the bus and the Underground network.

An increasing number of those who live in Greater London use the third main transport facility, the Underground. Since 1982 the numbers crowding onto the underground trains have increased dramatically, by 60%. The number of users continues to climb. Eighty million people pass through Victoria Underground station each year. At peak hours over 300 enter it each minute, and at critical moments the entry barriers are closed to prevent the crush of users resulting in people being pushed off the platforms below.

The famous London Underground is feeling the effects of its age (it was first opened in 1863). It is now one of the dirtiest and least efficient of all such systems in European cities. However, it is still heavily used because it provides excellent connections with the main line train stations and with the suburbs.

Londoners call their Underground train network 'the tube'. It covers the whole city and is the most comprehensive subway network in the world. It's a fast, convenient and very easy way to travel.

Stations are never far apart, especially in central London.

You will find travel cards very convenient for your trips around London. They give the freedom of London Transport Buses and tubes, as well as the Docklands Light Railway, within the zones selected.

The Transport network in Greater London is divided into five concentric, numbered fare zones. Starting with blue zone (1) which covers central London they radiate outwards to the orange zones (4 or 5) which cover the suburbs – as shown in any transport diagram.

To enter the 'tube' system in central London you simply put your ticket, magnetic strip down, in the slot on the right side of the gate you intend to use. Leave the station in the same way – your ticket will be automatically returned to you if it is valid for another journey.

### **It is interesting to know**

#### *The railway cats*

It is said that the British often treat their animals as if they were people. Well, this is true. One of the most common things that people do is to be employed. And so, on British Rail (BR), are cats! The names of Olive, Katie, Pickles and around 200 others appear on the company's payroll, officially recognized as employees. Their job is to catch rats and other vermin. There is usually one cat per station. Their pay (tax free) is food, and they also get free medical treatment (without deductions from their salary). They are very popular with the human BR staff, who admit that their 'productivity rate' is not always very high (in other words, they don't catch many rats) but claim that they are good for morale.

### **B) The Buses**

Britain is one of the few countries in Europe where double-decker buses are a common sight. Although single-deckers have also been in use since the 1960s, London still has more than 3.000 double-deckers in operation. In their

original form they were “hop-on, hop-off” buses. That is, there were no doors, just an opening at the back to the outside. There was a conductor who walked around collecting fares while the bus was moving. However, most buses these days, including double-deckers, have separate doors for getting on and off and no conductor (fares are paid to the driver).

Waiting for buses allows the British to indulge their supposed passion for queuing. Whether this really signifies civilized patience is debatable. But queuing is certainly taken seriously. When buses serving several different numbered routes stop at the same bus stop, instructions on it sometimes tell people to queue on one side for some of the buses and on the other side for others. And yet people do get offended if anybody tries to 'jump the queue'.

Londoners are proud of their 'big red buses'. These days some may not be red but you will always be able to recognize them as part of the London Transport network by the roundel they all carry. You will be travelling past the capital's most famous landmarks, stores and entertainment venues with practically door to door service. You can also use the network to travel to outer London and remember these two traffic symbols:

- a) a compulsory bus stop – buses stop here unless they are full;
- b) a request stop – drivers will stop when you raise your hand – but give them time to see you. The request stop sign is red.

There are other stops of buses in London, too. The red single-decker buses are called Red Arrows. You pay the same price for a short journey as for a long one.

The green buses are called the Green Line. These buses cross London, but they don't stop very often. They are mainly for people who live a little way out of London and who travel in and out.

There are three kinds of ticket: one-journey bus tickets sold on the bus; weekly bus passes covering all of the zones; single or return tube ticket sold at the tube station where you start your journey. Prices vary according to distance and the number of zones you pass through.

### **C) The Taxis**

Another symbol of London is the distinctive black taxi (in fact, they are not all black these days, nor are they confined to London). According to the traditional stereotype, the owner-drivers of London taxis, known as cabbies, are friendly Cockneys who never stop talking. While it may not be true that they are all like this, they all have to demonstrate, in a difficult examination, detailed familiarity with London's streets and buildings before they are given their license. Normally, these traditional taxis cannot be hired by phone. You simply have to find one on the street. But there are also many taxi companies who get most of their business over the phone. Their taxis are known as 'minicabs'. They tend to have a reputation, not always justified, for unreliability as well as for charging unsuspecting tourists outrageous prices (in common with taxis all over the

world). However, taxis and minicabs are expensive and most British people rarely use them, except, perhaps, when going home late at night after public transport has stopped running, especially if they have been drinking alcohol.

### **It is interesting to know**

#### *The Highway Code*

Every year in Britain, nearly six thousand people are killed on the roads. The authorities fear that with the increasing number of vehicles coming on to the roads each year the total number of casualties will also continue to grow. One of the greatest problems in Britain is the lack of space.

However, improvements are being made, although motorists (and pedestrians too) are still not satisfied with the rate of progress, particularly when they think of the taxes they have to pay!

Perhaps the best-known piece of 'propaganda' for safety on the road is the government's booklet 'The Highway Code'. This costs only a few pence and gives, with illustrations, all the rules and conventions in use on the roads of Britain. The fundamental convention of road usage in Britain (and one that usually gives foreigners a pleasant surprise) is that the pedestrian has 'the right of way'. That is to say, the pedestrian is assumed to have priority in road usage. The sense of this rule is apparent when one considers that a pedestrian is not in a position to injure a driver whereas the reverse is certainly true.

It is probably true to say that British motorists are as careful as most other in the world. (The same is not, perhaps, true of the pedestrians, who are rather spoiled). Even so, their standards must be raised considerably higher if the country is to succeed in its attempt to 'Keep Death off the Road'.

### **Supporting the underdog**

Some customs of road use illustrate the British tendency to be on the side of 'the underdog' (that is the weaker side in any competition). On the roads the underdog is the pedestrian. The law states that if a person has just one foot on a zebra crossing then vehicles must stop. And they usually do. Conversely, British pedestrians interpret the colour of the human figure at traffic lights as advice, not as an instruction. If the figure is red but no cars are approaching, they feel perfectly entitled to cross the road immediately. In Britain, jay-walking (crossing the road by dodging in between cars) has never been illegal.

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