

**ISTITUTO TECNICO**

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5 A RELAZIONI  
INTERNAZIONALI  
PER  
IL MARKETING  
INGLESE

## BRITISH HISTORY

### THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The **first stage of the Industrial Revolution** took place in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In earlier times, people made products by hand and worked at home. This took quite a long time and the cost of goods was usually high. The cotton industry was an important part of the British economy, but it took a long time to make cotton goods.

Businessmen imported raw cotton from Asia and North America and looked for faster ways of making the cloth. In 1733 John Kay invented the flying shuttle, which cut cotton production time by half. Other inventions, such as the spinning jenny (1770) and the power loom (1785), followed and people began to buy machines, build factories and make cotton products more quickly and cheaply. Factories were built in the coal and iron regions of the North of England, the Midlands and South Wales. In 1769 James Watt invented the steam engine and transport became faster.

The **second stage of the Industrial Revolution** took place in the 1850s. The main inventions were the electric light, the light bulb, the telephone, the telegraph and the radio.

The Industrial Revolution had a great effect on people's lives: some people became very rich; other people's lives got worse. The new factories employed women and children, who worked long hours in unhealthy conditions for very low wages. The Industrial Revolution was responsible for an increase in trade and wealth, but it also created many health problems and pollution.

### QUEEN VICTORIA

Queen Victoria was Britain's longest-serving sovereign. She ruled for 64 years. She ascended the throne in 1837 and she died in 1901. Her father was the fourth son of George III; she became Queen because her three uncles had no heirs.

She became Queen at the age of 18; she took her duties seriously and worked closely with her Prime Ministers. After her marriage to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in 1840, she relied very heavily on his advice. Queen Victoria and Albert had nine children and a happy marriage (Albert died in 1861).

During her reign the monarchy became a symbolic institution as it is today. Queen Victoria was the very first constitutional Queen.

Britain became more democratic: Parliament gave the right to vote to 60% of all British men. Education became free and compulsory from the age of five to the age of twelve (1870). Schools were built all over the country.

The Victorian Age was a period of great colonial expansion. Britain founded colonies in Africa and India. Queen Victoria was named Empress of India in 1876. New inventions such as the electric light, the light bulb, the telephone, the telegraph and the radio were developed. When Queen Victoria died in 1901, Britain was one of the richest countries in the world.

## THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY and THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

### THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-1918)

At the beginning of the twentieth century , there was a lot of friction between Germany and other European powers ,especially Britain.

**The First World War** broke out in 1914 because Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo in June 1914. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia and Russia mobilised its army to defend Serbia. Germany then declared war on Russia and France, Russia's ally. When Germany invaded Belgium to attack France, Britain entered the war. Europe organised itself into two camps: The Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Germany and Turkey) and the Allies (France, Great Britain, Italy(1915),Japan and Russia).

Russia left the war in 1917 because of the October Revolution in Russia. The USA entered the war in 1917 because German submarines attacked American ships.

After four years (1918) the Allies succeeded in defeating the Central Powers. The armistice was signed on 11 November 1918. The Peace Treaty was made in Versailles in 1919.

### THE 1920s AND THE 1930s

#### **Ireland**

With the end of the First World War the Irish Question rose again and in 1921 Ireland was divided into two parts: Ulster, which remained part of the UK, and the Irish Free State , later called Eire .

#### **The Great Depression**

Hard times followed the end of the First World War for Britain's economy. There was the decline of the old industries like coal, cotton ,iron and shipbuilding. Workers lost their jobs and Trade Unions organized strikes.

A period of **Great Depression** started in Europe and in the USA, which culminated in the **Wall Street Crash** in October 1929.

In 1929 the Labour Party won the British general elections and faced the problems of unemployment.

The worldwide economic depression and unemployment combined with some international factors, such as the creation of the first Socialist State after the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the rise of Fascism in Italy (1922) and Nazism in Germany (1933), shifted the political attitudes of many intellectuals and artists to the left in the 1930s. In 1936 **the Spanish Civil War** broke out and many of them went to Spain to fight on the side of the Republicans against General Franco ,the symbol of dictatorship, who was allied with Italy and Germany.

Women over the age of 21 were granted the right to vote in 1928.

## THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1939-1945)

In 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland, the UK and France declared war on Germany to defend Poland. This was the beginning of **the Second World War**. The war eventually spread to include almost the whole world.

In 1940 Germany conquered France and most of Europe but lost the Battle of Britain (Under the leadership of Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, the pilots of the Royal Air Force won the Battle of Britain against German planes-the German Luftwaffe), so it was unable to invade the UK. Russia came in when Hitler attacked Russia in 1941. The USA entered the war when Japan bombed its naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii in 1941. Germany, Italy and Japan were known as the Axis Powers and the UK, the USA, France and Russia were known as the Allies.

The war in Europe came to an end with the defeat of Nazi Germany in May 1945. The war in the Pacific came to an end in August 1945 when the USA dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. An armistice was signed on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945.

## THE LAST SEVENTY YEARS

After the Second World War, the Labour Party governed Britain and created the **Welfare State**, a social security system to protect the poor and the needy, guaranteeing a home, medical care, food and education for everyone. The Labour Party nationalised many industries. The industries which served the population came under state control. These industries included the Bank of England, coal and iron mining, steel production, electricity and transport.

The UNO was set up in 1945 and the NATO was set up in 1949. In 1947 India and Pakistan became independent and in the 1960s most African colonies became independent, too. (Now Britain has only two colonies: Gibraltar and the Falklands)

In 1952 George VI died and his daughter, Elizabeth II, became Queen.

In 1973 Britain joined the EEC (1957), which became the EU in 1992. In 1979 the Conservative leader, Margaret Thatcher, became Britain's first woman Prime Minister. Margaret Thatcher governed Britain for 11 years. Under Margaret Thatcher the government privatised the nationalised industries (They reduced the role of the State) and favoured a free market economy.

The Conservative Party kept control of the government until 1997.

In 1991 Britain took part in the **Gulf War**. In 1997 Tony Blair, leader of the Labour Party, became Prime Minister. Tony Blair did not join his European partners when in January 1999 they officially adopted the Euro as a common currency.

In 2001 Tony Blair was re-elected. A few months after his victory (**11 September 2001**) he was confronted with the tragedy of the attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. He did not hesitate for a second: he sided with the USA and it was war against Afghanistan, the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden.

2002 was an important year for the Queen. She lost her mother, Elizabeth, and her sister, Margaret, and she celebrated her Golden Jubilee (50 years of reign).

In March 2003 the UK joined the military campaign against Iraq (the **Iraq War**).

In 2005 Tony Blair was re-elected. Gordon Brown became Prime Minister in 2007. He belonged to the Labour Party. David Cameron, leader of the Conservative Party, is the present Prime Minister. He was elected in 2010. He was re-elected in 2015.

In 2012 Elizabeth II celebrated her Diamond Jubilee (60 years of reign) and Britain hosted the Olympic Games. Prince George, the Royal baby and heir to the throne was born in July 2013. He is Prince William and Kate Middleton's son. Their daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, was born in 2015. Queen Elizabeth II has now (September 2015) reigned for 63 years, breaking the record for Britain's longest-serving sovereign.

## **BRITISH HISTORY**

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**

- 1) When did the first stage of the Industrial Revolution take place?
- 2) When did John Kay invent the flying shuttle? Why was this invention important?
- 3) When did James Watt invent the steam engine? Why was this invention important?
- 4) What were the main inventions?
- 5) When did the second stage of the Industrial Revolution take place? What were the main inventions ?

#### **QUEEN VICTORIA**

- 1) When did Queen Victoria ascend the throne? When did she die?
- 2) How long did she reign?
- 3) Why was Queen Victoria's reign significant in British history?
- 4) Where were the main colonies set up?
- 5) What were the main inventions during this period?
- 6) When was Queen Victoria named Empress of India?

#### **THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY and THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY**

- 1) When did the First World War break out and for what reason?
- 2) When did Russia retire from the war?
- 3) Why did the USA enter the war in 1917?
- 4) How long did the war last?
- 5) When were the Central Powers defeated?
- 6) When was the armistice signed? When and where was the Peace Treaty made?
- 7) What happened in Britain in the 1920s and 1930s?
- 8) When did Germany invade Poland?
- 9) What did France and the UK do to defend Poland?
- 10) When did the USA and Russia enter the war? Why?
- 11) When and how did the war come to an end in Europe and in the Pacific?
- 12) Which political party did the British vote into government after the Second World War?
- 13) What did the Labour Party create?
- 14) When did India become independent?
- 15) When did Elizabeth II become Queen?
- 16) When did Britain join the EEC?
- 17) When did Margaret Thatcher become Prime Minister? How long did she govern Britain?  
Which political party did she belong to?
- 18) When did Tony Blair become Prime Minister? Which political party did he belong to?
- 19) Why was 2002 an important year for the Queen?
- 20) When did Gordon Brown become Prime Minister? Which political party did he belong to?
- 21) When did David Cameron become Prime Minister? Which political party does he belong to?

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
THE UNO AND THE NATO**

**A) THE UNO - THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION**

- 1) What does UNO stand for?\_\_\_\_\_
- 2)When was the UNO set up?(1945) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3)How many countries is it made up of today?(193)\_\_\_\_\_
- 4)What are the five permanent members of its Security Council?(The USA, Russia, Britain ,France and China) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5)Why was the UNO set up? It was set up to promote world peace and cooperation between nations.

**B)THE NATO - NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**

- 1) What does NATO stand for?\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2)When was the NATO set up? (1949)\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3)How many countries is it made up of today?(28)\_\_\_\_\_
- List some of them :The USA, Britain ,France ,Canada, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Greece, Turkey,...
- 5)Why was the NATO set up? It was set up to defend any member state from acts of aggression.(It is a military alliance)

## AMERICAN HISTORY

### 1. THE FIRST WORLD WAR

(vedi anche BRITISH HISTORY)

America became involved in the **First World War** (1914-1918) in April 1917. The country entered the war on the Allied side when German submarines attacked American ships. With the American help, the war quickly came to an end in October 1918.

### 2. THE WALL STREET CRASH, THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL

In the USA the 1920s was a period of great prosperity. General prosperity came to a sudden end in 1929 because there was a massive crash on the stock market, the **Wall Street Crash**. This financial disaster was followed by years of economic depression – **the Great Depression**. By 1932 about 12 million people were out of work. Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945) became president in 1933 and introduced **the New Deal**, a package of social and economic reforms, in order to revive the American economy and put people back to work.

### 3. THE SECOND WORLD WAR

(vedi anche BRITISH HISTORY)

In 1939 Europe went to war again. At first the Americans did not want to get involved in another European conflict. However, in 1941, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii precipitated their decision and the Americans joined the Allies. **The Second World War** came to an end in August 1945 when the USA dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki bringing the war with Japan to an end.

### 4. THE UNO AND THE NATO

(vedi anche altra fotocopia)

The **UNO** was set up in 1945 to promote world peace and cooperation between nations. The **NATO** was set up in 1949 to defend any member state from acts of aggression. (It created a defensive and political alliance of European states, Canada and the USA.)

### 5. THE COLD WAR (1945-1990)

After 1945 attitudes changed. America was stronger than any other nation, economically and militarily. It saw itself as the leader of the "free world" and was determined to combat the growing threat of Communism and the Soviet Union. A war-tired Europe provided the ideal ground for Communist expansion. In order to prevent this growth, in 1948 President H. Truman (1945-1953) set up the **Marshall Plan**, which gave food and resources to European countries to keep them away from Communism. By 1952 the Plan had worked. Europe was back on its feet again economically and tied politically to the USA.

The 1950s was a decade of rivalry between the USA and the Soviet Union. The conflict and tension between these two nations was known as the **Cold War** (a period of great political tension

between the USA and the Soviet Union.).The Cold War pushed the USA to become involved in conflicts with other countries to gain political control against Communism and the Soviet Union. From 1950 to 1953 the USA fought successfully to prevent Communist North Korea from taking over South Korea.(the **Korean War** had broken out when Communist North Korea had invaded South Korea.)

In 1961 John F. Kennedy supported **the Bay of Pigs** invasion of Cuba by exiles to end Fidel Castro's communist regime. The invasion failed. In 1962 the Soviets placed nuclear missiles on the island of Cuba ,their new ally-,just a few miles from the US coast. There were fears of nuclear war but President Kennedy (1960-1963) persuaded them to remove the weapons. John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, in 1963.

The USA became involved in Vietnam because the Americans wanted to prevent Communist North Vietnam from taking over South Vietnam.(North Vietnam was controlled by a Communist regime, under Ho Chi Minh, while South Vietnam was under a democratic government .The war had broken out when Ho Chi Minh had invaded South Vietnam in an attempt to unify the country.)The Americans left Vietnam in 1973 but the war really ended in 1975 when South Vietnam fell under the control of the North Vietnamese and North Vietnam reunited the country.(**The Vietnam War** (1964-1975) ) .

In 1987 the American President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed a peace treaty agreeing to destroy all their nuclear missiles.

The Cold War ended in the early 1990s with the collapse of Communism. It had lasted over 40 years.

## 6.THE 1990s AND THE EARLY 2000s

In 1991 , President George Bush led a NATO attack against the Iraqi forces that had invaded Kuwait in order to gain control of their oil fields. The resulting military operation was successful.(**The Gulf War**)

On **11 September 2001** the Pentagon in Washington and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York were attacked . A month later , with the support and help of the NATO Allies, war was declared against Afghanistan, the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden ,the man accused of organising the September 11 attacks .Eventually, the Taliban were defeated. Osama Bin Laden was executed in 2011.

In 2003 the USA and its Allies launched a devastating series of air attacks on Baghdad and Iraq designed to force Iraq to submit (**The Iraq War**).It was believed that Saddam Hussein had links to Al Qaeda, the terrorist group responsible for the attacks on the Twin Towers and he was also amassing an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction to launch an attack on the West. The war ended successfully for the USA and its Allies, but the weapons of mass destruction were not found. Saddam Hussein was captured alive in December 2003. He was executed in December 2006.

In 2004 **George W. Bush**(2000-2008) was re-elected President. **Barack Obama** is the 44<sup>th</sup> and current President of the USA and is the first African American to hold the office. He was elected President in 2008 and he was re-elected in 2012.He was awarded the Noble Prize in 2009.



## AMERICAN HISTORY

### QUESTIONS

- 1) When and why did the USA enter the First World War? When did the Allies defeat the Central Powers?
- 2) Which countries did the Allies include?
- 3) Which countries were the Central Powers made up of?
- 4) Who was the President of the USA during this period? (W. Wilson- 1913-1921)
- 5) Why were the 1920s an important period for the USA?
- 6) When and why did general prosperity come to an end?
- 7) What was the Wall Street Crash followed by?
- 8) When did Franklin D. Roosevelt become president?
- 9) What did he introduce in order to revive the American economy?
- 10) What was the New Deal?
- 11) When and why did the USA enter the Second World War?
- 12) Who was the President of the USA in 1941?
- 13) When and how did the war come to an end in the Pacific?
- 14) Who was the President of the USA in 1945? (H. Truman)
- 15) Who was the British Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945? (W. Churchill)
- 16) When was the UNO set up? Why?
- 17) When was the NATO set up? Why?
- 18) Which country was the richest and most powerful country in the world after the Second World War?
- 19) What did the USA want to combat?
- 20) What did President Truman do to prevent Communist expansion?
- 21) Why were food and resources given to European countries?
- 22) When did the Cold War begin?
- 23) What was the Cold War?
- 24) What was the USA's contribution to the Korean War?
- 25) Why did the Korean War break out?
- 26) Why is the Bay of Pigs considered one of the "most serious crises" of the Cold War?
- 27) When and where was J. F. Kennedy assassinated?
- 28) Why did the USA become involved in Vietnam?
- 29) When did the Americans leave Vietnam? When did the war really end?
- 30) When and how did the Cold War come to end?
- 31) When did the Gulf War break out and for what reason?
- 32) What happened on 11 September 2001? Who was Osama Bin Laden?
- 33) When was he executed?
- 34) What happened in 2003?
- 35) When was Saddam Hussein captured? When was he executed?
- 36) When was George W. Bush re-elected?
- 37) When was B. Obama elected?
- 38)

## THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Complete the sentences using these words and phrases:

1957, 9th May, The Ode to Joy, a circle of 12 stars on a blue background, Slovenia, 19 member states, formed, 11, monetary, Euro, political union, economic community, European Union, signed, 1992, Maastricht, UK, Ireland, Denmark, European Economic Community, Rome, European, France, Italy, Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands, 28 independent European states, 600 million citizens who speak 24 different languages, political and economic, foreign policy, single economic market, movement of people, goods and services, 2002, Euro, 1973.

1. The European Union is a group of 28 independent European states with about 600 million citizens who speak 24 different languages. It is a political and economic organization with headquarters in Brussels. The members of the EU work together in many areas including trade, agriculture and foreign policy. The states of the EU form a single economic market with no barriers against the free movement of people, goods and services, the most powerful trading block in the world.
2. In 1957 the Treaty of Rome was signed by the six European powers of Italy, France, West Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands. By this treaty they established the EEC, European Economic Community, with the aim of facilitating trade between the member countries.
3. The UK, Ireland and Denmark joined the EEC in 1973.
4. The Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992. The EEC was now to be known as the EU (European Union) and it developed from a mere economic community into a political union. (the EEC adopted the name EU in 1993). This treaty also introduced European citizenship.
5. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999, 11 countries (all except the UK, Greece, Sweden and Denmark) formed an economic and monetary union (EMU) and started using a single currency- the euro. (Greece adopted the Euro in 2000).
6. Euro notes and coins came into circulation on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002. The Euro has been adopted in 19 member states of the EU. (the UK, Sweden and Denmark did not join). In 2007 Slovenia adopted the Euro. Malta and Cyprus joined it in 2008. Slovakia joined it in 2009. Estonia joined it in 2011. Latvia joined it in 2014 and Lithuania joined it in 2015. A few Eastern European Countries are not ready to adopt the euro because they do not meet the economic requirements stipulated by the EU (page 287)
7. The euro is issued by the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt (Germany).
8. A draft of the Constitution of the EU was prepared in Belgium in 2001 and the Constitutional Treaty was signed in Rome in 2004.
9. The Treaty of Lisbon was signed in Lisbon in 2007. (It became effective in 2009). It is a document which contains a common set of rules relating to the EU, gives the EU legal personality and creates a permanent EU President. (page 291)
















10-The current EU Member States are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria,Croatia,Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia,Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

8-The flag of the EU consists of a circle of 12 stars on a blue background.

9-The EU anthem is "Ode to Joy". Europe Day is on 9th May.

The **Eurozone** is an economic and monetary union (EMU) of 19 European Union (EU) member states which have adopted the euro (€) as their common currency. The Eurozone currently consists of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus(2008), Estonia(2011), Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy,Latvia(2014),Lithuania(2015), Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

**Member states of the EU (year of entry)**

•  <u>Austria</u> (1995)	•  <u>Italy</u> (1952)
•  <u>Belgium</u> (1952)	•  <u>Latvia</u> (2004)
•  <u>Bulgaria</u> (2007)	•  <u>Lithuania</u> (2004)
•  <u>Croatia</u> (2013)	•  <u>Luxembourg</u> (1952)
•  <u>Cyprus</u> (2004)	•  <u>Malta</u> (2004)
•  <u>Czech Republic</u> (2004)	•  <u>Netherlands</u> (1952)
•  <u>Denmark</u> (1973)	•  <u>Poland</u> (2004)
•  <u>Estonia</u> (2004)	•  <u>Portugal</u> (1986)
•  <u>Finland</u> (1995)	•  <u>Romania</u> (2007)
•  <u>France</u> (1952)	•  <u>Slovakia</u> (2004)
•  <u>Germany</u> (1952)	•  <u>Slovenia</u> (2004)
•  <u>Greece</u> (1981)	•  <u>Spain</u> (1986)
•  <u>Hungary</u> (2004)	•  <u>Sweden</u> (1995)
•  <u>Ireland</u> (1973)	•  <u>United Kingdom</u> (1973)

## QUESTIONS

- 1- What does EEC stand for?
- 2- When was the EEC established?
- 3- How many countries formed the EEC?
- 4- What was the original aim of the six founder members?
- 5- When was the EU officially established?
- 6- When did the UK and Ireland join the EEC?
- 7- How many countries is the EU made up of today? List them.
- 8- When did eleven EU countries form an economic and monetary union and start using a single currency- the euro?
- 9- Why was the Maastricht Treaty important?
- 10- When did euro notes and coins come into circulation?



## GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### THE UK GOVERNMENT

The United Kingdom is a parliamentary democracy\*<sup>1</sup> and a constitutional monarchy\*<sup>2</sup>. There is no written Constitution.

\*<sup>1</sup>the country is governed by its people and their representatives.

\*<sup>2</sup>the Head of State is a Queen or a King who has limited power only and can reign only with the support of Parliament .

### THE MONARCH

**-Fill in the blanks with these words: Church, England, State, Commonwealth, Armed Forces, Prime Minister, unity, does not rule, reigns, ministers, Government, Commander-in-Chief.**

The Queen is:

- the Head of State and a symbol of national unity;
- the temporal Head of the Church of England (Though the real authority lies in the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury);
- the Head of the Commonwealth (the English Monarch is still Head of State of a few of its members (e.g. Australia));
- the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces (war or peace are officially declared only when Parliament has made such decision);
- the Head of the legal system...etc.

The Queen also

- gives her approval before a Government is formed;
- appoints the Prime Minister ,who is the leader of the majority party;
- appoints the ministers of the Government ( but, in fact, they have been chosen by the people in an election);
- gives royal assent by signing all laws before they can take effect;
- summons and dissolves Parliament, acting on the advice of the Government.....

In conclusion it can be said that in Britain the Monarch reigns but does not rule. The functions of the Monarch are formal and symbolic.

### THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister is the Head of Government and the leader of the majority party. He is appointed by the Queen, but he is chosen by his party members. The Prime Minister makes laws and controls the financial and foreign affairs of the country. He chooses members of his political party to help him govern. These are called Cabinet Ministers and they are responsible for all government decisions.

## THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

**Parliament** is composed of two Houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

**-The House of Lords** consists of about 700 non-elected members who belong to one of these groups: Spiritual Lords, Law Lords, Hereditary Peers, and Life Peers. This House has revision function. It can make amendments to bills but it cannot reject them. It can only delay them for a year. The President of the House of Lords is the Lord Chancellor.

**-The House of Commons** consists of 650 members who are elected by the people at general elections. The House of Commons has legislative function. The MPs (Members of Parliament) decide on new laws. The President of the House of Commons is the Speaker. Both Houses are situated in the Palace of Westminster (the Houses of Parliament) in London.

## THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN THE UK

Complete the sentences with the following words: Queen, minority, Cabinet, elections, leader, Government, majority, Prime Minister, 650, people, candidate, every 5 years, majority, 650, proportional, political, candidates, votes, about 60, 20-25.

The British electoral system is based on a majority system. There is no proportional representation in Britain.

General elections are held every 5 years, but they may be held earlier if the Government decides to. All adults over 18 are called to the polls and vote by secret ballot.

The House of Commons has 650 members. These MPs (Members of Parliament) are elected in the following way: Britain is divided into 650 constituencies. In each constituency the different political parties propose their candidates. The people vote and the candidate who wins most votes becomes MP (Member of Parliament).

When the results of the elections are known, the Queen calls the leader of the party which has gained the majority of votes and asks him/her to form a Government.

There are about 60 Ministers and 20-25 of them are chosen to form the Cabinet, a restricted committee headed by the Prime Minister and responsible for all government decisions. The largest minority party forms the Opposition (Her Majesty's Opposition).

## POLITICAL PARTIES

The two main political parties which dominate British political life are the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. Other political parties in the Commons include the Liberal Democrats. Nowadays the Labour Party is centre-left and the Conservative Party is centre-right. The Liberal Democrats are centre-left. Other political parties are the Green Party and The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) (Its objective is to withdraw Britain from the EU).

## QUESTIONS

1. Does Britain have a written constitution?
2. What is the most important authority in Britain?
3. What are the functions and duties of the Queen?
4. Who is the present Queen?
5. What is Parliament composed of?
6. How many members are there in the House of Lords? Who is the President of the House of Lords? Are the members of this House elected by the people? What is the main function of this House?
7. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons? Who elects them? Who is the President of this House? What is the function of this House?
8. How often are general elections held?
9. Which party forms the Government after the elections? Who becomes Prime Minister? Which party forms the Opposition?
10. How are the MPs elected? How many MPs can be elected in each constituency?
11. Who appoints the Prime Minister?
12. Who appoints the other ministers? Who chooses them?
13. What is the Cabinet?
14. How many ministers is it composed of?
15. What is the Cabinet responsible for?
16. Who is it presided over?
17. Who is the present Prime Minister?
18. How long has he been Prime Minister? Which political party does he belong to?
19. What are the main political parties in Britain?

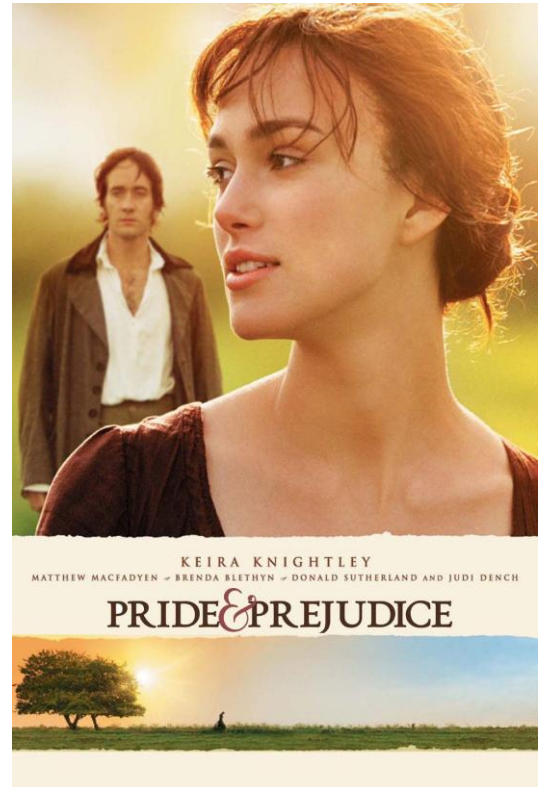
# PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

by Jane Austen

## THE PLOT

The plot of **Pride and Prejudice** is that of a romantic comedy: it concerns the fortunes of young lovers – their trials, misunderstandings, reversals, triumphs – and ends in happy marriages.

It is set at Longbourn, a small country village in Hertfordshire, where Mr and Mrs Bennet live with their five daughters, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Lydia and Kitty. One day a rich bachelor, Charles Bingley, and his two sisters rent a large estate in the neighbourhood, called Netherfield Park. After a series of balls and parties that bring the members of this society together, Mr Bingley falls in love with Jane, and his best friend, the aristocratic Fitzwilliam Darcy, begins to feel attracted to Elizabeth. But she dislikes him because of his snobbish behaviour and because she considers him responsible for the separation of Bingley and Jane. When Mr Darcy declares his love, he cannot help showing contempt for her inferior social position; so Elizabeth rejects him and accuses him separating his sister and Bingley, and of ill-treating George Wickham, a young officer who was the son of Darcy's former steward. Darcy writes her a letter where he reveals that Wickham is an unscrupulous adventurer. Meanwhile Wickham elopes with Lydia; Darcy traces them and provides for their marriage. Elizabeth realizes that she was mistaken about Darcy and accepts his proposal in spite of the opposition of Lady Catherine De Bourgh, Darcy's arrogant aunt. Bingley comes back and becomes engaged to Jane, so the novel ends with the happy marriages of the two couples.



## THE HEROINE AND THE HERO

The heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, and the hero, Mr Darcy, have great qualities, but also great weaknesses. Darcy knows the principles of right conduct, but he is selfish and unsociable. Elizabeth has a lively mind, one of the qualities that wins Darcy to her; she is capable of complex impressions and ideas. She has a strong spirit of independence: she refuses to take on the role her family or socially superior people try to impose on her. Both Elizabeth and Darcy set out with an imperfect understanding of themselves and each other. She accuses him of pride and he accuses her of prejudice. She is proud, and her pride blinds her to his virtues; he is prejudiced by his upbringing and its disgusted by the vulgar behaviour of Elizabeth's mother and younger sisters.

## THEMES

The novel involves both characters in a journey towards self-awareness and self-knowledge : Other themes are love, marriage, social status and wealth. Marriage is presented from several points of view: in terms of security and independence (Charlotte Lucas and Mr Collins); arising out of physical infatuation (Lydia and Wickham); containing elements of love and prudence (Jane and Bingley; Elisabeth and Darcy).



## JANE AUSTEN

JANE AUSTEN was born at the Rectory in Steventon, a little village in north-east Hampshire, on 16th December 1775. She was the seventh child and second daughter of the rector, the Reverend George Austen, and his wife Cassandra Leigh. Of her brothers, two were clergymen, one inherited rich estates in Kent and Hampshire from a distant cousin and the two youngest became Admirals in the Royal Navy; her only sister, like Jane herself, never married. Steventon Rectory was Jane Austen's home for the first 25 years of her life. From here she travelled to Kent to stay with her brother Edward in his mansion at Godmersham Park near Canterbury, and she also had some shorter holidays in Bath, where her aunt and uncle lived. During the 1790s she wrote the first drafts of **Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, and Northanger Abbey**; In 1801 the Reverend George Austen retired, and he and his wife, with their two daughters Jane and Cassandra, left Steventon and settled in Bath. In 1806 Mrs. Austen and her daughters moved to Southampton, and then in 1809 to Chawton, where they had a cottage on one of Edward's Hampshire estates. Here Jane was at leisure to devote herself to writing, and between 1810-1817 she revised her three early novels and also composed three novels - **Mansfield Park, Emma, and Persuasion**. Jane fell ill in 1816 and in the summer of 1817 her family took her to Winchester for medical treatment. She died on 18th July. She was buried a few days later in the north aisle of Winchester Cathedral. Jane's novels reflect the world of the English country gentry of the period, as she herself had experienced it. Jane Austen is now one of the best-known and best-loved authors in the English-speaking world.



## **BANKING THE BANKING SYSTEM**

### **THE BANK OF ENGLAND**

The Bank of England is the central bank of the UK. It was founded in 1694 and has many functions.

- It is banker to the British Government and to other banks.
- It controls the banking and financial system in the UK.
- It controls the issue of coins and notes.
- It fixes exchange and interest rates.
- It manages the national debt.
- It protects the national gold and silver reserves.

### **SAVINGS BANKS**

Savings Banks, such as the National Savings Banks, encourage small savers to invest their money. It offers small investors two forms of account:

- ordinary accounts with a low interest rate, which are tax-free and
- investment accounts with a higher, taxable interest rate.

### **MERCHANT BANKS**

Merchant Banks, such as Morgan Grenfell, are commercial organizations which not only carry out the main functions of a commercial bank, but they also specialise in providing financial services to companies. They specialise in international finance and international trade.

### **COMMERCIAL BANKS**

Commercial Banks, such as Lloyds, Barclays and National Westminster, also called joint-stock banks and they are owned by shareholders. They are called clearing banks, which means they are authorised to exchange cheques and other means of payment. They offer all types of services to individuals and companies.

### **BANKING SERVICES**

Banks offer the general public and companies a wide range of services.

- 1) They receive money from the general public and either hold it in deposit, making it available to the person who has deposited it or lend it at interest to people who wish to borrow it.
- 2) They send current account holders a **statement of account**, recording all payments into and from their current account for a given period of time.
- 3) They exchange money from one currency to another.
- 4) They advise customers on the best way of investing their money.
- 5) They allow current account holders to pay by **standing orders** and **direct debits**. A **standing order** is used when a person authorises the bank to make regular payments (every month, etc.) of a **fixed** amount from his current account (payments for insurance, etc.). A **direct debit** is used when a person authorises the bank to make payments of **varying** amounts from his current account (telephone and gas bills, etc.).
- 6) They provide **cash cards**, **credit cards** and **cheque books**.

## **THE STOCK EXCHANGE**

### **WHAT HAPPENS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE?**

There are four main stock exchanges in the world: New York, London, Tokyo and Frankfurt. The Stock Exchange is the centre where shares and bonds are bought and sold. The capital of a company is divided up into parts which are called **shares**. In the USA, shares are known as **stocks** and their owners are called **stockholders** (**shareholders** in the UK).

Shares are separate, equal parts into which the capital of a company is divided. Shareholders own part of a company.

There are two main reasons for buying shares. Firstly, the shareholder could make a profit if he sells the shares after their value has risen. Secondly, he could earn a dividend from the company's profits. However, he could risk a loss if the value of the shares goes down. Also, if there are no company profits to be divided, then the shareholder receives nothing.

A **bond** is a document issued by a government or company when borrowing money from the public. The holder of the document is called a **bondholder**. The bondholder can use the document to obtain repayment of the loan, plus a fixed rate of interest.

Shares are separate, equal parts into which the capital of a company is divided. Shareholders own part of a company.

### **WHO OPERATES ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE?**

An investor cannot buy and sell shares himself. He needs the assistance and advice of an intermediary - a **broker-dealer** who buys and sells shares on behalf of members of the public. Brokers earn a commission for arranging the purchase and sale of shares. There are two main types of dealers who take risks and try to predict what is going to happen on the Stock Market:

- **Bulls** believe that the value of the shares will rise, therefore they tend to buy so that they can sell them at a later stage at a higher price and make a profit.
- **Bears** expect the prices of shares to fall. Therefore, they sell shares in the hope that their value will drop to a lower price than the one they paid when they bought them.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Which are the main Stock Exchanges in the world?
2. Why do people buy shares?
3. What risks do they run?
4. What is bond?
5. Who are brokers?
6. What are the differences between:
  - Stocks and shares?
  - Bulls and bears?
  - Shareholders and bondholders?
7. What are shares?

# Advantages and Disadvantages of EU Citizenship



# **ADVANTAGES**

## **DIFFERENT CULTURES AND LANGUAGES BUT A SINGLE AIM**

The EU is characterized by pluralism. There are 28 Member States , 24 languages, hundreds of different cultures , customs and ways of living . Despite this cultural scene the EU proposes several objectives in the social and economic field, but the main objectives of the European Union are now to promote peace, EU values and the well-being of its peoples.

## **FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE**

In the EU, free movement of people is a major benefit for citizenship. The majority of the European Union countries are part of what is known as the “Schengen Area”, which is a borderless area where EU citizens can travel freely without a passport and without being stopped by immigration officials. The name “Schengen Area” derives from an agreement that many EU countries joined in the city of Schengen, Luxemburg. The main aim of this agreement is promoting the freedom of travelling in the EU. Being a member of the Schengen area is not automatic for any EU country. In order to be a EU member, the country must submit to rigorous border inspections; the border must be cleared by EU authorities and declared both safe and secure. European citizens have the freedom to live ,work, study and travel in any other EU country. Young people can complete part of their studies in another member State with the help of the Erasmus programme. Besides the EU has enabled people to travel freely across national borders making trade and tourism easier and cheaper than before.

## **ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

One of the advantages of being a part of the European Union is Free trade. This has helped EU countries develop from the economic point of view. The single market has forced the companies to lower the prices of their products in order to become more competitive. This has allowed greater stability of prices and choice for consumers. Thanks to the single market , companies can make business in other EU countries easier and cheaper than ever. No customs tax is charged on goods sold or transported between the member States. The common currency makes it easy to do business across the EU countries without changing currency or having to pay additional bank fees. Free trade and removal of non-tariff barriers have helped reduce costs and prices for consumers. Removal of customs barriers mean customs clearance documents per year no longer needed to be completed, cutting bureaucracy and reducing costs and delivery times. Other advantages are a greater stability and economic growth for companies and markets and a very important role of the EU in the global economy.

## **FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOUR AND CAPITAL**

The rights citizens of any EU country enjoy are a great benefit of European Union citizenship. EU membership means that resources are shared with more prosperous members, and job opportunities and economic benefits can expand in internal markets. Rather than having just one job market to exploit, a EU citizen has many job markets. Free movement of labour and capital have helped create a more flexible economy. Workers are protected in the EU. This is made possible through the European Working Time Directive, which includes regulations regarding holidays ,working hours, breaks ...

## **ACCESS TO HEALTH BENEFITS**

EU citizens are provided with the EU Health Insurance Card which gives them access to emergency healthcare whenever they need it, while visiting any Member State.

# **DISADVANTAGES**

## **THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE EU ON THE MEMBER STATES**

The EU has shown that states can come together and share laws, currency, security and other areas which are usually under the control of the singular national state. The traditional view of sovereignty has been challenged in recent years. The member states share the sovereignty with institutions such as the EU Commission and the EU Parliament even if they are still sovereign in certain areas .

### **IMMIGRATION**

A disadvantage of the EU expansion faced by the new economies includes the migration of skilled workers to the better economic nations for better wages and higher benefits .The European Union regulations on immigrations affect some countries' policies. For instance, member countries lack the authority to turn away large numbers of refugees. Such limitations strain members' financial resources. Besides there is loss of immigration control which have resulted in overcrowding in many EU countries.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT**

In the EU unemployment has reached a critical point. In some EU countries unemployment has increased to over 25%, and youth unemployment rates have reached 50%. The recent rise in EU unemployment is primarily due to the long period of economic recession . Due to austerity measures and a weak global economy, the EU economy has fallen back into recession. The concern is that structural problems and the current monetary and fiscal policies will create several years of below- trend economic growth.

### **COMMON POLICIES**

Operating as a single market and following common policies have resulted in many discrepancies. Regulations that were designed to protect smaller member countries can affect larger countries since the European Commission looks after the interests of the entire EU and not the individual countries. Wealthier countries are also obliged to share their wealth with other member States

### **THE SINGLE CURRENCY**

Although the EU does not require all its members to adopt the Euro, they insist on the use of the Single Currency. Unfortunately, the Euro is causing problems all over the EU, including high unemployment rates, slow economic growth and unsuitable interest rates in the Eurozone.



# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS



Europe  
for Citizens



Education and Culture  
Lifelong learning programme  
COMENIUS



## INTRODUCTION

**Citizenship of the Union** was established by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992 and the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997. Citizenship establishes a link between the citizens and the EU and promotes the identification of EU citizens and the development of a European public opinion and European identity.

Citizenship is based on two criteria:

- European citizenship is reserved for people who belong to one of the Member States of the EU.
- Residents of non-EU origin (from a country that is not a member of the EU), even if they are settled in the EU, cannot enjoy European citizenship.

## WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS?

- European citizens have the right to move and reside, work and study in any member State of the EU.
- They also have civil and political rights.
- They have the right to vote and the right to be elected in municipal elections and in elections to the European Parliament in the Member State where they reside.
- Students, professionals and workers can study or practice in the EU country of their choice.

## SOCIAL RIGHTS

The citizens of the EU have civil, political, economic and social fundamental rights. The main fundamental rights are prohibition of slavery and forced labour, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to education, the freedom to choose a job and the right to work, equality before the law, non-discrimination, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, equality between men and women, workers' right to information, fair work conditions and the right to social security and social assistance.

## THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

**The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** was proclaimed at the Nice European Council on 7 December 2000.

The Charter contains 54 articles that define the fundamental rights of people within the EU.

The rights are divided into six values: dignity, freedom, equality, solidarity, citizenship and justice.

### 1.DIGNITY

Human dignity must be respected and protected. Everyone has the right to life and the right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity. Slavery is prohibited.



## **2.FREEDOMS**

Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, peaceful assembly, association in political, trade union and civic matters, education and training and the freedom to work or run a company in any Member State.

## **3.EQUALITY**

Everyone is equal before the law. Any discrimination based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation is prohibited. Equality between men and women must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay.

Any discrimination, based on religion or beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation, in employment and in training and discrimination on racial or ethnic origin, in employment and in other fields such as education, social security and social benefits – including in housing and healthcare – and access to goods and services are prohibited.

## **4.SOLIDARITY**

Children have the right to protection and care and the right to maintain a personal relationship and direct contact with both parents. The employment of children is prohibited.

Every worker has the right to protection against unjustified dismissal and working conditions which respect his or her health, safety and dignity and the right to limitation of maximum working hours daily and weekly, rest periods and an annual period of paid leave.

Everyone has the right to protection from dismissal for a reason connected with maternity and the right to paid maternity leave and to parental leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

Everyone residing and moving legally within the European Union is entitled to social security benefits and social services providing protection in cases such as maternity, illness, industrial accidents, dependency or old age and the right of access to health care and benefit from medical treatment.

## **5.CITIZENS' RIGHTS**

Every citizen of the Union has the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament in the Member State in which he or she resides.

Every citizen of the Union can vote and stand as a candidate at municipal elections in the Member State in which he or she resides and have access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

Every citizen of the Union has the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States.

## **6.JUSTICE**

Everyone whose rights and freedoms guaranteed by the law of the EU are violated has the right to an effective remedy before a court. Respect for the rights of the defence of anyone who has been charged is guaranteed .

## OTHER RIGHTS

In addition to fundamental rights the citizens of the EU have many other rights.

Traders have the right to consider the entire European Union as a potential market and therefore to purchase in any of the Member States and sell anywhere in the Union without any import duties or quantitative restrictions.

Workers have the right to seek employment anywhere they wish in the EU, set up home with their family in the country where they are working and remain there even after they have lost job. They have the right to the same social benefits as the citizens of the Member State in which they reside.

Industrialists have the right to set up branches anywhere in the EU.

Members of the professions such as lawyers, architects and doctors have the right to work in any Member State.

The citizens have the right to purchase goods in any country of the Union at the conditions of that country and to take them to their country of origin without paying customs duties or any tax supplements. They have the right to use any banking, insurance, telecommunications and audiovisual service offered in the large European market. They also have the right to be treated by the administrative or judicial authorities in any country of the Union in the same way as the citizens of that country.

EU citizens can cross borders inside the EU countries without a passport or VISA. In the EU tourism or business travel is made easier by European laws and the use of a single currency facilitates travellers inside the Euro Zone countries.

Travellers can buy goods without any limits in the Member State visited and bring them home without paying extra duties. They can use the euro to buy anything in most EU countries and they can deposit money in a bank in any member country. Banks can establish branches anywhere in the EU.

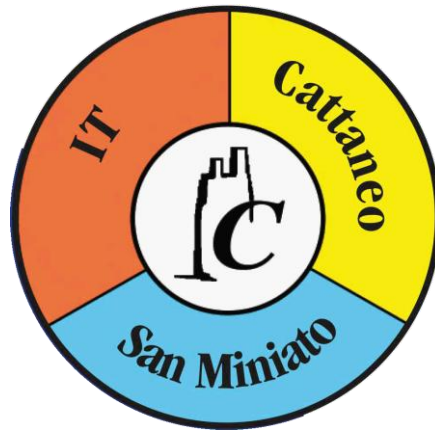
## PROMOTING AN ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

The promotion of **active European citizenship** is an important means of strengthening the fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance, fostering cohesion and development of democracy. It is important in order to

- enable citizens to develop a feeling of European identity,
- improve mutual understanding among the citizens of Europe,
- encourage citizens to become actively involved in the process of European integration and
- bring the European Union closer to citizens.

“**A Responsible European Citizenship**” is an integrated concept of citizenship, which is tolerant and respectful of different cultures and traditions and open to dialogue, has attention for environmental matters, is concerned and aware of the events which occur domestically and abroad, in search of peace and social cohesion development and well-being, taking care and acting in favour of the disadvantaged, not forgetting the importance of the family in the education of basic values such as liberty, democracy, solidarity, respect for human rights, for fundamental freedoms and for the role of law.

I brani contenuti nel presente fascicolo sono riassunti di testi contenuti in “Commercial Interest “ e “Online for Business” A.A.V.V., Longman ,“Businesslike,”A.A.V.V.,Juvenilia e “Import/Export Department”A.A.V.V., Principato con integrazioni. Queste dispense sono state realizzate per integrare alcuni argomenti che risultavano incompleti nel libro di testo o per presentare argomenti necessari per collegamenti interdisciplinari.)



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