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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

ПРАКТИЧЕСКОЕ ПОСОБИЕ
для студентов
неязыковых специальностей
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Целью пособия является оказание помощи студентам в
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тии навыков устной речи по предлагаемым темам.

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ВВЕДЕНИЕ

В практическое пособие включены тематические тексты и коммуникативные упражнения, а также традиционные языковые упражнения, направленные на автоматизацию навыков устной речи.

Практическое пособие состоит из пяти тематических уроков, каждый из которых разделен на несколько частей, объединенных одной темой. В каждом разделе содержится большое количество тематических текстов разного уровня сложности, что дает возможность преподавателю использовать их по своему усмотрению. Тексты снабжены упражнениями, направленными на контроль понимания прочитанного, отработку содержащихся в текстах языковых явлений. В практическом пособии содержатся диалоги, иллюстрирующие употребление изученной лексики в ситуациях общения, а также аутентичные тексты различного уровня сложности для дополнительного чтения.

Целями пособия является оказание помощи студентам 2 курса неязыковых специальностей университета в накоплении и систематизации необходимого словарного запаса и развитии навыков устной речи по предлагаемым темам.

Unit One BELARUS

DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 From the history of Belarus
- 2 Geographical position of Belarus
- 3 Science, economy, industry and agriculture
- 4 Welcome to Belarus National traditions and holidays

1 From the history of Belarus

1.1 Topical Vocabulary

Ex. 1 Pay attention to the following words. Pick out sentences with these words from the text and read them out:

Slavic – славянский,
Krivichi – кривичи,
Dregovich – дреговичи,
Radimichi – радимичи,
the Revolutionary Workers and Peasants Government of Byelorussia – революционное правительство рабочих и крестьян Белоруссии

Ex. 2 Practise saying the following proper names:

the Mongols and Tatars – монголо-татары
the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – Великое княжество Литовское
Swedish – шведский
King Charles 12 – Король Карл 12
Napoleon – Наполеон
Rzecz Pospolita – Речь Посполитая

Ex. 3 Read these international words and try to guess their meaning:

Associate, non-occupied, contrast, version, feudal, feudalism, territorial, economic, contingent, command, invasion, feudal, exploit, prologue, command, monument, economy, culture, factory, collective, organize, industrial center, sovereignty.

Ex. 4 Read out the following words and memorize them:

to stick (v)	прикрепляться, приставать
precise (adj)	точный, определенный, чёткий

linen (n)	бельё
presume (v)	предполагать, считать
pagan (n)	язычник
antiquity (n)	античность
ancestor (n)	предок
emergence (n)	появление
annex (v)	присоединять
disintegration (n)	распад
arable (adj)	пахотный
supersede (v)	вытеснять
plunder (v)	грабить, воровать
decisive (adj)	решающий
resistance (n)	сопротивление
magnate (n)	магнат
revive (v)	возрождать
centenary (n)	столетие, столетняя годовщина
horror (n)	ужас
rout (v)	разбивать наголову; обращать в бегство
defeat (n)	разгром

Ex. 5 Read out these phrasal verbs and expressions several times till you remember them:

to go back (to)	восходить к
to put down to smth	приписывать (ч.-л.), объяснять (ч.-л.)
to lead to a collapse of the kinship community	приводить к распаду кровнородственных общин
to live through	пережить
to stand for	означать
in honour of smth	в честь чего-либо
to be in bondage to smb, smth	быть в рабстве (зависимости) у кого-то, чего-то
to have an impact on smth	оказывать влияние на кого-либо

Ex. 6 Match the English words and their Russian equivalents:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1) emergence | a) феодальные войны |
| 2) pagan | b) магнат |
| 3) ancestor | c) ужас |

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 4) feudal wars | d) появление |
| 5) magnate | e) распад |
| 6) to plunder | f) язычник |
| 7) horror | g) возрождать |
| 8) disintegration | h) предок |
| 9) resistance | i) грабить, воровать |
| 10) to revive | j) сопротивление |

Ex. 7 Make sure you know all the words in the box. Then read their definitions and match the words with their definitions:

pagan, to revive, bondage, to rout, ancestor, disintegration, to put down to, antiquity, linen, to annex, to maintain, to supersede, plunder

- clothes made of flax;
- a person who is not a believer in any of the chief religions of the world;
- to rob (people) especially during war or civil disorder;
- to take possession of territory;
- old times, especially before the Middle Ages;
- falling apart;
- to come or bring back into use again;
- any of those persons from whom one is descended, especially one more remote than a grandparent;
- to state; declare; assert as true;
- to take the place of;
- to attribute to;
- slavery; servitude;
- to defeat completely.

Ex. 8 Give the Russian equivalents to the following words and phrases: present day, the term «Belaya Rus», local peasants, linen clothes, fair hair, non-occupied, goes back to antiquity, lived through the disintegration of the tribal society, the home of three fraternal peoples, feudal wars, foreign invasions, the horrors of the Mongols and Tatars conquest, the Polish magnates, were placed in bondage, the troops of the Swedish King Charles XII, under the command of Peter the Great, to rout the Swedish contingent, a prologue to the famous battle of Poltava, in honour of that event, to celebrate the centenary of the war, a decisive impact.

1.2 Text

Ex. 9 Read the text and get ready to speak about the history of your native country:

FROM THE HISTORY OF BELARUS

Belaya Rus. The term «Belaya Rus» was for the first time used in the 12th century. Up to the 15th century it was also common in north-east Rus. Lands which are the Republic's territory today were originally called «Belaya Rus» in the 14th century and the name stuck to these lands.

The origin of the name, however, has so far never been precise. Some researchers put it down to the white colour of local peasants' everyday linen clothes and to their fair hair. Others associate it with the direct meaning of the word «belyi» which stands for «clean, non-occupied, free, and independent». They presume that old Rus's lands which had not been captured neither by the Mongols and Tatars nor by Lithuania were called «Belaya Rus» in those early days. Still others maintain that «Belaya Rus» was the land inhabited by Christians unlike «Chernya (black) Rus» where pagans lived. There are also other versions of the name's origin.

The history of Belarus goes back to antiquity. In the Middle Ages the territory of present day Belarus was populated by Eastern Slavic tribes. The ancestors of the Belarusians were the Krivichi, Radimichi and Dregovich. They lived in the basins of the Dnieper and the Zapadnaya Dvina rivers where they hunted, fished and farmed.

In the 6th – 8th centuries they lived through the disintegration of the tribal society and the emergence of feudalism. The development of arable farming led to the collapse of the kinship communities based on territorial and economic relations. The tribes began to develop external relations. There was a need in a united state, and it appeared at the beginning of the 9th century. It was Kievskaya Rus – the home of three fraternal peoples – the Russians, the Ukrainians and the Belarusians. Feudal wars and foreign invasions plundered these lands.

In the second half of the 13th century the Grand Duchy of Lithuania annexed Belarus. In 1569 Rzecz Pospolita was formed with the aim to struggle against the Principality of Moscow. Later, at the end of the 17th century the Belarusian people were placed in bondage to the Polish feudal lords who exploited them cruelly. It was also invaded by the troops of the Swedish King Charles XII.

In 1708 the Russian troops under the command of Peter the Great routed the Swedish troops which were crossing Belarus to join Charles's army. It was a prologue to the famous battle of Poltava which stopped the Swedish intervention. At the end of the 18th century Belarus was annexed by Russia.

In 1812 Belarus was invaded by Napoleon. A few months later the French were defeated and driven westwards. To commemorate that event and to celebrate the centenary of the war with Napoleon the citizens of Vitebsk erected a monument which stands on the Uspenski hill.

On January 1, 1919 the Revolutionary Workers and Peasants' Government of Byelorussia proclaimed the formation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1922 it became a member of the former USSR. This act had a decisive impact on the development of its economy and culture. In 1939 Western Belarus, occupied since 1921 by Poland, joined Byelorussia. By the end of the thirties a great number of large and small plants and factories were built throughout the republic. Minsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Grodno, Vitebsk, Brest, Bobruisk, Orsha and other cities grew into important industrial centres. A lot of collective and state farms were organized, the national arts and literature, science and education developed rapidly. But the peaceful labour of the people was interrupted by a new war.

World War II brought to the country innumerable losses. More than 2 million people or nearly every fourth of the entire population of the country died in the war. Numerous Belarusian villages and towns were burned to ashes. But Belarus has restored its cities and rebuilt its economy.

Belarus proclaimed its sovereignty on July 27, 1991. And since then the Republic of Belarus has taken its place in Eastern Europe as a new independent state.

1.3 Topical Exercises

Ex. 10 Answer the following questions:

1. When was the term «Belaya Rus» used for the first time?
2. How did people try to explain the origin of the word Belarus?
3. Who were the ancestors of the Belarusians?
4. Where did they live?
5. When did the disintegration of the tribal society take place?
6. What were the consequences of the development of arable farming?
7. What happened at the beginning of the 9th century?
8. What was Kievskaya Rus like?
9. What was formed in 1569?
10. Who exploited the Belarusian people?
11. When did the troops of the Swedish king Charles XII invade Belarus?
12. Who routed the Swedish troops?
13. What country annexed Belarus at the end of the 18th century?
14. When did Napoleon invade Belarus?
15. When did the citizens of Vitebsk erect the monument on the Uspenski hill?

Why? 16. When was the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic proclaimed? 17. How did the economy and culture develop before World War II? 18. What damage did World War II bring to Belarus? 19. When did Belarus proclaim its sovereignty?

Ex. 11 Agree or disagree to the following statements:

1. The ancestors of the Belarusians were Anglo-Saxons. 2. They lived in the basin of the Svisloch. 3. It was Kievskaya Rus that united three fraternal peoples. 4. In 1569 the Mongols and Tatars annexed Belarus. 5. The Polish feudal lords exploited the Belarusian people cruelly. 6. The troops under the command of Peter the Great helped the Belarusian people in their struggle with Napoleon. 7. In 1812 Belarus was invaded by the fascist Germany. 8. On January 1, 1919 the Revolutionary Workers and Peasants' Government of Byelorussia proclaimed the formation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. 9. By the end of the 30-ies the life of the Belarusians was unhappy. 10. Belarus has experienced the horrors of numerous invasions.

Ex. 12 Fill in the table with the events from the text:

Dates	Answers
The 6 th -8 th century	
The 9 th century	
The 13 th century	
1569	
1708	
1812	
January 1, 1919	
1921	
1922	
1939	
1991	

Ex. 13 Work in groups. Find out from your partners:

- what they know about the origin of the name «Belaya Rus»;
- who inhabited Belarus in the Middle Ages;

- what they know about the ancestors of the Belarusians;
- what led to the collapse of the kinship communities;
- what events took place on the territory of Belarus in the first half of the 20th century;
- when Belarus became an independent state.

Ex. 14 Prove that:

- the history of Belarus is packed with hardships and ordeals;
- Belarus was invaded by Napoleon.

1.4 Supplementary reading

Ex. 15 Read the text and get ready to speak about the Radzivil family:

THE RADZIVILLS

There were a lot of noble families in the history of Belarus; however none was more renowned than the Radzivil family. The story of the members of this family occupies many pages in the modern encyclopedia of Belarus. The family left its imprint on a wide variety of human endeavours – from public and political life to culture and education. Members of the family were leaders in wars against the enemies of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and later of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Russian Empire. For centuries they had been meticulously collecting and preserving books, documents, paintings, weaponry, and other rare and valuable objects that could fill entire museums. With their own money, the Radzivils built painting shops in Bierascie (nowadays Brest), Nesvizh, and other Belarusian cities. Not only did they influence politics, economics and culture of their nation, but they often did it according to their own needs, aspirations and tastes. History has preserved a lot of names of the Radzivil family. Let us recollect some of them here.

Barbara Radzivil (1520-1551), the Queen of Poland and Duchess of Lithuania was the most beautiful woman of her time. It is written in the chronicles that she was «triumphant in her beauty and love affairs». Indeed, the love she awoke in the heart of the Polish King Zyhimont II August was called «the love affair of the century».

Nickolay Radzivil Chorny (The Black) (1515-1565) filled high and responsible posts in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: great chancellor, governor (vajavoda) of Vilno (capital of the Great Duchy, nowadays Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania), major of Bierascie (nowadays Brest), Kounia (nowadays Kaunas in Lithuania) and Barysau and administrator of Livonia. Throughout his entire political career he pursued a firm policy of strengthening the sovereignty of the

Belarusian state, and skillfully implemented agrarian and economic reforms. Due to his consistent political positions, our state reached its highest prosperity with its public life based on legal principles. His efforts and sponsorship led to the establishment of large publishing centers in Belarus. Duke Nickolay Radzivil was fluent in the Belarusian, Polish and other European languages.

His son Nickolay Kristof Radzivil Sirotko (1549-1616), an ardent Catholic, headed the fight against Calvinism and issued orders to burn books published by Calvinist printing houses. He was famous as the author of a detailed travelogue describing his journey to Jerusalem, Syria, Egypt and other «exotic» countries and places.

In 1726 Prince Mikhail Kazimir Radzivil (Rybonka) (1702-1762) began to take care of his estate and land again. The historians suggest that it was Prince Mikhail who had rebuilt the town and the castle in Nesvizh. He filled high state posts, possessed the largest (at that time) parcels of land. In those years, his wife Franciska Ursula Radzivil (1705-1753), who was writing comedies and dramas, established the first Slavic secular theatre in Nesvizh. Dramas, operas and ballets were staged there. Slutsk ballet school was attached to the theatre. This theatre was in action till 1760. That was also the time of restoration of book printing in Nesvizh.

Ex. 16 Fill in the table 2 with the main events from the text:

Dates	Answers
1520-1551	
1515-1563	
1549-1616	
1586	
1705-1753	
1706	
1726	
1702-1762	
1760	

Ex. 17 Draw the family tree of the Radzivils.

Ex. 18 Read the text and get ready to speak about Francisk Scaryna.

WHAT WAS DR. SKARYNA?

In 1990 Belarusians celebrated the 500th anniversary of the birth of Doctor Francisk Scaryna, the first translator and publisher of the Bible (1517-1519) in the Belarusian language. Scaryna's work had a profound influence both on the cultural development of Belarus and on the Belarusian patriotic movement. Belarusian printing owes its beginnings to Dr. Francisk Scaryna, a prominent scholar and humanist.

Dr. Scaryna was born into a family of a wealthy merchant in the old Belarusian city of Polotsk in 1490. He received elementary education in his native town. From 1504 till 1506 he studied at Krakow University. He graduated from the university with the Bachelor's degree in philosophy and later, in 1512, he successfully passed his examinations at the university of Padua and got his Doctor's degree in medicine. He was a true Renaissance man – his intellectual interests embraced theology, literature, linguistics, poetry, art, law, medicine, botany and printing. It should be mentioned that he was a very educated man. He knew the Polish, old Jewish, Greek and Latin languages. He was the author of a number of admirable Byzantine-rite hymns and prayers, as well as of the first known examples of Belarusian verse.

Scaryna began his publishing activity in Prague in 1517. From 1517 till 1519 he published 19 books under the common title «The Russian Bible». The most important of his achievements was the translation of the Bible into the Belarusian language and printing it, first in Prague, and then in Vilno. Scaryna's Belarusian Bible was the second work printed in his native Slavonic language. He wrote little whilst translating the Bible, but in the fashion of the day he hinted much, particularly in his superb engravings. Scaryna was also skilled in the art of heraldry. Like other translators at that time, he wanted «to make knowledge available to people in their own language». He said, «I vow the Belarusian language will become a language of books, and not only of speech».

At the beginning of 1520 Scaryna went to Vilno where he founded the first printing-house. In 1522 he published «The Small Travelling Book» («Малая падарожная кніжыца») and in 1525 – «The Apostole».

Unfortunately, we know very little about the last years of Scaryna's life. It is only known that in 1530 Scaryna was a private secretary and a family doctor of the bishop of Vilno. In 1535 Scaryna again went to Prague where he worked as a Gardener Royal to Ferdinand I Hapsburg, King of Bohemia and later Holy Roman Emperor. It is supposed that Scaryna died in 1541.

In the centre of Polotsk you can see a monument to Francisk Scaryna. There is Scaryna's square in Minsk and the main street of the city is named after him. Minsk is the seat of the international Francisk Scaryna Belarusian Language So-

ciety, and the libraries of the city hold a number of rare volumes of his printed works.

«Scaryna is without doubt the most outstanding figure in the entire panoply of Belarusian culture» wrote Prof. A.B.McMillan.

Ex. 19 Comprehension check. Choose the best alternative. According to the text:

- 1 Doctor Franzisk Scaryna was
 - a) the first person who started to write in the Belarusian language;
 - b) the first translator and printer of the Bible in the Belarusian language;
 - c) the first who translated all religious books into the Belarusian language.
- 2 Scaryna's engravings illustrating the Bible were
 - a) metaphorical;
 - b) very simple;
 - c) undecipherable.
- 3 Dr. Scaryna was born into
 - a) a family of a wealthy merchant in the old Belarusian city of Polotsk in 1490;
 - b) a family of a wealthy bishop in the old Belarusian city of Brest in 1490;
 - c) a family of a poor merchant in the old Belarusian city of Polotsk in 1490.
- 4 After finishing his education in his native town he
 - a) began to work as a translator and printer;
 - b) continued to study at Krakow University;
 - c) went to live in Vilno.
- 5 He graduated from the University of Krakow
 - a) with the Doctor's degree in medicine;
 - b) with the Bachelor's degree in philosophy;
 - c) with the Bachelor's degree in arts.
- 6 Scaryna began his publishing activity
 - a) in Padua in 1517;
 - b) in Polotsk in 1915;
 - c) in Prague in 1517.
- 7 The most important of his achievements was
 - a) the translation of the Bible into Belarusian and its publication;
 - b) the publication of 19 books under the common title «The Russian Bible»;
 - c) the foundation of the printing-house.
- 8 Scaryna printed the books in the Belarusian language because

- a) he wanted to make Belarusian an international language;
 - b) he wanted to make knowledge available to people in their own language;
 - c) Belarusian was an international language at that time.
- 9 While living in Vilno in 1520 Scaryna
 - a) opened a new school for Belarusian children
 - b) founded the first printing-house;
 - c) printed some new books in English.
 - 10 Later on Scaryna
 - a) founded the first Belarusian school;
 - b) worked as a teacher in one of the schools of Vilno;
 - c) was a secretary and a family doctor of Vilno's bishop.

11 When Scaryna came to Prague in 1535 he

- a) was invited to work in the town's hospital;
- b) worked in the king's botanical garden;
- c) founded a new printing-house.

Ex. 20 Work in groups. Find out from your partners:

- when and where F.Scaryna was born;
- what education he got;
- why Francisk Scaryna printed his books in Belarusian;
- what they know about the last years of Scaryna's life;
- why Prof. McMillan considered Scaryna the most outstanding figure in Belarusian culture.

Ex. 21 Prove that:

- Francisk Scaryna was an educated man;
- Scaryna is greatly respected by Belarusian people.

2 Geographical position of Belarus

2.1 Topical Vocabulary

homeland n. – отечество, родина
 sovereign a. – суверенный, независимый
 independent a. – независимый, самостоятельный
 state emblem – государственный герб
 anthem n. – гимн
 extreme a. – самый

plain n. – равнина
 within the basin – в бассейне (реки)
 to stretch v. – иметь протяжение, простираться, тянуться
 rolling a. – холмистый
 particularly adv. – особенно, в особенности
 numerous a. – многочисленный
 depth n. – глубина
 transparent a. – прозрачный
 scenery n. – пейзаж
 aurochs n. – зубр
 diverse a. – разнообразный, разный
 elk n. – лось
 deer n. – олень(олени)
 wild boar n. – кабан
 beaver n. – бобр
 lynx n. – рысь
 myriad n. – мириады, несметное число
 mighty a. – могущественный, мощный
 grove n. – роща
 maritime a. – морской, приморский
 heritage n. – наследство, наследие
 officially adv. – официально
 CIS – СНГ (Содружество Независимых Государств)
 founder-member n. – государство-основатель
 to be noted for v. – примечательный (чем-то)
 temperate a. – умеренный (о климате)
 unique a. – уникальный

Ex. 22 Read the text and get ready to speak about the geographical position of Belarus.

Belarus is my homeland. Officially it is called the Republic of Belarus, a sovereign independent state with its own government, constitution, state emblem, flag and anthem. Belarus is a member-state of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and one of the UN (United Nations) founder-members.

Belarus is situated nearly in the centre of Europe in the extreme western part of the East-European Plain within the basins of the Dnieper, the Western Dvina and the Upper Neman. It borders on Poland in the west, the Baltic States – Lithuania and Latvia – in the north-west, on Russia in the north and east, on the Ukraine in the south.

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Belarus stretches for 560 kilometres from south to north and for 650 kilometres from east to west. It occupies the territory of 207.6 thousand square kilometres. It is much larger than such countries as Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Portugal. Czech Republic and Slovakia. Its present-day population is about 10.3 mln people: 78% of Belarusians, 12% of Russians, 4% of Poles and 2% of Ukrainians. 68% of the population live in towns and cities. The largest of which are Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk, Mogilev, Grodno and Brest.

Belarus is situated on a rolling plain rising to hills, the highest of which is Mount Dzerzhinskaya (350 metres high).

There are more than 3,000 rivers in Belarus. The Dnieper, Neman, Western Dvina. Pripyat, Berezina, Sozh and Viliya are more than 500 kilometres long each.

Belarus is a lake-country. There are about 10,800 lakes here. The lakes are particularly numerous in the North. The largest is Lake Naroch – 80 square kilometres. The lakes are noted for their great depth, transparent water and beautiful scenery.

A third of Belarus is under forest. The largest forests are called pushchas. The Belovezhskaya Pushcha is famous for its aurochs (European bison). Fauna is rich and diverse there: one can see elks and deer, wild boars and wolves, bears and foxes, beavers and lynxes, not mentioning myriads of birds.

Forests, pinewoods, mighty oak groves, birch groves and all sorts of other mixed forest formations are the charm, wealth and pride of our homeland.

Belarus is situated in the Temperate Zone of 200-500 kilometres away from the Baltic Sea. The climate of Belarus varies from maritime to continental due to a strong influence of the Atlantic. This results in temperate and mild climate.

The territory of Belarus is divided into 6 regions: Brest. Vitebsk. Gomel. Grodno. Minsk, and Mogilev. The capital of Belarus is Minsk with a population of about 2 mln people.

By the way. Belarus is a country of unique history and rich cultural heritage. It is an interesting region from the tourist point of view.

Ex. 23 Find the following sentences in the text.

1 Официально она называется Республика Беларусь. Это суверенное независимое государство, со своим правительством, конституцией, государственным гербом, флагом и гимном.

2 Беларусь находится почти в центре Европы, в самой западной части Восточно-Европейской равнины в бассейне Днепра, Западной Двины и верхнего течения Немана.

3 Озёра примечательны своей глубиной, прозрачностью вод и красотой пейзажей.

Установа адукацый
 "Гомельскі дзяржаўны ўніверсітэт
 імя Францыска Скарыны"
БІБЛІЯТЭКА

17

4 Леса, сосновые боры, дубравы с могучими дубами, берёзовые рощи и все виды смешанных лесов являются очарованием, богатством и гордостью нашей Родины.

5 Беларусь – страна с уникальной историей и богатым культурным наследием. Она интересна и с туристической точки зрения.

Ex. 24 Fill in the gaps with the words and expressions from the text.

1. Belarus is my ... 2. Belarus ... for 560 kilometres from ... to ... and for 650 kilometres from ... to ... 3. The lakes are ... in the North. 4. The largest forests are called ... 5. The Belovezhskaya Pushcha is famous for its ... 6. The climate of Belarus varies from ... to ... due to a strong ... of the Atlantic.

Ex. 25 Finish up the sentences using the given variants.

- 1 Belarus is a member-state of
 - a) the CIS.
 - b) the NATO.
 - c) the UNESCO.
- 2 Its present-day population is
 - a) about 260 million people.
 - b) about 10.3 million people.
 - c) over 1.5 million people.
- 3 The highest mountain is Mt.Dzerzhinskaya reaching
 - a) 978 metres above sea level.
 - b) 3210 metres above sea level.
 - c) 350 metres above sea level.
- 4 Belarus is situated in the Temperate Zone of 200-500 kilometres away from
 - a) the Atlantic Ocean.
 - b) the Baltic Sea.
 - c) the Black Sea.

Ex. 26 Answer the questions.

- 1 Is Belarus a member of the UNO?
- 2 What countries does Belarus border on?
- 3 Is Belarus a large country?
- 4 What are the largest rivers and lakes?
- 5 Why are our forests the charm, wealth and the pride of our homeland?
- 6 How many regions is Belarus divided into?

Ex. 27 Split the text into parts and think up appropriate titles

Ex. 28 Put the following points into the order while looking through the text. See if this outline fully reflects the contents of the text

- 1 The climate of Belarus.
- 2 A sovereign, independent state.
- 3 The size and population of Belarus.
- 4 The forests of Belarus.
- 5 Rivers and lakes.
- 6 The geographical position of Belarus.

Ex. 29 Make a retelling of the text paying special attention to the points of your plan

- 1 The geographical position of Belarus.
- 2 The population of Belarus.
- 3 The climate of Belarus.

Ex. 30 Scan this passage to find information about these things:

- State flag
- The highest executive power
- The Parliament
- The Prime Minister

Belarus is a presidential republic. In 1991 Belarus became an independent state with its own government, constitution, state emblem and flag. A state flag has 2 horizontal stripes. The upper stripe is of red colour, the lower one is green. There is also a vertical national red ornament against the white background. The red colour of the flag symbolizes the sun, without which our life on the Earth is impossible. The ancient associated red colour with beauty. The tradition to use green colour has its deep roots. It's a symbol of our land full of green woods and meadows. It is the colour of life and nature. The white colour of the national ornament's background is a symbol of purity and freedom. It reflects the name of our country "Belarus" that means "White Rus".

The highest executive power is vested in a President elected for a five-year term. The Parliament – National Assembly – is a representative and legislative body of the Republic of Belarus. The Parliament consists of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Soviet of the Republic. The executive power is performed by a Council of Ministers headed by a premier. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President. Officially it is called the Republic of Belarus. It is a member-state of the Commonwealth of Independent States and it also performs

the duties of a member of the United Nations Organization. Belarus participates in the work of more than 70 international organizations of the UN system on problems of political, economic, scientific, social life, human rights. Belarus takes an active part in the life of the world Community and stands for the international co-operation. Our country uses every opportunity to tell the people of the world about the disaster that Chernobyl brought to our people.

The judicial power in the republic is performed by courts. Control over the constitutional compliance of normative acts in the country is fulfilled by the Constitutional Court. Supervision of the exact and uniform execution of laws by all bodies of state management, local councils and other legal, and also physical persons is carried out by the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Belarus.

Ex. 31 Read the following text about Minsk and pick out the facts illustrating that this modern city is the capital of our great country

MINSK – THE CAPITAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

More than 2000 years ago on the banks of the Nemiga and Svisloch rivers came into existence the city of Minsk or Mensk as it was called before. The name of the city is believed to be associated with the river Menka that flowed into lake Ptych not far from the city – But the legends say that the city derives its name from the word «mena» as in the ancient times there was a barter market on the right bank of the river Svisloch. Mensk was first mentioned in a chronicle in 1067. In the 12th century Mensk became the centre of the independent principality. In the late 13th century the principality of Mensk became part of the Great Duchy of Lithuania.

The 14th-15th centuries were very important in the life of Mensk and its inhabitants. It was the period when the Belarusian nation was formed with its national language and culture. In the middle of the 16th century the Lithuania Princes united with the Polish Kingdom and formed a joined State Rzecz Pospolita. It was at that period when Mensk, was renamed into Minsk. Till the 18th century the Belarusian people were placed in bondage to Polish feudal lords who exploited them cruelly.

In the 18th century (1793) Belarus was annexed by Russia. It was turned into a province with Minsk as its centre. In 1812 the Napoleon troops burnt the city. In the 20th century the foreign invaders not once occupied the Belarusian capital: in 1918 it was occupied by Germany; in 1919-1920 by Poland.

During the World War II our capital was almost completely destroyed by the fascist invaders. We can say that in the post-war years it was rebuilt anew. This year we are going to celebrate 936th anniversary.

At present Minsk is the capital of the Republic of Belarus which is an independent state with its own state symbols, Parliament and President. It's a big growing city with the population of about 2 million. It occupies an area of 200 square kilometres.

Every visitor admires the city with its beautiful buildings, wide streets and avenues, green parks and fine monuments. Minsk is also a big traffic centre with a large network of roads, railways, airlines and two Metro lines.

It goes without saying that Minsk is an industrial centre of Belarus. There are hundreds of plants and factories in the city which produce various goods. Tractors and lorries, motorcycles and bicycles, TV-sets and watches, refrigerators and computers, textile and footwear are manufactured here. Our Belarus tractors and MAZ trucks enjoy a high reputation both in our country and abroad.

Minsk is also known as a city of science and students. There are many state and commercial institutions which train specialists in different fields of economy and social life.

The cultural life of the Belarusian capital is varied and very interesting. In Minsk there are many museums and exhibitions, a number of theatres and concert halls, a circus and dozens of cinemas, libraries and clubs. The leading theatres here are the Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Yanka Kupala State Academic Theatre and the Gorky Russian Drama Theatre which are extremely popular with the public.

Minsk is a Hero-City. It was honoured with the title in 1974 for the courage and heroism displayed by its residents during the World War II.

The inhabitants of Minsk and all the Belarusians love their capital. It is attractive in every season of the year.

Ex. 32 Answer the questions

- 1 How old is Minsk?
- 2 What is the past of the capital of the Republic of Belarus?
- 3 Where is Minsk located?
- 4 The Belarusian capital suffered a lot during the Great Patriotic War, didn't it?
- 5 What goods are manufactured by the industrial enterprises of Minsk?
- 6 What countries does the city cooperate with?
- 7 What are the main sights of Minsk?
- 8 Do you like to go to the theatres of Minsk? Which of them is the most popular with the public?

Ex. 33 Read the text "Gomel". Consult the dictionary if necessary

GOMEL

Towns and cities, as well as people, have their own name, biography, appearance. Gomel is not an exception. It is rightfully called the oldest city of Belarus. Convenient location on the bank of the river Sozh has attracted people since early times. The city took its rise at the seat of one of the Eastern Slavic tribes – Radimichi.

Gomel was first mentioned in historical sources in 1142 (Ipatiev chronicles). However, archeological researches proved that the settlement of Radimichi (one of the Slavic tribes) was established on the bank of the river Sozh at the end of the first millennium A.D. Favourable geographic position was the main cause of the battle for Gomel. The city's destiny was closely connected with the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Rech Pospolitaya. In 1772 Gomel became part of the Russian Empire. In 1775 «Gomel township» was given to the distinguished Russian field-marshal general P. A. Roumyantsev-Zadounaisky, as a gift from the Empress Catherine II. The masonry palace was built and it became a magnificent monument of Russian classicism and a distinctive visiting card of modern Gomel. Gomel acquired the features of a European-type city. A system of radial location of main streets was introduced. Peter and Paul's Cathedral and other public buildings were built at that time. Gomel was an estate of Paskevich dukes from 1834 to 1917. During their ownership the palace and park ensemble were improved, the park was formed.

Events of the XX century left their traces in the life of the city. During the Great Patriotic War (1941-1943) the city was occupied by Nazi troops and completely destroyed. During the postwar years Gomel was being quickly rehabilitated, the city area and population grew up. But it still preserves memories of those past years.

Today Gomel is the second city in the Republic of Belarus by its significance. The city population is more than 500 thousand people. The enterprises of agricultural engineering, machine-tool industry, instrument engineering, forestry, woodworking, light and food industries are working effectively. The biggest enterprises of the city are as follows: Production Group «Gomselmash» (manufacturer of grain-harvesting and fodder-chopping agricultural machines), JSC «Gomelsteklo» (manufacturer of glass and glassware), JSC «Gomeldrev» (manufacturer of cabinet and room furniture), Production Group «Crystal» (diamond-cutting enterprise), Production Group «Belarusneft» (oil prospecting and recovery enterprise), etc. Many private sector enterprises are working successfully.

Gomel is in the course of constant construction. New dwelling houses, projects of industrial and social implication are being built. Bus and trolley-bus routes interconnect the micro-districts of the regional centre.

Gomel is one of the biggest educational centers in Belarus. There are institutions of higher education, specialized technical schools, professional schools and secondary schools in the city now. City students and professionals have a good chance to update their knowledge in different areas.

Gomel is a city of sports. Different sports are well-developed here and the sportsmen of high international level bring fame and glory to the city at national and world competitions. People who are keen on sports can use stadiums, pools, a Palace for sport games and an Ice Palace of sports, a riding-hall, a track-and-field hall, and gyms.

Gomel is a cultural center of Belarus as well. The city now has a regional drama theater, a puppet children's theater and a youth experimental studio-theater, not to mention several cinemas. In six exhibition halls there are dozens of shows to meet everybody's taste. People who visit the regional museum of ethnography, which sites in the Roumyantsev and Paskevich palace, learn about the history of the city and its park and palace ensemble.

Ex. 34 Finish up the sentences:

- 1 Gomel stands on
- 2 It was first mentioned
- 3 Archeological researches proved that
- 4 The city's destiny was closely
- 5 In 1772... And in 1775
- 6 During the Great Patriotic war
- 7 After the war
- 8 Now the city population is
- 9 Gomel industry includes
- 10 Gomel enterprises produce
- 11 Gomel is a big educational centre because
- 12 Different sports
- 13 People who are keen on sports
- 14 Gomel is a cultural center of Belarus because it is called

Ex. 35 Ask questions about

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| - location | - institutions, schools |
| - history | - sport |
| - people | - cultural life |
| - buildings, streets, districts | - transport |
| - famous historic figures | - enterprises |

Ex. 36 Make a short retelling of the text.

3 Science, economy, industry and agriculture

Ex. 37 Read the text and be ready to describe the achievements of our country in science, economy, industry and agriculture

The Republic of Belarus possesses significant scientific and technical potential, aimed at solving major social and economic problems, fundamental research and development. The opening of the Belarusian State University (Minsk) in 1921 became an important step in the development of Belarusian science. In 1929 the Academy of Sciences of Belarus which is comprised of 49 institutes was founded. Nowadays fundamental and applied research is conducted by 44 thousand scientific and technical workers. More than a thousand of them have doctor's degrees, almost 14 thousands are candidates of sciences. The achievements of Belarusian scientists in the fields of mathematics, physics, nuclear power, chemistry, biology, and microelectronics, computer science, in agriculture, ecology and environmental protection have gained international recognition. The financial backing of fundamental and applied research is achieved both at the expense of budget subsidies, and also on a contractual basis.

The system of education in Belarus, is the basic source for increase in intellectual, cultural, scientific and personnel potential. Of every 10 thousand people in the Republic of Belarus, 180 are students. For every thousand people engaged in the national economy there are 331 specialists with higher and secondary special education.

Industrial production makes up 31.6% of gross production in the economy of Belarus. By virtue of its specialization within the framework of the former USSR, Belarus has succeeded in industrial development of such branches as motor industry; manufacture of tractors and agricultural engineering, machine-tool industry and manufacture of bearings, electronics and electro technical industry, manufacture and refining of petroleum, mining, manufacture of synthetic fibers, mineral fertilizers, radio engineering products, pharmaceutical industry, manufacture of construction materials, light industry and food-processing industry.

Agriculture produces more than 11% of the gross national product of the country. A large part of agricultural production is made by large agricultural enterprises. The Republic of Belarus develops private farms.

Favorable natural conditions of the Republic of Belarus allow it to produce such highly profitable commodities as milk, beef, pork, poultry meat, eggs, grain, potatoes, fiber flax, sugar beets, etc. The grain sector is mainly presented by rye, wheat, barley, oats. Today the structure of the cultivated area in the Re-

public of Belarus is changing in view of the developing market supply and demand for appropriate types of foodstuffs.

The basic purpose of the national agrarian policy is increasing its agricultural efficiency, forming a competitive agrarian market, supporting foodstuffs manufacturers' profits, maintaining a steady supply to the population of high-quality foodstuffs, the maximum utilization of the export potential of the agrarian sector, and also re-structuring the agriculture. The leadership of the country has created genuine preconditions for organizing a competitive agrarian market.

4 Welcome to Belarus National traditions and holidays

Ex. 38 Read the text and be ready to discuss it

Belarus. If translated, the name means «White Russia», a tender and poetic name that befits this country in the best way. Belarus is a country of modest and intelligent beauty. Its quiet charm penetrates into a traveler's soul gradually, through a soft play of the morning sky over the vague horizon line, through the velvet verdure of the vast expanses of the fields, through the overpowering balmy air of a century-old pine-forest, through the tender mooing of cows and sad cries of cranes. The slipping-away beauty of Belarus does not expose itself to everyone. For this you have to stop and feel the surrounding world: try to look into the blue eyes of Belarus, its deep lakes until you feel dizzy, dip your hands into icy waters of a ringing brook, hide from warm rain under a shaggy branch of a spruce... Perhaps, this is one of the few remaining places on our planet where one can see the amazing miracle – the miracle of the untouched nature. In Belarus nature remains real, people remain human and values remain eternal. Belarus is an island of calmness in the swirl of seething time, a place of wise harmony of the body and soul.

The best way to estimate wood resources of Belarus is to have a look at them through a bird's eye. From above it becomes quite obvious that more than a third of the country's territory seems to be covered with a green blanket. Major forest areas of Europe have been preserved here. They are a real treasure, which is rightfully referred to as «the green gold». The most famous national park is the Belovezhskaya Puscha forest reserve in which a reserve-typical mode of life was introduced as early as the beginning of the XV century! Thanks to these measures oaks aged 300 to 700 years, 450-year-old ash-trees and 220-year-old pine-trees have been preserved here. Here you can see meadows, woods and rivers in a state that could only be preserved without man's interference – powerful, crystal-clear and beautiful. And you will, certainly, be particularly impressed meeting a European bison – an animal that has become the symbol of Belarus.

From ancient times Belarus is called «Lakeland» and it is quite justified: there are 11,000 lakes and 20,000 rivers and brooks in the country. Blue, deep blue and almost black mirrors of lakes are either hidden in forest thickets or glimmer joyfully amidst meadows... Lakes are the eyes of Belarus, that is why the country is sometimes referred to as «the blue-eyed» Belarus. The most precious jewel in the nature crown of Belarus is the National park «Braslav lakes».

The name «Naroch» is well-known not only to every Belarusian but also far beyond the boundaries of the country – the unique beauty of the place and its soft climate has made the Naroch region a most favoured of all the Belarusian holiday resorts.

The historical paradox is that Belarusians are one of the most peace-loving nations in the world. Tolerance is their inalienable quality. Due to its geographical position Belarus has always been the battle arena where stronger neighbors clashed. Tiffs of feudal lords, forced introduction of Christianity, raids of crusaders, Mongols and Tatars, inclusion into the Great Lithuanian Principality, then into Rzeczpospolita and finally into the Russian Empire – Belarusian land remembers thousands of bloody battles, fierce fights and wars. And now... Formidable kings and invaders are part of history. Only ancient castles and palaces remind us about the stormy past of Belarus. Some of them are being actively restored – for instance, the castle of Mir, where, as the legends say, uncountable treasures wait to be recovered. But, perhaps, the strongest impression would be left by the castles and palaces that have not been touched by restorers: Khrevo, Golshany, Smoliany, Ruzhany... Formidable and stately ruins covered with the dust of centuries seem to be still living in their times. Touch those gray stones and feel the rhythmic, never interrupting pulse of history.

Ex. 39 Find the following sentences in the text:

- 1 Беларусь страна скромной, интеллигентной красоты.
- 2 Может быть, это одно из немногих оставшихся на нашей планете мест, где можно увидеть поразительное чудо – чудо нетронутой природы.
- 3 Беларусь – островок спокойствия в вихре бурлящего времени, место мудрой гармонии души и тела.
- 4 Здесь сохранились крупнейшие в Европе лесные массивы.
- 5 И, конечно, незабываемые впечатления дарит встреча с зубром, ставшим символом Беларуси.
- 6 Беларусь издавна называют озерным краем.
- 7 Исторический парадокс: белорусы – одна из самых миролюбивых наций в Европе.
- 8 Грозные короли и завоеватели канули в вечность.

9 Грозные и величественные развалины, покрытые пылью веков, кажутся, все еще живут в своем времени.

Ex. 40 Comprehension check. Choose the best alternative according to the text:

- 1 Its quiet charm penetrates into
 - a) a traveler's soul
 - b) a traveler's mind
 - c) a traveler's heart
- 2 The slipping-away beauty of Belarus does not expose itself to
 - a) neighbours
 - b) enemies
 - c) everyone.
- 3 In Belarus nature remains real, people remain
 - a) real
 - b) human
 - c) eternal.
- 4 A third of the country's territory seems to be covered with
 - a) beautiful lakes
 - b) a green blanket
 - c) deserts
- 5 Tiffs of feudal lords, forced inclusion into
 - a) the Great Lithuanian Principality
 - b) European community
 - c) the Ukraine.

Ex. 41 Comment on:

- 1 Belarus is a country of modest and intelligent beauty.
- 2 In Belarus nature remains real
- 3 Belarus is called «Lakeland»
- 4 Belarusian land remembers thousands of bloody battles

Supplementary reading

Ex. 42 Read the text and get ready to speak about the holidays in Belarus:

In spite of the fact that Christianity has existed in Belarus for more than ten centuries, ancient rituals and traditions associated with pagan times continue to live within the nation. Even now huge boulders with strange pictures on them are found in remote corners and forest thickets of the country. They were worshiped by Belarusian pagans. Yet the most surprising thing is that some of the traces of sacrifices made in those places are related to the present day!

Paganism is still present in popular festivals. The most colorful of them are Kalyady and Kupalle. Kalyady is actually the celebration of the New Year as per old calendar (prior to 1917) on the night of January 13-14. Traditionally, some people dress to look like animals or fiction creatures, and then noisy companies, holding the depiction of the sun and a nanny-goat's head, begin visiting houses one after another singing original Kalyady songs: in return people give them food from their tables and sometimes money. Kupalle is the most mysterious of all Belarusian festivals. It is celebrated on the night from 6 to 7 of July. According to popular legends that have existed for thousands of years, a flower of a fern unfolds on the Kupala midnight and the one who finds it will be eternally young and happy. And that person will know the future. On that night young people set off for the forest with a naive, yet romantic hope to pick up this miraculous flower. In the meantime girls make wreaths and let them drift down river streams trying to find out their destiny and marital future. Besides, they move on a round dance and jump over the fire competing in their deftness. It's an amazingly wonderful and ancient pagan festival. The Kupala night is the darkest one in the year. One step away from the fire and you plunge into absolute night and stars. But what is that little flame glimmering in the depth of the forest?

Is it really a fern flower?

Ex. 43 Look through the text paying attention to the underlined words. Find their Russian equivalents:

Мерцающий, языческие времена, цветок папоротника, следы жертвоприношений, им поклонялись, древние обряды, огромные валуны, отдаленные уголки, чудо-цветок, ловкость, фантастические существа, загадочный.

Ex. 44 Put in the right prepositions where necessary:

1. As ... Orthodox Christians and the old calendar, the mysterious time ... the year comes ... a bit later – it continues ... January, 7 ... January, 19. 2. ... Russia, all ... these days and nights ... Christmas ... Epiphany are called «Svyatki» (Sacred Evenings) and ... Belarus - «Kalyady». 3. ... «Kalyady», groups ... merry young boys and girls ... smart clothes go ... house ... house ... Belarusian villages and towns. 4. ... many countries ... the world, people have carnivals and masquerades to see the New Year ... 5. The pagan holiday ... «Kalyady» coincided later ... Christmas, which was celebrated ... Christians. 6. The main purpose ... «Kalyady» is to get rid ... everything bad ... one's life and to begin a new life cycle ... joy and optimism.

Ex. 45 Choose a word from the box to put into each gap:

1. «Kupalle» is one of the ... holidays in Belarus. 2. People want ... the forces of evil. 3. It is the best time to gather ... for ... and ... 4. Girls ... coronets. 5. On «Kupalle» people ... for a magic ... flower. 6. As the old legend says this flower ... only once a year, on «Kupalle».

herbs, legends, search, love potions, to defeat, fern, blossoms, medicine, weave, mysterious

Ex. 46 Fill in the table.

Subject	Kalyady	Kupalle
Dates		
Masks		
Music		
Purpose		

Ex. 47 Prove that Kalyady and Kupalle are mysterious holidays. Use the following expressions in your story:

As it is known ..., according to one of the legends ..., the old legends say ..., we must admit that ..., it's great that ...

Unit Two THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 2 London – the heart of the UK
- 3 British holidays, traditions and customs

1 The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Ex. 1 a) Look through these words and make sure you know them.

to refer to	to govern	pottery
to be composed of	craftsmanship	division
to comprise	aircraft engines	swift
to extend	commercial vehicles	judiciary
to be separated from	precision	hereditary
to be famed by	instruments	justly
to account for	tributary	Commonwealth
to make advances	machinery	Lords Spiritual
to elect	archbishops	Lord Chancellor
to assist	bishops	

b) Make up your own sentences with these words and memorise them.

Ex. 2 Read the following text and try to remember all the new information.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) occupies most of the territory of the British Isles. It consists of four main parts which are: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capitals are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the official name of the state which is sometimes referred to as Great Britain or Britain (after its major isle), England (after its major historic part) or the British Isles.

The UK is one of the world's smallest countries (it is twice smaller than France or Spain), with an area of some 244,100 square kilometres. The UK is situated off the west coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the north-west and the North Sea on the east and is separated from the European continent by the English Channel (or La Manche) and the Strait of Dover (or Pas de Calais).

The population of the United Kingdom is over 57 million people. There are fourteen other countries in the world with more people. English is not the only language which people use in the UK. English is the official language. But some people speak Gaelic in Scotland, Welsh – in parts of northern and central Wales.

The flag of the United Kingdom, known as the Union Jack, is made up of three crosses. The upright red cross is the cross of St. George, the patron saint of England. The white diagonal cross is the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. The red diagonal cross is the cross of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

The UK is an island state: it is composed of some 5,500 islands, large and small. The two main islands are Great Britain (in which are England, Wales and Scotland) to the east and Ireland (in which are Northern Ireland and the independent Irish Republic) to the west. They are separated by the Irish Sea.

Geographically, the island of Great Britain is subdivided into two main regions – Lowland Britain and Highland Britain. Lowland Britain comprises southern and eastern England. Highland Britain consists of Scotland, most of Wales, the Pennines, and the Lake District. The Pennine Chain extends southward from the Cheviot Hills into the Midlands, a plains region with low hills and valleys. England is separated from Scotland by the Cheviot Hills, running from east to west.

The chief rivers of Great Britain are: the Severn, flowing along the border between England and Wales, tributaries of which include the Avon, famed by Shakespeare; the Thames, which flows eastward to the port of London; the swiftest flowing river in the British Isles is the Spey. Part of the border between Scotland and England is along the lower reaches of the Tweed, near which is made the woollen fabric that bears its name.

There are many lakes in Great Britain. On the north-west side of the Pennine system lies the Lake District, containing the beautiful lakes which give it its name. This district is widely known for its association with the history of English literature and especially with the name of William Wordsworth (1770-1859), the founder of the Lake School of poets.

The largest cities of Great Britain are: London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds, Edinburgh. The most important ports are: London, Liverpool, Southampton, Belfast, Glasgow and Cardiff.

Britain is the world's third largest trading nation, accounting for about 11 per cent of international trade in manufactured goods. Engineering industries produce many leading exports: electrical machinery, cars, tractors and commercial vehicles, bicycles and precision instruments of many kinds make up nearly half the goods exported. Today, in a new age of modern technology, Britain has made important advances in such new industries as electronics and telecommu-

communications equipment, in aircraft and aircraft engines, in plastics and synthetic materials, radio-isotopes and new drugs – all major exports. At the same time Britain has used traditional craftsmanship to modern methods to continue to produce those items for which she is justly famous, such as pottery, glassware, woollen and leather goods.

Britain is a parliamentary democracy with a Constitutional monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, as the head of the State. The country is governed in the Queen's name by the Government although she performs certain important acts of government on the advice of her ministers. The Queen is also the head of the Commonwealth, and the head of State in 14 of its 41 member countries. Parliament consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons, together with the Queen in her constitutional role. The division of Parliament into two houses goes back over some 700 years when a feudal assembly assisted the King. **The House of Commons** plays the major part in law-making and consists of 635 elected members of Parliament (MPs), each representing an area in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Its leader is the Prime Minister. **The House of Lords** is made up of more than 1000 hereditary and life peers and peeresses, lords and the Lords Spiritual (two archbishops and 24 bishops of the Church of England). The House is presided over by the Lord Chancellor who is head of the judiciary in England and Wales.

Ex. 3 Using the map, try to find the main geographical features of the British Isles.

Ex. 4 Ask your partner as many questions as you can about the UK's:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| - main parts | - main cities |
| - territory | - government |
| - geographical position | - flag and languages |
| - landscape | - industries |

Ex. 5 Finish up the following sentences:

- 1 The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) occupies
- 2 It consists of
- 3 Britain is a parliamentary democracy
- 4 Parliament
- 5 The UK is one of the world's
- 6 The population
- 7 The UK is an island state
- 8 The island of Great Britain is subdivided

- 9 England is separated
- 10 The chief rivers of Great Britain
- 11 On the north-west side of the Pennine system
- 12 The largest cities of Great Britain are:
- 13 Britain is the world's third
- 14 Today,

Ex. 6 Read this brief information about different parts of the UK, answer the questions and speak about their most distinctive features.

England

Of the four parts which make up Great Britain **England** is the largest, the industrial and most densely populated part of the United Kingdom. Over 46 million people of the population of the UK live in England.

The greatest concentrations of population are in London, Birmingham and northwest industrial cities. The coasts of England are washed by the North Sea, the Irish Sea, the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. No part of England is more than 120 kilometres from the sea. It is interesting to note that the sea has been important in the history of England. It was a good protection against the attacks of outside peoples. Fishing has always been an important industry, especially in the east. The sea also has a great effect on England's climate. There are many rivers in England. The longest and the most important is the Thames. The rivers are of great importance for communication and especially for carrying goods.

The Lake District in Northern England with its lakes, mountains and valleys is a favorite holiday area. On either side of the Pennines the plains of Yorkshire and Lancashire stretch to the sea. In Yorkshire swift rivers flow down from the hills into valleys called 'dales'.

The wool industry is centered in Leeds and Bradford, the cotton industry in Manchester, iron ore goes to the steel, heavy machinery and shipbuilding industries of Newcastle and other cities. The industries of the Midlands, with Birmingham as its chief city, produce metal goods, from motor cars and railway engines to pins and buttons. The Midland plain makes good farm land.

densely populated - густонаселённый

dales- долины

- 1 What is the population of England?
- 2 What is England washed by?
- 3 Why is the sea very important in England's history?
- 4 What are the main England's industries and where are they centered?

Scotland

Although **Scotland** takes up one third of the territory of the British Isles, its population is not very big. It is the most northern part of the island of Great Britain and is not far away from the Arctic Circle. That's why it is not densely populated: its population is a little over 5 million people.

The Cheviot Hills mark the boundary between England and Scotland. Apart from this land link with England, Scotland is surrounded by sea. Scotland includes the Hebrides off the west coast, and the Orkney and Shetland Islands off the north coast. It is bounded by the North Sea on the east.

Scotland is divided into three regions: the Highlands, which is the most northern and the most underpopulated area with a harsh climate, the Lowlands, which is the most industrial region, with about three quarters of the population, and the Southern Uplands, with hills, which border on England.

The Highlands of Scotland are among the oldest mountains in the world. They reach their highest point in Ben Nevis (1343m). Many valleys between the hills are filled with lakes, called lochs. The best-known is Loch Ness where some people think a large monster lives. The most important city here is Aberdeen which is the oil center of Scotland.

Most of the population of Scotland is concentrated in the Lowlands. Here, on the Clyde, is Glasgow, the Scotland's biggest city. Shipbuilding is one of its most important industries, other industries are iron and steel, heavy and light engineering and coal-mining.

Scotland had been an independent state and was joined into the UK in 1707, after a long struggle for its independence.

One of the things that people associate with Scotland is the kilt. The kilt is a relic of the time when the clan system existed in the Highlands. Everybody in the clan had the same family name, like MacDonald or MacGregor (Mac means 'son of'). The clan had its own territory and was ruled by a chieftain. Each clan had its own tartan. In the 1400s James III of Scotland made the thistle his royal emblem and now it is the emblem of Scotland.

a harsh climate – суровый климат
tartan – клетчатая шерстяная материя
thistle – чертополох

- 1 Why is the population of Scotland not big?
- 2 What are the main regions of Scotland? Describe them.
- 3 Can you describe the landscape of Scotland?
- 4 When did Scotland joined the UK?
- 5 What things are traditionally associated with Scotland?

Wales

Wales became part of England in 1536 by the Act of Union. Until then it had been regarded as a separate principality but a dependency of England. The Welsh call their country Cymru, and themselves they call Cymry, a word which has the same root as 'comrader' (friend, or comrade). The population of Wales is over 3 million people. About 75 per cent of the people of Wales live in towns and urban districts.

The living standards of people in Wales are lower than in England, the unemployment rate is higher. South Wales has a rich tradition of struggle for more jobs and better working conditions in mines.

Wales is a highland country of old, hard rocks. North Wales is a country of mountains and deep valleys, South Wales is a land of high hills and wide valleys. The pride of Wales in scenery is Snowdonia, a region of high mountains. Snowdon is the highest mountain in England and Wales.

The capital of Wales is Cardiff, the largest city of Wales. It is an important industrial city and a port, an administrative and educational centre. The second largest city in Wales is Swansea where mainly steel production can be found. Since World War II there has been intensive development in the metals industries especially in the south and southeast.

The Welsh people, especially in rural areas, are fond of folk music, singing, poetry and drama. Welsh literature is one of the oldest in Europe. There are many choirs in Wales, the standard of singing is high and the love of good music is widespread. Now there is a growing movement of revival of Welsh culture from which sprang the revival of Eisteddfod. Eisteddfod in the form of a gathering of bards had occasionally been held in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. Now Eisteddfod is a festival of Welsh culture. It includes competitions in prose, poetry and singing. Wales has its own flag called the Welsh dragon.

principality – княжество
dependency – з-д. зависящая страна
revival – возрождение

- 1 What is the unofficial name of Wales?
- 2 Is there unemployment in Wales?
- 3 What can you say about Welsh industry?
- 4 What is Eisteddfod?

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is the smallest component of the United Kingdom. It occupies the northeast of the island of Ireland, only one-sixth of its territory.

Northern Ireland contains six of the nine counties of the historic province of Ulster and that is why the name 'Ulster' is sometimes used as equivalent to Northern Ireland. Its capital city is Belfast.

For seven centuries Ireland was a colony of Britain. As a result of the hard struggle of the Irish people for independence the larger part of Ireland (26 counties) gained the status of a British dominion in 1921. Much later, in 1949 it was officially proclaimed an independent state, the Irish Free State Eire. The industrial northeast was retained by Great Britain as its smallest component. But certain forces of both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland are for the reunification of the country, against social deprivation which is at its worst among Catholics. They believe that British withdrawal from Ireland is the only way to achieve peace.

If one asks an Irishman away from home what he misses most about Ireland, he will probably tell you 'the greenness'. Irish poets put it in a different way when they call Ireland 'the Emerald Isle'. Is the grass really greener in Ireland? The fact is that the winds usually blow in from the Atlantic Ocean and make the air and soil warm and damp. Grass grows well in such a climate and it makes the island look so beautiful.

There are low hills and peaks of rocks in the northwest while the northeast sector of the island is a plateau. The Mourne Mountains in the southeast slope down to Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles. The rivers of Ireland are short, but deep. The largest river is the Shannon.

The population of Northern Ireland is about 1.5 million people. The whole economy of Northern Ireland is closely integrated with that of Great Britain. It has its roots in three basic industries - agriculture, textiles and shipbuilding. The largest industry is agriculture conducted for the most part on small family farms.

Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland is the leading industrial centre and a large port. Its chief industries are the production of linen and other textiles, clothing, shipbuilding, engineering.

reunification - воссоединение
deprivation - зд. лишение прав
withdrawal - выход, уход

- 1 Northern Ireland an independent state?
- 2 What can you say about the landscape of the country?
- 3 Is the grass really greener in Ireland?
- 4 What are the chief industries in Northern Ireland?

Ex. 7 Read the text and say whether the sentences are true or false.

Stonehenge

The circle of stones that can be seen at Stonehenge on the Salisbury Plain in England is one of the oldest and most mysterious monuments in the world. The monument was probably put up between 1800 BC and 1400 BC. When it was completed it consisted of a double circle of stones, with two more groups of stones outside the circles. Many of the stones used in this monument must have been transported over 250 miles to Stonehenge. Single stones, some of them weighing about four tons, must have been sent on rivers and rolled over land on tree trunks. They can't have been carried! The men who moved the stones didn't have wheels or horses. Each stone had to be moved by hand and placed in position. They were fitted together with great technical skill.

There are many theories about the purpose of the stones. Stonehenge was certainly a meeting-place. The stones have been arranged in a particular way to mark sunrise and sunset at certain times during the year. This may have been a place of worship of the sun and also an observatory. One interesting theory suggests that the stones were some kind of computer which was used to predict eclipses of the sun and moon.

- 1 The monument was put up in 1400 BC.
- 2 Stonehenge consisted of a single circle of stones.
- 3 There were two more groups of stones inside the circle.
- 4 Stonehenge was built by hand.
- 5 No one can guess about the purpose of the stones.
- 6 Some people think it some kind of computer.
- 7 The stones used in this monument were not brought from anywhere.
- 8 The stones had been put so as to observe sunrise and sunset.

Ex. 8 Read the text about the Loch Ness Monster and choose the right tense-forms.

Have you seen the Loch Ness Monster?

Thousands of people have reported/reported seeing a large animal in the famous lake called Loch Ness in Scotland. For fourteen centuries people have been trying/were trying to capture it, but perhaps it has been living/is living in the lake even longer. Although local people have always talked/always talked about the mysterious creature, it is only in the last sixty years that there has been/was any evidence that it might exist. In 1933, John McGregor, a local businessman, saw/has seen the lake bubbling and a huge object with two humps came out of the water. Since that day, scientists have been searching/are searching the lake with underwater equipment, trying to find out what kind of animal

lives there. Unfortunately, they haven't managed/didn't manage to find it yet because the lake is so deep and so dark. Tourists from all over the world have visited/visited Loch Ness, hoping to see the monster. They have even given/even gave it a nickname: 'Nessie'. Many people have taken/took photographs of it, although experts have proved/are proving that some of the photos are forgeries. Scientists have suggested/suggested that the Loch Ness monster is a dinosaur which was trapped in the lake during the Ice Age.

Ex. 9 Read the following dialogue and compare some aspects of American and British lives, mentioned here. Do it first in written form and then discuss with a partner.

communicating with people
making friends
everyday life
work
leisure

England as seen by Americans

Terry Tomsha talks about her experience of living and working in England, where she has been for the past eleven years.

I = Interviewer T = Terry

I So, Terry. You've been in this country for quite a long time now. What differences do you notice between the two countries?

T Obviously the biggest difference is the people. The average Englishman is cold and not very open. In the States it's very different. We start conversations with people in the street, in the subway; we're a lot more enthusiastic and spontaneous than people here. You know, when I first came, I couldn't understand why I was getting so little reaction from people, but now I see that they thought I was overpowering and that I was trying to be too friendly too soon.

I But, tell me; does the Englishman improve as you get to know him?

T Oh yes. Once you have made a friend, it's a friend for life, but it takes a very long time. I'll tell you something that I think is very important. An Englishman in America is respected. Everyone wants to talk to him. We're inquisitive, we love his accent and his country. An American though in England is thought to be a little inferior because of his behaviour and his language. One thing I've learned - it's funny now, but it wasn't at the time - I couldn't understand why when I was talking to someone he would move away, you know, move backwards, and I thought 'Do I smell? Am I boring him?' The reason was,

you see, Americans stand closer when they're talking. Again, English people like a certain distance.

I That's true. What about your impressions of living here? How does that compare with the States?

T Well, I think life's a lot easier in the States. It's easier to make money and it's easier to spend it. Shops are open all the time over there. Here you've got to race to reach the supermarket by 5.30. Generally though I find life more inefficient here. If you need an electrician, it takes days to get one, he doesn't do the job very well, the system is so old that he can't get the parts to repair it, and he doesn't care. This leads to another very important point. Americans work a lot harder than you do. To the English their private lives are important, their holidays are important, their gardens are important, their animals are important, but an American wouldn't admit that. For us, our work is the most important thing in our lives. You know, holidays seem to be longer here, people make the most ridiculous excuses not to go to work - 'My dog's got a cold', I heard the other day.

I Oh, come on.

T You have tea breaks that get longer and longer. In that respect we're quite like the Japanese. Our jobs come first, but there are all sorts of services to make life easier around our jobs.

I Well, I take it you have a pretty negative opinion of England.

T You would think so from this interview, wouldn't you? No, in fact I really love it here. I go home once a year and really look forward to coming back here. This is my home now. I find life safer, more relaxed, and much more enjoyable. Maybe I've gotten into English habits! England doesn't have the dramatic beauty of the States, but it is very pretty and charming in a way that I find comforting.

Ex. 10 You are going to read and analyze two articles about British families: one about the changing state of the family and the other about a standard family in the UK.

a) Look at the following statements and analyze them. Discuss them with your partner:

- 1 Marriage is becoming less important to many young people.
- 2 Families are spending less time together.
- 3 The divorce rate is rising.
- 4 More parents are bringing their children up alone without a partner.
- 5 More women are having careers rather than starting families.
- 6 The average family is getting smaller as the birthrate falls.

Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation in Britain

The number of people getting married in Britain has been falling over the past 20 years or so. In 1970, about 400,000 couples were married for the first time. This was down just to over 200,000 first marriages in 1994. In 1995, the last year for which statistics are currently available, there were 322,200 marriages of which over a third were second marriages, most of which followed a divorce.

Britain, where there were 170,000 divorces in 1995, has the highest divorce rate in the European Union. Nearly three quarters of divorces are granted to wives. Men are more likely to remarry, than women.

The divorce rates in Scotland and Northern Ireland are lower than in England and Wales, where there were over 13 divorces per 1,000 married couples in 1995. Cohabitation – an unmarried couple living together – is on the increase. About a quarter of all couples living together are not married. Many couples do get married after living together for a while. About 65% of all couples married in 1993 had cohabited before marriage compared with only 4% of couples first married in 1966.

b) There is, of course, no such thing as the average British family, but statistical data can help us to understand a society and social trends. Every year, official statistics based on questionnaires and surveys are published and these provide a lot of useful information on people's habits. This profile is based on one of their recent publications.

The average British family:

A STEREOTYPE

The average British family lives in a semi-detached house with a garden in the south of England. They own their house, which is situated in the suburbs of a large town. The house has three bedrooms. On average they have two children and a pet. The family drives a two-year-old Ford Cortina.

He works in the office of an engineering company for 40 hours a week and earns £200 per week. He starts at 9.00 in the morning and finishes at 5.30 in the evening. He goes to work by car, which takes him 20 minutes. He doesn't particularly like his job, but there are chances of promotion.

She works in a service industry for three days a week and earns £95. She works locally and goes there by bus. She quite likes her job as it gets her out of the house, she meets people, and it is close to the children's school.

The children go to a state school which is a few miles from home. A special bus comes to pick them up every day. They are at school from 9.00 to 3.30.

The most popular evening entertainment is watching television or video, which the average person does for two and a half hours a day. After that, the next most popular activity is visiting friends, going to the cinema or a restaurant, or going to the pub. The most popular hobby is gardening and the most popular sports are fishing, football and tennis.

c) Ask and answer questions about this family.

Use:

Where?/What?/When?/How?/ How much?/How many?/ Do ... ?/Does ... ?

Example

Q Where does the family live?

A In the south of England.

Q What sort of car do they drive?

A A Ford Cortina.

d) Compare the British family with an average family from your country.

Think of the following:

house/jobs/hours of work/school/transport/entertainment

Example

In my country most people live in flats. School starts at 8.00, not at 9.00, and finishes at 1.00.

Ex. 11 Get ready to speak on the topic "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

Ex 12 Translate into English.

В первом столетии до новой эры и раньше кельтские племена населяли территорию Великобритании. В то время Римская империя была самой могущественной и процветающей страной в мире. В 55 году до нашей эры, после восьмилетней войны с Галлией (Франция), римская армия пересекла Ла-Манш и вторглась на территорию Британии. Кельты отчаянно сражались с захватчиками, и римляне под предводительством одного из величайших полководцев, Юлия Цезаря, вернулись на континент. Второе вторжение Юлия Цезаря в Британию годом позже было более успешным. Однако настоящее завоевание Британии римлянами началось почти столетием позже. Юлий Цезарь первым описал быт и образ жизни людей, населявших юго-восточную часть Великобритании.

В 73 году нашей эры римская армия вторглась на территорию Британии и захватила юго-восточную часть острова. Кельты мужественно

боролись против оккупантов, которым так и не удалось стать хозяевами всего острова. Римляне оставались в Британии в течение четырёх столетий. Римские губернаторы правили провинцией, а римская армия защищала её территорию. Вместе с высокой цивилизацией римляне принесли эксплуатацию и рабство на Британские острова. И хотя римлянам не удалось превратить свободолюбивых кельтов в рабов, они должны были платить высокие налоги и работать на захватчиков. Как только римляне поселились в Британии, они начали строить города, великолепные виллы, мосты и широкие прямые дороги по всей стране. Лондон (Лондиниум в то время) стал крупным торговым центром. Много латинских слов проникло в язык коренных жителей. Римляне научили кельтов многому, чего те не знали. Однако римляне и коренные жители так и не стали одной нацией. Только предводители кельтских племён Юга и Востока стали богатыми, приняли образ жизни завоевателей и разговаривали на латинском языке. Все остальные коренные жители разговаривали на кельтском языке и не понимали языка завоевателей. В начале пятого столетия (407 год н.э.) римские легионы оставили Британию, чтобы защищать центральные провинции Римской империи от врагов, и никогда не вернулись назад. В середине пятого столетия германские племена англов, саксов и ютов с континента захватили Британию. Они разговаривали на языке, который позже учёные назвали древнеанглийским языком.

2 London – the heart of the UK.

Ex. 13 Using a dictionary read and translate the text about London and its sights. Make sure you know the italicized words.

London

London is the capital of the United Kingdom, one of the largest and one of the world's most enjoyable cities. London is the largest conurbation in Europe. Nearly seven million people live in London, and a further million commute every day to work in London. Their city is both the capital of Britain and a major economic centre. It is also one of the world's three great centres of international finance (alongside New York and Tokyo).

A city of contrasts, London's urban part is punctuated by park land and commons¹, not just on its fringes but right in the centre. It contains a mixture of the old and new; the skyline of the City, once outlined by church spires and Wren's great cathedral of St Paul, now also features office blocks from the post-war era. In Docklands the nineteenth century warehouses and wharves, many of which have been converted into high-quality offices or apartments, contrast with new developments, such as One Canada Square at Canary Wharf (244 m) which

is the tallest office building in Europe. So, in this historic city the modern rubs shoulders with the old, the present is ever conscious of the past, the great and the small live side by side in mutual tolerance and respect.

And as a great trading city London has long drawn people from across the world to live and work there. Over one million of London's residents were born outside Britain. The resulting cosmopolitan mix contributes to the diversity of London's arts, culture and entertainments and the vitality of London life.

London is more than 20 centuries old. Its buildings express all the different areas of its history, for London manages in a unique way to reflect its past and at the same time to fulfil the functions of a modern city.

London was not built as a city in the same way as Paris or New York. It began life as a Roman fortification at a place where it was possible to cross the River Thames. A wall was built around the town for defence, but during the long period of peace which followed the Norman Conquest, people built outside the walls. This building continued over the years, especially to the west of the City. In 1665 there was a terrible plague² in London, so many people left the city and escaped to the villages in the surrounding countryside. About 69,000 people succumbed³ to the dread disease. In 1666 the Great Fire of London ended the plague, but it also destroyed much of the city. A destructive fire spread over 340 acres, burning about 15,000 houses.

From these calamities the city recovered with marked rapidity. These days not many people live in the city centre, but London has spread further outwards into the country, including surrounding villages. Today the metropolis of Greater London covers some 700 square miles and the suburbs of London continue even beyond this area.

¹commons – зд. общинная земля

²plague [pleɪɡ] – чума

³succumbed (to a disease) – умереть (от болезни)

Sightseeing in London

London offers the visitors a great variety of places of interest. It's a city of dream to everybody interested in the English history and culture.

World famous places are the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, the Tower of London and so on and so forth.

The City, the oldest part of London, is the commercial and financial centre of the country. Westminster is the political heart of London. The West End is the richest and the most beautiful part of London, the symbol of wealth and luxury, where the most expensive hotels, restaurants, shops and clubs are situated. The

East End is the industrial part. There are many factories, workshops and shipyards there.

The Houses of Parliament, a symbol of London, spread magnificently on the north bank of the Thames. This structure is a remarkable example of Gothic architecture. The Clock Tower called «Big Ben», is known the world over. Its hour bell is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the first Commissioner of Works. The Houses of Parliament, called officially the Palace of Westminster, were formally a palace for kings and queens. Until the 16th century it was used both as a royal residence and as a parliament house. After the royal family moved to Whitehall Palace, the Westminster Palace was occupied by the Parliament and became its permanent home.

Opposite the Houses of Parliament Westminster Abbey is situated. It's a national shrine where the kings and queens are crowned and famous people are buried. It was founded by Edward the Confessor in 1050. The construction lasted 300 years. One of the greatest treasures of the Abbey is the oaken Coronation Chair made in 1300. Near the West Door of the Abbey the Unknown Warrior lies in a simple grave commemorating the men who died in the First World War. The memorials to G.G. Byron, R. Burns, W. Shakespeare, W.M. Thackeray, W. Scott attract tourists to the Poets' Corner.

Londoners have a particular affection for St. Paul's Cathedral, the largest Protestant Church in England. It is an architectural masterpiece of the eminent architect Sir Christopher Wren. It stands on the site of the former Saxon and Norman churches destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1656. The building was completed in 1710. Wren is buried under the roof of his own great work. «If you want to see his monument, look around», is written on his tomb.

Trafalgar Square is a place of pilgrimage for visitors. It's the natural centre of London. It is usually full of visitors feeding the pigeons and looking at the statues and fountains. In the middle of the square we can see Nelson's Column with the statue of Nelson at the top. This monument was erected to commemorate Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 where he defeated the French and Spanish fleets. The pedestal of the Column is decorated with bas-reliefs representing Nelson's most famous victories. Here in Trafalgar Square the National Gallery is situated. It contains an outstanding collection of paintings from British, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch and other famous schools. The Tower of London is also a real attraction for tourists. It is one of the first and most impressive castles built after the Norman invasion of England in 1066. William the Conqueror built it to protect the City of London. The Tower has been used as a royal palace, an observatory, an arsenal, a state prison where many famous people have been executed. It is now a museum where one can see the Crown Jewels, the finest precious stones of the nation and a fine collection of

armour, exhibited in the Keep. The security of the Tower is ensured by «Beefeaters» or the Yeoman Warders who still wear their picturesque Tudor uniform. A lot of ancient traditions and customs are carefully kept in the Tower.

And it is true to the whole city. In every part of London you can find a very genuine affection for national traditions.

Ex. 14 Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

- 1 In this historic city the modern ... with the old, the present is ever ... of the past, the great and the small live side by side in ... tolerance and ...
- 2 Its buildings ... all the different areas of its history, for London ... in a unique way to ... its past and at the same time to ... the functions of a modern city.
- 3 This ... (the Houses of Parliament) is a ... example of Gothic ...
- 4 One of the greatest ... of Westminster Abbey is the ... Coronation Chair made in 1300.
- 5 St. Paul's Cathedral is an architectural ... of the architect Sir Christopher Wren.
- 6 Trafalgar Square is usually full of visitors ... the pigeons and looking at the ... and ...
- 7 The Tower of London is now a museum where one can see the ... , the finest ... stones of the nation and a fine collection of ... exhibited in the ...

Ex. 15 Finish these sentences.

- 1 The City, the oldest part of London, is
 - a) the political heart of London.
 - b) the symbol of wealth and luxury.
 - c) the commercial and financial centre of the country.
- 2 The Houses of Parliament, called officially the Palace of Westminster, were formerly
 - a) a royal prison.
 - b) a palace for kings and queens.
 - c) a national shrine where kings and queens were crowned.
- 3 Near the West Door of the Abbey the Unknown Warrior lies in a simple grave
 - a) commemorating the men who died in the First World War.
 - b) commemorating Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.
 - c) commemorating the men who died in different wars.
- 4 The pedestal of the Column is decorated with bas-reliefs representing
 - a) the history of London.
 - b) Nelson's most famous victories.

c) Nelson's life.

5 The Tower of London is one of the first and most impressive castles built

a) after the Great Fire of London in 1666.

b) by Edward the Confessor in 1050.

c) after the Norman invasion of England in 1066.

Ex. 16 Answer these questions.

1 How old is London?

2 What are the main parts of London?

3 What does London offer the visitors?

4 Where are the Houses of Parliament situated?

5 Why is the Clock Tower called «Big Ben»?

6 Is the Palace of Westminster a royal residence or a parliament house?

7 Where are the English kings and queens crowned?

8 When was Westminster Abbey founded? Why is it considered to be a national shrine?

9 Who was the architect of St. Paul's Cathedral? Why did he build this church? Where is he buried?

10 What is the natural centre of London?

11 What is there in the middle of Trafalgar square?

12 What does the National Gallery contain?

13 Who built the Tower of London and why?

14 The Tower has been used only as a royal palace, hasn't it? What is it now?

15 Is there really a genuine affection for national traditions in London?

Ex. 17 Speak about

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| - the population of London | - Trafalgar Square |
| - the parts of London | - The Tower of London |
| - London's history | - St. Paul's Cathedral |
| - Houses of Parliament | |

Ex. 18 Look at these four adverts about London's museums and do some tasks after them.

Madame Tussaud's

Whether you are interested in TV, films, sport or horror, whether you love the Royal Family or loathe them, there's something for everyone at Madame Tussaud's.

Opening times: Madame Tussaud's is open from 10.00 a.m. – 5.30 p. m. Every day except Christmas day.

Admission prices	Normal	Special	Save
Adult	\$4.00	\$2.80	\$1.20
Child	\$2.00	\$1.40	\$0.60

HMS Belfast

The last survivor of the Royal Navy's big gun armored warships of the Second World War, FDVIS Belfast is permanently moored in the River Thames close to London Bridge and the Tower of London.

Opening times: open 7 days a week from 10.00 a.m.

Admission prices	Normal	Special	Save
Adult	\$4.202	\$.85	\$1.20
Child	\$2.00	\$1.40	\$0.60
Student	\$3.00	\$2.60	\$0.40

Tower Hill Pageant

Tower Hill Pageant is an unforgettable experience which brings to life the capital's sights and sounds – even its smells from Roman London to the present day.

Opening times: open 7 days a week. 1 April to 31 October 9.30 a.m. – 5.30. p.m.

Admission prices	Normal	Special	Save
Adult	\$5.95	\$4.00	\$1.95
Child	\$3.95	\$2.50	\$1.45

Student	\$3.95	\$2.50	\$1.45
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Science Museum London

Spaceships, aeroplanes, computers and even an Egyptian mummy are among the many thousands of objects in the Science Museum's world famous collections.

Opening times: open daily 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Admission prices	Normal	Special	Save
Adult	\$5.00	free child entry	\$2.60
Child	\$2.60	free child entry	\$2.60

a) Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

A If your small brother wants to see a real warship go to _____. It is situated not far from _____.

B Those who are interested in technology we invite to enjoy the collection of _____. An adult with a child will be able to save \$ _____.

C If you want to have a good time and imagine what London looked like many years ago, visit _____. A 16-year old boy will have to pay \$ _____.

D If you are a student the cheapest place to go for you is _____.

E Most of the museums in London work _____ days a week and open at _____ o'clock.

F _____ doesn't work on Christmas Day.

b) Make up dialogues, discussing where to go tonight/ at the week-end/next Friday.

Ex. 19 Read and try to understand this text without a dictionary.

MY LONDON

I'm not a native Londoner, of course, but having lived here for the last 25 years, I certainly regard it as home. I think I could still have chosen London as my home even if my business wasn't here. London is special for me because there are so many parks and places where one is able to take a long walk and be surrounded by greenery.

Regent's park and Hyde Park are two of my favourite places, particularly for early morning walks in spring and summer. I like to go there about six o'clock in the morning and it's so quiet. At times like that it's really hard to believe that you're in the heart of a big city.

London is a very erudite city; there are so many theatres and museums that it must be a great source of inspiration to visitors who want to learn something. I can't think of any other capital in the world where so much culture is provided at so little cost; most of the museums here have free admission, and theatre tickets, compared with prices charged elsewhere, are still extremely cheap – tickets on Broadway must be about double the price. Entertainment is very good value here; I go to Ronnie Scott's some evenings if I'm not too tired and have a drink and listen to the jazz. It's a fantastic piece and not overpriced.

I've always felt that London is a very safe city and one in which you can wander around quite freely. The architecture is very solid, it gives the impression that it was built for a purpose and not to entertain. But once you get inside, what a wonderful surprise – inside is nearly the same what you would find in France or Italy, but you would never guess it from the facade. Maybe it's something to do with the famous British reserve!

I'm very fond of jazz but really I like music most. I also love ballet, so I make sure I get to see the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden once or twice a year. A trip to the ballet would definitely be part of my ideal day in London.

Questions to the text:

- 1 Why does the narrator regard London as home?
- 2 What is the most pleasant in morning walks?
- 3 Why can London be called an erudite city?
- 4 What are the advantages of cultural life in London?
- 5 What is the difference between the facade and inside of the buildings?
- 6 How can you prove that London is a safe city?

Ex. 20 Read the following microdialogues, role-play them and think of your own ones.

Microdialogue 1

A: Am I O.K. for St. Paul's Cathedral?

B: No you are going the wrong way. You want a 105 from the church.

A: Can you tell me where to get off?

B: It's three stops after this one.

Microdialogue 2

A: Which line do I take for Marble Arch, please?

B: You want the Victoria to Oxford Circus and then change on to the Central.

A: How do I get to the train?

B: Follow these signs. You can't go wrong.

Microdialogue 3

A: Which train do I take for Victoria, please?
 B: 9.25. Platform 3.
 A: What time does it reach London?
 B: It takes roughly two hours, so you'll arrive just before 11.30.
 A: Is it necessary to change?
 B: No, it's a through train.
Microdialogue 4
 A: What flights are there from London to Paris on Sunday?
 B: I'll just see what there is.
 A: I want to go economy, and I'd prefer the morning.
 B: There's one leaving at 9.25.
 A: What time do I have to be there?
 B: You'll have to be at the Heathrow Terminal by 8.35 at the latest.

Ex. 21 Sum up all the information about London and speak about the capital of the UK.

3 British holidays, traditions and customs

Ex. 22 Every country has its own customs and traditions. The UK is not an exception. We hope that while reading these brief stories you'll find much interesting and new information.

Holidays and Customs

Imagine you are in a medium-sized English town. It is Saturday morning in April and the market place is full of noise. You hear the sound of music, at least one accordion, a drum, tin whistle and fiddle. As you come closer you see an interesting sight. There are some men dressed in white clothes but decorated in the strangest way with bright ribbons, flowers and small bells. They dance, leaping into the air, stamping their feet, and perform the most complicated pattern of movements. They perform a morris dance and what they are doing is anything up to eight hundred years old.

Now you are at the seaside. It is the end of July and the school holidays have just begun. There is a strange little red and white striped tent, and sitting in front of it on the sand, a whole crowd of little children laughing and shouting. They are watching a puppet theatre, Punch and Judy. Mr. Punch in his bright red

clothes is hitting Judy over the head with a stick, while Toby, the dog, patiently watches.

These are just two examples of customs which, despite television and other social changes, are alive and well in England. There are many, many more, some of them so local that they are only known in the villages where they take place.

In the matter of holidays the British are less well-off than other Europeans. Most people have only three weeks paid holiday per year, and the bank holidays put Britain at the bottom of the list of Common Market countries as far as public holidays are concerned. British bank holidays are New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Bank Holiday, Summer Bank Holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Only when the UK joined the E.E.C. did New Year's Day become a public holiday. The patron saints days are not celebrated with a holiday. They are St. David's Day (March 1st) in Wales, St. George's Day (April 23rd) in England and St. Andrew's Day (November 30th) in Scotland. Only Ireland, both North and South, has a holiday on St. Patrick's Day (March 17th).

Punch and Judy – «Панч и Джуди» (традиционное уличное кукольное представление типа русского Петрушки; его главные действующие лица: горбун Панч – воплощение оптимизма и его жена Джуди – неряшливая и нескладная);

morris dance – моррис (народный театрализованный танец, исполняется во время майских праздников);

E.E.C. – European Economic Community.

Guy Fawkes' Night

In 1605 King James I was on the throne. As a Protestant, he was very unpopular with Roman Catholics. Some of them planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament on 5th November of that year, when the King was going to open Parliament. Under the House of Lords they stored thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, which were to be exploded by a man called Guy Fawkes. However, one of the plotters spoke about these plans and Fawkes was discovered, arrested and later hanged. Since that day the English traditionally celebrate 5th November by burning a dummy, made of straw and old clothes, on a bonfire, at the same time letting off fireworks.

This dummy is called a 'guy' (like Guy Fawkes) and children can often be seen on the pavements before 5th November saying, 'Penny for the guy'. If they collect enough money they can buy some fireworks.

plotter – заговорщик

Christmas

If you try to catch a train on 24th of December you may have difficulty in finding a seat. This is the day when many people are travelling home to be with their families on Christmas Day, 25th December. For most British families, this is the most important festival of the year, it combines the Christian celebration of the birth of Christ with the traditional festivities of winter.

On the Sunday before Christmas many churches hold a carol service where special hymns are sung. Sometimes carol-singers can be heard on the streets as they collect money for charity. People are reminded of Charles Dickens' story 'Christmas Carol'. Most families decorate their houses with brightly-coloured paper or holly, and they usually have a Christmas tree in the corner of the front room, glittering with coloured lights and decorations.

There are a lot of traditions connected with Christmas but perhaps the most important one is the giving of presents. Family members wrap up their gifts and leave them at the bottom of the Christmas tree to be found on Christmas morning. Children leave a long sock or stocking at the end of their beds on Christmas Eve, 24th December, hoping that Father Christmas will come down the chimney during the night and bring them small presents, fruit and nuts. They are usually not disappointed! At some time on Christmas Day the family will sit down to a big turkey dinner followed by Christmas pudding. They will probably pull a cracker with another member of the family. It will make a loud crack and a coloured hat, small toy and joke will fall out!

Later in the afternoon they may watch the Queen on television as she delivers her traditional Christmas message to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. If they have room for even more food they may enjoy a piece of Christmas cake or eat a hot mince pie. 26th December is also a public holiday, Boxing Day, and this is the time to visit friends and relatives or watch football.

carol – кэрл (рождественская песня религиозного содержания, славящая рождение Христа)

charity – благотворительность

holly – остролист (вечнозеленое растение с красными ягодами)

Christmas pudding – рождественский пудинг (с изюмом, цукатами и пряностями)

to pull a cracker – запустить хлопушку

mince pie – сладкий пирожок (круглый, со сладкой начинкой)

Hogmanay and First Footing

At midnight on 31st December throughout Great Britain people celebrate the coming of the new year, by holding hands in a large circle and singing the song:

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!..

'For auld lang syne' means 'in memory of past times' and the words were written by Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns.

New Year's Eve is a more important festival in Scotland than it is in England, and it even has a special name. It is not clear where the word 'Hogmanay' comes from, but it is connected with the provision of food and drink for all visitors to your home on 31st December.

It was believed that the first person to visit one's-house on New Year's Day could bring good or bad luck. Therefore, people tried to arrange for the person of their own choice to be standing outside their houses ready to be let in the moment midnight had come. Usually a dark-complexioned man was chosen, and never a woman, for she would bring bad luck. The first footer was required to carry three articles: a piece of coal to wish warmth, a piece of bread to wish food, and a silver coin to wish wealth. In parts of northern England this pleasing custom is still observed.

Easter

Although the Christian religion gave the world Easter as we know it today, the celebration owes its name and many of its customs and symbols to a pagan festival called Easter. Easter, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of springtime and sunrise, got her name from the word east, where the sun rises. Every spring northern European peoples celebrated the festival of Easter to honour the awakening of new life in nature. Christians related the rising of the sun to the resurrection of Jesus and their own spiritual rebirth.

Many modern Easter symbols come from pagan times. The egg, for instance, was a fertility symbol long before the Christian era. The ancient Persians, Greeks and Chinese exchanged eggs at their spring festivals. In Christian times the egg took on a new meaning symbolizing the tomb from which Christ rose. The ancient custom of dyeing eggs at Easter time is still very popular.

The Easter bunny also originated in pre-Christian fertility lore. The rabbit was the most fertile animal our ancestors knew, so they selected it as a symbol of

new life. Today, children enjoy eating candy bunnies and listening to stories about the Easter bunny, who supposedly brings Easter eggs in a fancy basket.

pagan – языческий
resurrection – воскрешение
a fertility symbol – символ плодородия
bunny – ласк. кролик, тж. Rabbit

May Day Celebrations

The beautiful springtime festival of May Day is observed in every nation, each according to its own customs and traditions. In most countries on May 1st a new life begins for both nature and man.

May Day is more important in Northern Europe than in warmer countries farther south. People grow tired of snow and ice and short winter days to which May Day signifies an end. The people of Belgium welcome spring with parades and fairs. Holland celebrates with tulip festivals and in Switzerland people offer up special May Day prayers. In France people buy flowers at sidewalk stands. They wear them and give them to their friends for luck.

As summer comes, Britain likes to celebrate the end of winter. Much of this celebrations is connected with dancing, which is performed to encourage life and growth and drive away harmful spirits. Children may be seen dancing round the Maypole on village greens, wearing their brightly-coloured scarves into a beautiful pattern. Morris men dance all day long on May 1st waving their white handkerchiefs to drive away the evil spirits and welcome in the new ones.

The Eisteddfod

Llangollen is indeed a fine place for a romantic scene. Surrounded by tree-covered hills it lies in a valley of the River Dee. Its charm is very mild. Many visitors come here to the International Eisteddfod held each year.

The annual National Eisteddfod is certainly the most picturesque and most moving ceremony in Wales. Here the love of song and poetry of the Welsh is organized to make a spectacle unique in the world. Presided over by white-robed druids with their attendant blue-robed bards, the Eisteddfod calls upon the people of Wales each year to send forth its singers and poets to participate in this colourful tournament. The most important event is the choosing of the winning poet, and so great is the nationwide interest in this ceremony that special newspaper editions are read by those, who, unable to go to the Eisteddfod, follow it with the interest that in England is shown to dog races and football matches.

And the Welsh sing at Eisteddfod for days. The National Eisteddfod takes place at some place in South Wales (even years) and North Wales (uneven years).

Clans and Tartans

The Gaelic word 'clan' means 'family' or 'descendants' and the great clans of the 16th and 17th centuries were indeed very similar to enormous families, ruled by powerful chiefs. Sometimes there were fierce battles between different clans but nowadays the McDonalds and the McKenzies, the Campbells and the Lindsays all live in peace with each other. It is possible to find people with these surnames in many English-speaking countries, and they all feel they share the same background.

The wearing of tartans or coloured checks was common in the Highlands before the defeat by the English in 1745. Originally, the tartan was worn as a single piece of cloth, drawn in at the waist and thrown over the shoulder. The kilt did not become popular until the beginning of the 18th century. Each clan has its own tartan and, since the first international gathering of the clans in 1972, many people have become interested in traditional forms of Scottish dress. Tartans are now part of international fashion.

Many people in Scotland have the name McDonald or McKenzie. 'Mac' means 'son of' and people with this name usually feel they belong to the same family or clan. Campbell or Cameron are other common surnames. Common boys' names are Angus, Donald or Duncan, and girls' names are Morag, Fiona or Jean. The names Jimmy and Jock are so common that many English people call a man from Scotland 'a Jimmy' or 'a Jock'.

descendants – потомки

Ex. 23 Can you answer these questions?

- 1 When is morris dance performed?
- 2 What is a "bank holiday"?
- 3 When is Guy Fawkes night celebrated?
- 4 What do children leave at the ends of their beds on Christmas Eve and why?
- 5 What three articles was the first footer required to carry?
- 6 What is the name for New Year's Eve in Scotland?
- 7 What song do usually people sing at midnight on 31st December throughout Great Britain?
- 8 What are the symbols of fertility used in Christian times?
- 9 What does May Day signify?

10 Where do celebrations of songs, poetry and literature take place?

Ex. 24 What do you know about...

- 1 The most important festival of the year for most British families?
- 2 Traditions concerned with Christmas in Britain?
- 3 A morris dance?
- 4 Hogmanay and its traditions?
- 5 Guy Fawkes' night?
- 6 The Eisteddfods, the Welsh tournaments of singers and poets?
- 7 Clans and tartans in Scotland?

Crossword Puzzle (Figure 1).

Across:

- 1) a Scottish name for New Year's Eve;
- 3) a single piece of cloth;
- 5) a Scottish name for coloured checks
- 7) a Welsh festival of songs and poetry;
- 9) an ancient symbol of new life.

Down:

- 2) the most important festival for most British families;
- 4) the most popular drink in Britain;
- 6) an ancient symbol of fertility;
- 8) the Scottish word for "family" or "descendants";
- 10) the name for a dummy made of straw and old clothes which is burned on 5th November.

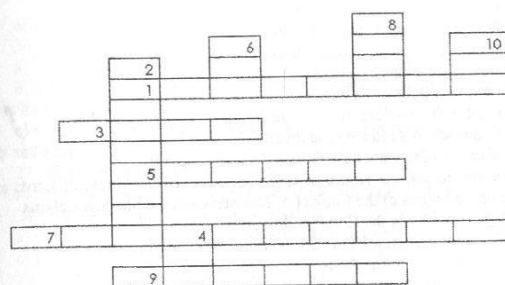


Figure 1

Final Quiz

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Choose the correct answer from the variants listed below.

- 1 What is the official name of the country whose language you study?
a) Great Britain b) England c) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 2 How many countries does the United Kingdom consist of?
a) four b) three c) two
- 3 What is the capital of Scotland?
a) Manchester b) Edinburgh c) Glasgow
- 4 What is the capital of Wales?
a) Edinburgh b) Cardiff c) Liverpool
- 5 What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
a) Cardiff b) Dublin c) Belfast
- 6 What is the state system of the United Kingdom?
a) constitutional monarchy b) parliamentary republic c) a limited monarchy
- 7 What is the name of the British national flag?
a) the Union Jack b) the Saint Andrew's Cross c) the Saint David's Cross
- 8 What is the emblem of England?
a) a shamrock b) a red rose c) a leek
- 9 What is the emblem of Scotland?

- a) a daffodil b) a dragon c) a thistle
- 10 What are the emblems of Wales?
- a) a shamrock, a clover and a red hand
b) a rose and the Saint George's cross
c) a dragon, a daffodil, a leek, a dove
- 11 What is the emblem of Northern Ireland?
- a) a shamrock b) a red rose c) a thistle
- 12 What chambers does the British Parliament consist of?
- a) the Senate and the House of Representatives b) the House of Lords and the House of Commons c) the Cabinet of Ministers and the Shadow Cabinet
- 13 Who presides in the House of Lords?
- a) the Lord Chancellor b) the Speaker c) the Prime Minister
- 14 Who presides in the House of Commons?
- a) the Lord Chancellor b) the Speaker
- 15 Where does the British Premier live and work?
- a) at 10 Downing Street b) in the Houses of Parliament c) in Buckingham Palace
- 16 What natural resources bring the most profits to the British economy?
- a) coal reserves b) oil reserves c) water resources
- 17 What is the fastest way to cross the English Channel?
- a) through the Channel Tunnel (the Channel) b) by boat c) by ferry
- 18 What is the most important airport in Great Britain?
- a) Heathrow Airport b) Gatwick Airport c) Stansted Airport
- 19 What is the school-leaving age in the United Kingdom?
- a) 16 b) 13 c) 18
- 20 Which of the following stages of British education is not obligatory?
- a) nursery school b) primary school c) secondary school
- 21 What is the top secondary school in Great Britain?
- a) Chiswick Community School b) Harrow c) Eton
- 22 What is the highest mark in British schools?
- a) A b) C c) G
- 23 What do we call the following pattern of tuition: six months in college and six months in industry?
- a) "sandwich" courses b) further education c) full-time tuition
- 24 What universities have the highest academic reputation in the United Kingdom?
- a) Oxford University and Cambridge University
b) London University and Bristol University
c) Red-brick universities
- 25 What is the first degree awarded by universities?

- a) a doctor's degree b) a bachelor's degree c) a master's degree
- 26 At a British university or college a tutor is ...
- a) a person who examines students and gives them marks
b) a person who has the highest rank of the teachers in a department and delivers lectures
c) a member of a staff who teaches small groups of students and gives them help and advice.
- 27 What are the best English resorts?
- a) Bristol and Southampton b) Brighton and Bath c) Leeds and Bradford
- 28 What is the tallest building in England?
- a) the Tower of London b) the Canary Wharf Tower
c) Hampton Court Palace
- 29 What is the London residence of Queen Elizabeth II?
- a) the Tower of London b) Windsor Castle c) Buckingham Palace
- 30 Where is Nelson's Column situated?
- a) in Parliament Square b) in Trafalgar Square c) in Piccadilly Circus
- 31 Where are British kings crowned?
- a) in St. Paul's Cathedral b) in Westminster Abbey c) in Canterbury Cathedral
- 32 Who was the architect of St. Paul's Cathedral in London?
- a) Sir Christopher Wren b) Edward Bailey c) Henry Tate
- 33 The ravens are a famous sight of ...
- a) the Tower of London b) London zoo c) Covent Garden
- 34 Scottish surnames begin with....
- a) O' b) Mac or Mc c) de
- 35 What is the Scottish national costume for men?
- a) the tuxedo b) the bearskin c) the kilt
- 36 What is the most famous sport event in Scotland?
- a) the Highland Games b) the Commonwealth Games c) the Wimbledon Championship
- 37 What country is called a land of castles and princes?
- a) England b) Northern Ireland c) Wales
- 38 What is the most important festival of Welsh poetry and music?
- a) Eisteddfod b) the Edinburgh Festival c) the Rock festival in Liverpool
- 39 What is the name of the six counties of Northern Ireland?
- a) Antrim b) Ulster c) Causeway

Unit Three MASS MEDIA

DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 Sources of Information
- 2 Something to Think Over
- 3 Mass Media Quiz

1 Sources of Information

1.1 Topical Vocabulary

Ex. 1 Consult a dictionary and practise the pronunciation of the following words and phrases. Memorize them.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1) mass media, mass communications | – | СМИ |
| 2) newsheet | – | листовка |
| 3) daily | – | ежедневный |
| 4) weekly | – | еженедельный, |
| | | еженедельник |
| 5) monthly | – | ежемесячный, |
| | | ежемесячник |
| 6) quarterly | – | ежеквартальный |
| 7) periodical | – | периодическое издание |
| 8) local affairs | – | местные события |
| 9) home (national, domestic, internal) affairs (events) | – | внутренние события, события в стране |
| 10) foreign (international, world, external) affairs (events) | – | события за рубежом |
| 11) a burning problem | – | актуальная проблема |
| 12) readable | – | интересный |
| 13) readership | – | читатели |
| 14) circulation | – | тираж |
| 15) to give coverage | – | освещать |
| 16) to deal with | – | рассматривать |
| 17) matter | – | материал |
| 18) to present | – | подавать |

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 19) "quality" newspapers | – | пресса "высокого качества" (для бизнесменов, политиков и т.д.), газеты полного формата |
| 20) to subscribe to | – | подписываться |
| 21) to broadcast | – | передавать по радио |
| 22) to telecast | – | передавать по телевидению |
| 23) newscast | – | обзор новостей |
| 24) to report | – | сообщать, писать, печатать |
| 25) cover | – | обложка |
| 26) binding | – | переплет |
| 27) newspaper | – | газета |
| 28) magazine | – | журнал |
| 29) to publish | – | издавать, печатать |
| 30) developments | – | события, обстоятельства |
| 31) thoughtfully | – | содержательно |
| 32) advertisement | – | реклама, объявление |
| 33) supplement | – | приложение |
| 34) to feature | – | помещать в газете (на видном месте) |
| 35) feature article | – | большая статья в газете (посвященная какой-либо одной теме), очерк |

1.2 Introductory Text

Ex. 2 Read and translate the text. Be ready to do a few tasks after it.

Mass Media

Mass media or mass communications are one of the most characteristic features of modern civilization. People are united into one global community with the help of mass media. Using mass media people can learn about what is happening in the world very fast. The mass media include the press (newspapers and magazines), radio and television. Every day we read newspapers and magazines, listen to radio and watch TV. Nowadays there are so many newspapers and magazines, radio stations and TV channels that we have to be very selective and give preference to some of them.

The earliest kind of mass media was newspaper. The first newspaper was Roman handwritten newsheet called "Acta Diurna" ("Daily Events") started in

59 B.C. Magazines appeared in 1700's. They developed from newspapers and booksellers' catalogs. As far as newspapers are concerned they may be daily, or weekly. Magazines may be weekly, monthly and quarterly. Several periodicals are available in English.

The newspapers contain and give coverage of local, home and foreign affairs. Their publications deal with very burning problems of our history, latest events and forecasts for future. They also touch upon cultural, sports news.

Newspapers can present and comment on the news in much detail in comparison with radio and TV newscasts. Newspapers can cover much more events and news.

Magazines do not focus on daily, rapidly changing events. They provide more profound analysis of events of preceding week. Magazines are designed to be kept for a longer time so they have cover and binding and are printed on better paper.

Radio and TV appeared only in the 20th century.

The most exciting and entertaining kind of mass media is television. It brings moving pictures and sounds directly to people's homes. So one can see events in faraway places just sitting in their chairs. The name "Television" comes from Greek word meaning "far", and a Latin word meaning "to see", so the word "television" means "to see far".

Radio is widespread for its portability. It means that radios can easily be carried around. People like listening to the radio on the beach or picnic, while driving a car or just walking down the street. The main kind of radio entertainment is music.

Ex. 3 Find in the text the English equivalents to the following sentences.

- 1 С помощью средств массовой информации люди очень быстро узнают о том, что происходит в мире.
- 2 Сегодня существует так много газет и журналов, радиостанций и телевизионных каналов, что нам нужно быть очень избирательными.
- 3 Их издания рассматривают актуальные проблемы нашей истории, последние события и прогнозы на будущее.
- 4 Таким образом, просто сидя в кресле, можно наблюдать за событиями, происходящими в отдаленных уголках земли.
- 5 Это значит, что радио можно легко носить с собой.

Ex. 4 Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words.

- 1 Mass media or mass ... are one of the most characteristic features of modern civilization.

- 2 The earliest kind of mass media was ...
- 3 Magazines may be weekly, ... and ...
- 4 Newspapers can ... and ... the news in much detail in ... with radio and TV newscasts.
- 5 The most ... and ... kind of mass media is television.

Ex. 5 Answer the questions to the text.

- 1 What kinds of mass media do you know?
- 2 Why do we have to be very selective nowadays?
- 3 What was the earliest kind of mass media?
- 4 What do the newspapers/magazines contain and give?
- 5 Why is television so exciting?

Ex. 6 Using the information in the text speak about

- 1 The origin of the press, radio and television.
- 2 The difference between a newspaper and a magazine/a radio and a TV set.

1.3 Topical Exercises

Ex. 7 Read the following and extract the necessary information.

Newspapers

a) Background

Some newspapers are *tabloids* (= small in size). These are usually the *popular press* (= short articles and lots of pictures), and they often have a larger *circulation* (= number of readers). The more serious newspapers are bigger in size. People often refer to newspapers as *the press*.

b) Contents

reports (= pieces of writing about news items, e.g. *a report in The Times*); *articles* (= pieces of writing about an important subject, e.g. *an article about drugs*); *headlines* (= title in large letters above the report/article, e.g. *a front-page headline*); *reviews* (= articles giving an opinion of new films, books, etc., e.g. *a review of ...*); *adverts* (= words and pictures about a product, to make people buy it, e.g. *an ad for ...*)

c) People

editor (= person in control of the daily production); *reporters/journalists* (= people who report news and write articles); *photographers* (= people who take the pictures in the papers)

d) Headlines

Certain words (usually short) are common in newspaper headlines. Verb gram-

mar is also different in headlines: the present simple can be used for present or past events; an infinitive often refers to the future. Articles (the/a) and the verb be are often not included.

row (= an argument); **back** (= support); **quit** (= leave a job); **hit** (= have a bad effect on); **bid** (= try/attempt); **talks** (= discussions); **cut** (= reduce/make less); **key** (= very important)

e) 'It said in the paper that ...'

When we refer to something written in a newspaper we use these phrases: *It said in The Times that they've found the missing girl.* (NOT *it's written in ...*) *According to The Guardian, the missing girl was found last night.*

Ex. 8 Fill in the gaps with the correct preposition.

- 1 There was a report *The Independent* this new law.
- 2 Have you read any reviews his new film?
- 3 It's an advert a type of mobile phone, I think.
- 4 I read it the paper.
- 5 High unemployment won't last according the paper.

Ex. 9 Rewrite these headlines in your own words. Don't repeat the underlined words. Remember that small words like articles (the/a) and pronouns (his/my) are often not included in headlines, but they will need to be in your answers.

1 MINISTER TO <u>QUIT</u> <i>A minister is going to quit his job.</i>	5 Government to <u>cut</u> spending on new hospitals
2 Japan and US start fresh <u>talks</u>	6 Bad weather <u>hits</u> rail service
3 GERMANY <u>BACKS</u> US PLAN	7 <u>MINISTERS</u> IN NEW <u>ROW</u> OVER TAX
4 POLICE DISCOVER <u>KEY</u> WITNESS	8 New <u>bid</u> to <u>cut</u> teenage smoking

Ex. 10 Look through the information below and discuss your favourite TV programmes in small groups. Use the phrases after the text.

Types of TV Programmes

Soap opera: a programme often on two or three times a week, which follows the lives of a group/community of people. The stories are often exciting, dramatic and hard to believe. **Quiz show** or **Game show**: individuals or teams (called contestants) answer questions or play different games against each other. The winner gets a prize, e.g. money or a holiday. **Chat show**: a programme where a presenter talks to famous people about their

lives. **Documentary**: a film with factual information, often about a problem in society. **Series**: a number of programmes about the same situation or the same characters in different situations. This may be a comedy series (= programmes that try to be funny), or a drama series (= programmes with interesting characters and exciting situations). **Current affairs**: programmes about a social or political problem. Current means happening 'now/at the present time'.

At the moment there are five 'terrestrial' channels (or stations) on TV (BBC 1, BBC 2, ITV1, Channel 4 and Channel 5) in Britain. If you pay extra, you can have a satellite dish and receive satellite TV; or pay to have cable TV (TV sent through wire cables underground).

Talking TV

What's on TV tonight? Is there anything on TV tonight?

What time's the film on?

I quite like television commercials. (= the ads between programmes)

Are they showing the game live or just recorded highlights? (= parts of the game after it has been played, e.g. later in the day/evening)

Ex. 11 Discuss these questions

- 1 What does the title the Internet suggest to you?
- 2 Would you like to have access to the Internet? What would you do with it?

...and keep in mind...

The Internet/the Net is a system connecting (= linking) millions of computers worldwide (= around the world). In order to get online (= become connected) you must connect your computer to a phone line using a modem. You also need an Internet Service Provider (ISP), e.g. aol, freeserve, beltelecom. On the Internet, there are different search engines you can use such as 'Yahoo', 'Google' or 'Excite' to find what you are looking for. When you go online (= use the Internet), you can browse (= look at) different websites and download stuff from the Internet. (= move data from one computer to another)

Ex. 12 Read the text. Consult a dictionary when translating the underlined words and phrases.

The Internet as a Mass Medium

The Internet (also known simply as "the Net" or "the Web") can be briefly understood as "a network of networks". Specifically, it is the worldwide, publicly accessible network of interconnected computer networks. It consists of millions of smaller domestic, academic, business, and governmental networks,

which together carry various information and services, such as electronic mail, online chat, file transfer, and the interlinked Web pages and other documents of the World Wide Web.

Contrary to some common usage, the Internet and the World Wide Web are not synonymous: the Internet is a collection of interconnected computer networks; the Web is a collection of interconnected documents. The World Wide Web is accessible via the Internet, along with many other services including e-mail, file sharing and others described below.

Toward the end of the 20th century, the advent of the World Wide Web marked the first era in which any individual could have a means of exposure on a scale comparable to that of mass media. For the first time, anyone with a web site can address a global audience. Although a vast amount of information, imagery, and commentary (i.e. "content") has been made available, it is often difficult to determine the authenticity and reliability of information contained in web pages (in many cases, self-published). The invention of the Internet has also allowed breaking news stories to reach around the globe within minutes. This rapid growth of instantaneous, decentralized communication is often deemed likely to change mass media and its relationship to society.

The internet is quickly becoming the center of mass media. Everything is becoming accessible via the internet. Instead of picking up a newspaper, or watching the 10 o'clock news, people will log onto the internet to get the news they want, when they want it. Many workers listen to the radio through the internet while sitting at their desk. Games are played through the internet. Blogging has become a huge form of media, popular through the internet. Even the education system relies on the internet. Teachers can contact the entire class by sending one e-mail. They have web pages where students can get another copy of the class outline or assignments. Some classes even have class blogs where students must post weekly, and are graded on their contributions. The internet thus far has become an extremely dominant form of media.

Ex. 13 Explain what the Internet is. Speak about your Internet Service Provider.

Ex. 14 Are you an Internet addict? Test yourself. Take the Internet Addiction Test on <http://counsellingresource.com/quizzes/internet-addiction/index.html>

4.1 Dialogue

Ex. 15 Read, translate and act out the advertisement. Keep in mind the

fact that in order to watch television in Britain people need to buy an annual licence. It costs about £80.

W = Woman I = Inspector

W Who's there?

I Inspector R21. Our records show you have an unlicensed television on the premises. Please open the door. You have forty seconds to comply. If you're still watching TV without a licence, be warned. There may come a time when our enquiries are no longer carried out by humans.

W But my husband bought the telly.

I Thirty seconds. Already, we're equipped with computerized records of every unlicensed home in the country.

W He said he'd get the licence.

I Twenty seconds. So, our eight hundred enquiry officers will track you down sooner or later, wherever you are.

W Why are you picking on me?

I Ten seconds. Last year we caught 260,000 offenders.

W Go away.

I Five seconds.

So, even without robots, the future looks pretty bad for licence evaders.

I Time's up! Get a licence. Or get a visit.

Ex. 16 Act out the advertisement. Mind the intonation patterns of the declarative and interrogative sentences.

2 Something to Think Over

Ex. 17 Read the passage and discuss its contents in small groups /in class.

TV and Health Text A

TV violence link disputed. The research was carried out over 17 years. Children who watch more than an hour of television a day are more likely to be violent, claims a study. However, this finding is disputed by a UK expert, who describes the study as "flawed".

The research was carried out by Jeffrey Johnson, of Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. His team tracked more than 700 children through adolescence to adulthood. They found that those who had watched one or more hours of television a day appeared much more likely to get into fights or behave aggressively towards other people later in life.

The results were adjusted to take account of possible influencing factors, such as family income, childhood neglect or psychiatric disorders during child-

hood. Only 5.7% of the adolescents who watched less than an hour of television a day committed aggressive acts in later years, compared with 22.5% of those who watched between one and three hours, and 28.8% of those who watched more than three hours a day.

Professor Johnson, said: «Our findings suggest that, at least during early adolescence, responsible parents should avoid permitting their children watch more than one hour of television a day.»

'Exhausted' Among the problems cited by the report are obesity, sleep disruption, diabetes and the triggering of autism.

The report also makes a connection between television watching and changes in the hormone melatonin, which is linked to the immune system and the onset of puberty.

Computer games Mr Bangs, head of education at the NUT (National Union of Teachers), says "If you've been watching until two in the morning, you come in tired and exhausted."

But sociologist Professor Frank Furedi casts doubt on the claims – and says children's television viewing was in decline, as they shifted towards computer games and the internet. "It seems that every week we get another report that tells us about another threat to our children," he said.

Story in full IT HAS long been blamed for creating a nation of couch potatoes. But a new report today claims that Britain's love affair with television is causing far more damage – both physically and psychologically – than previously thought.

Today's report suggests the consequences of television range from myopia and attention deficit disorder to diabetes, autism, Alzheimer's and a generation whose brains are being numbed by on-screen imagery.

Dr Sigman claims the battery of ill effects takes its toll on both body and mind; the effect on the brain is not stimulating, but almost narcotic, numbing the areas of the brain stimulated by, for example, reading.

Text B

OBESITY Television viewing is directly related to and now considered an independent cause of obesity. Sitting in front of a screen commands an increasingly large part of children's lives and, Dr Sigman believes, has replaced physical activity for many.

HEALING Television may be involved in alterations in the activity, size and consistency of skin immune cells. It may lead to an increase in the migration of "cutaneous immune system mast cells", parts of body tissue that play a key role in healing wounds and offering defence against disease.

HEART TROUBLE Television can set the conditions for long-term car-

diovascular illness, some research claims.

METABOLISM A significant relationship was found in which the metabolic rate decreased as average weekly hours of television viewing increased. Lowered metabolism leads to a reduced ability to burn fat.

EYESIGHT Permanent eyesight damage previously attributed to genetics is now being strongly linked to television-screen exposure. TV screens, or indeed computer screens, are blamed for a rising incidence of myopia as they demand long periods of fixed attention from the viewer.

ALZHEIMER'S Television viewing between ages 20 to 60 is associated with the development of Alzheimer's disease: for each additional daily hour of television viewing, the associated risk of Alzheimer's disease development increases. Attention, memory and reaction time may also be affected.

ATTENTION SPAN Long periods of TV viewing may affect what are called the "neuronal mechanisms" behind attention and impulse control. This means damaging brain-cell development and the person's ability to concentrate on non-TV subjects. For children this could mean learning difficulties and attention disorders.

CANCER Reduced levels of melatonin may also result in a greater chance that cell DNA will produce cancer-causing mutations.

AUTISM Early childhood television viewing may be an important factor in autism, which currently affects one in every 166 children. Dr Sigman quotes Cornell University, which last year published research suggesting television may be a trigger in young children with a tendency to the condition.

HUNGER The lack of sleep ascribed to the effects of watching TV may directly increase appetite and body-fat production. Research suggests it could do this through alterations in the hormones leptin and ghrelin, which regulate feelings of being full and of hunger respectively.

BRAIN GROWTH Even interactive media such as computer games have been associated with limited neurological activity. Watching television has been found by neuroscientists to be a "non-intellectually stimulating activity" for brain development. This was not found to be the case for reading.

DIABETES Dr Sigman's report suggests TV viewing is directly related to and significantly raises the risk of abnormal glucose metabolism and new Type-two diabetes. This is linked to side-effects of a sedentary lifestyle and the kind of diet that can go with heavy TV watching, such as sweets and sugary drinks.

Moral education The study confirms for adults what is accepted by many psychologists about children: viewing a lot of violence increases the likelihood that the person will behave that way.

Craig Anderson at Iowa State University in Ames says that people do not seem to be getting that message: "People don't seem to understand that because

they don't notice the way they've changed or the way they treat people, it doesn't mean there is no effect."

But Chris Boyatzis, a psychologist at Bucknell University, Philadelphia, says the link between TV viewing and violence may not be direct: "What may be going on is that families high in TV viewing are also lower in moral and character education."

It is important that parents "filter" what their children watch, he says: "Some studies have shown that about 75 per cent of kids' TV viewing is done without the company of parents, which is tragic."

Ex. 18 Speak about the effects of television and computers on children/other people.

Ex. 19 Give a summary of the texts.

Ex. 20 Think over the consequences and work out possible solutions.

3 Mass Media Quiz

Ex. 21 Match the words with their definitions.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 newspaper | 4 magazine | 7 the media | 10 comic |
| 2 Sunday paper | 5 journal | 8 tabloid | 11 listings |
| 3 local paper | 6 the press | 9 the popular press | |
- a) newspapers and the people who write for them
 b) a set of large folded sheets of paper containing news, articles, pictures, etc., which is printed and sold every day or every week
 c) lists of films, plays, and other events, with details of the times, dates, and places where they will happen
 d) a newspaper that gives news mainly about the town or area where it is printed
 e) a paper that is sold every Sunday, and is usually bigger than papers sold on other days
 f) a newspaper that doesn't contain much serious news, but has stories about famous people, sport, etc.
 g) newspapers that are read by a lot of people and generally contain articles that are entertaining rather than serious, for example, stories about people on television and in sport
 h) a serious magazine on a particular subject, containing articles by univer-

sity teachers, scientists, doctors...

i) all the organizations that are involved in providing information to the public, especially newspapers, television, and radio.

j) a magazine, especially for children, that consists of funny or exciting stories which are told using a series of pictures

k) a large, thin book with a paper cover, often printed on shiny paper, which contains stories, articles, photographs, and sometimes also news

Ex. 22 Choose the right answer.

- I don't think this newspaper cartoon is funny, but I like the _____.
a. caption b. label c. message d. text
- When you go out, will you get me _____ of "The Guardian"?
a. a copy b. an edition c. a paper d. a publication
- I read a newspaper every day to keep _____ with the current affairs.
a. contemporary b. modern c. present-day d. up-to-date
- There is a very interesting _____ in the paper about modern jazz.
a. article b. documentary c. news d. programme
- A newspaper _____ normally makes the final decision about the paper's contents.
a. editor b. journalist c. reporter d. publisher
- Dear Sirs, I am writing in response to your _____ for a sales clerk in yesterday's "Business Man".
a. advertisement b. announcement c. propaganda d. publicity
- Every morning I do the crossword _____ in the newspaper.
a. problem b. puzzle c. question d. test

Ex. 23 Read the newspaper contents list. Which pages would you look at if you wanted to read about the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 articles for sale | 6 news from abroad |
| 2 clothes | 7 people who have died recently |
| 3 the editor's comments on the news | 8 duties performed by the Queen yesterday |
| 4 films being shown locally | 9 second-hand cars |
| 5 houses for sale | 10 recently published books |

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Ex. 24 Match the kinds of programmes with their definitions.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 chat show | 4 cartoon | 7 soap opera |
| 2 quiz show | 5 sitcom | 8 the news |
| 3 game show | 6 breakfast show | 9 wildlife programme |
| | | 10 documentary |

- a) a film, especially a story for children, that is made by photographing a series of drawings, so that they seem to move
- b) a television story about a group of people and their lives, which is broadcast regularly for many years
- c) a programme in which famous people talk about themselves and answer questions about their lives, opinions, etc.
- d) a television programme about wild animals or plants
- e) a programme in which people or teams compete against each other by answering questions
- f) a programme that gives you facts and information about a serious subject, such as history, science or social programme
- g) a programme in which people play games and answer questions in order to win prizes
- h) a programme that is broadcast several times each day, which tells you about all the important events that are happening in the world
- i) a programme which is broadcast early in the morning, which includes news and tells you what time it is; there are also usually songs and jokes and conversations with famous people
- j) an amusing programme in which there is a different story each week about the same group of people

Ex. 25 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Did you see that _____ about wildlife in Africa on television last week?
a) documentary b) history c) slapstick d) soap opera
- 2 All three TV channels provide extensive _____ of sporting events.
a) broadcast b) bulletin c) episode d) piece
- 3 There are more than ten TV _____ in St Petersburg and all of them allow advertising.
a) broadcasts b) canals c) channels d) screens
- 4 Violent programmes on TV may have a bad _____ on children.
a) control b) influence c) power d) pressure
- 5 The programme was so successful that a _____ series is being made.
a) after-effect b) backup c) by-product d) follow-up
- 6 We are interrupting this programme for a news _____.
a) alarm b) alert c) flash d) signal
- 7 I must remember to _____ my TV license next week.
a) regain b) renew c) replace d) retain
- 8 The _____ comedy in silent films was especially funny.
a) clownish b) mocking c) slapstick d) witty

Ex. 26 Fill in the text with the following words.

<i>pick up</i>	<i>charm</i>	<i>channel</i>	<i>television</i>	<i>hour</i>
<i>turned off</i>	<i>coming</i>	<i>acting</i>	<i>watched</i>	<i>by heart</i>
<i>soap opera</i>	<i>characters</i>	<i>plot</i>		

Don Bradley turned the 1 _____ to a different 2 _____ and for an 3 _____ or so 4 _____ a lovely 5 _____ that he knew 6 _____, having seen it at least ten times. He did not have to follow the 7 _____. He knew the film so well that he could 8 _____ the story anywhere along the way. The 9 _____ of it was in the 10 _____ and the 11 _____. The film came to its happy 12 _____ and he 13 _____ the television.

Unit Four ENVIRONMENT PROBLEM

DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 What Really Threatens the Environment
- 2 Nature Protection
- 3 Something to Think Over

1 What Really Threatens the Environment

1.1 Topical Vocabulary

Ex. 1 Consult a dictionary and practise the pronunciation of the following words and phrases. Memorize them.

1 environment	— окружающая среда
2 environmental protection	— защита окружающей среды
3 to poison	— отравлять
4 to contaminate	— заражать, отравлять
5 contamination	— загрязнение, заражение
6 to pollute / pollution	— загрязнять / загрязнение
7 to spread (spread, spread)	— распространяться
8 earthquake	— землетрясение
9 flood (to flood)	— наводнение (затоплять)
10 uninhabitable	— непригодный для (жизни)
11 overpopulation	— перенаселение
12 consumption	— потребление
13 deforestation	— обезлесение
14 ozone depletion	— истощение озонового слоя
15 acid rains	— кислотные дожди
16 global warming	— глобальное потепление
17 greenhouse effect	— парниковый эффект
18 industrial and nuclear waste	— промышленные и ядерные отходы
19 fertilizer	— удобрение
20 species	— вид, род (виды, роды)
21 to die out	— вымирать
22 to become extinct	— угасать, вымирать
23 on the brink of extinction	— на грани исчезновения
24 to emit / emission	— выбрасывать / выброс
25 disaster / disastrous	— несчастие, беда / чудовищный

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26 consequence	— последствие
27 to threaten / threat	— угрожать / — угроза
28 nuclear power stations	— атомные электростанции
29 to avoid	— избегать
30 tract	— участок, пространство (земли)
31 crucial turning point	— переломный момент, критическое положение
32 sensitive equilibrium	— хрупкое равновесие
33 alarming	— тревожный, пугающий
34 sulphur oxide / nitrogen	— окись серы / азот
35 chlorofluorocarbons (CFC)	— хлорфторуглероды
36 molecule	— молекула
37 to recycle	— перерабатывать
38 to undermine	— подрывать
39 impact	— влияние, воздействие
40 acre	акр = 0,405 гектара

Ex. 2 Keep in mind what environmental pollution is.

Environmental pollution is a term that refers to all the ways that human activity harms the natural environment. Most people have witnessed environmental pollution in the form of an open garbage dump or an automobile pouring out black smoke. However, pollution can also be invisible, odorless, and tasteless. Some kinds of pollution do not actually dirty the land, air, or water, but they reduce the quality of life for people and other living things. For example, noise from traffic and machinery can be considered the forms of pollution.

Ex. 3 Rank the following in the order of importance in terms of danger to the average citizen and explain your answer.

- a) Pesticide residue on foods eaten by humans
- b) Hazardous waste sites (in use)
- c) The greenhouse warming effect
- d) Radiation from nuclear power plant accidents
- e) Hazardous waste sites (abandoned)
- f) Radiation from x-rays
- g) Industrial accidents releasing pollutants into the air, water, or soil
- h) Exposure to toxic chemicals in the workplace
- i) Destruction of protective ozone layer
- j) Non-hazardous wastes, like trash disposal
- k) Underground storage tanks leaking gasoline and other substances

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l) Pesticides harming farmers, farm workers, and consumers who work with them

1.2 Introductory Text

Ex. 4 Practise the pronunciation of the following proper names. Consult a dictionary if necessary.

the Mediterranean
the North Sea
the Aral Sea
Cairo
Mexico City
Chernobyl

— Средиземное море
— Северное море
— Аральское море
— Каир
— Мехико
— Чернобыль

Ex. 5 Read the text and catch the main idea.

What Really Threatens the Environment?

The poisoning of the world's land, air, and water is the fastest-spreading disease of civilization. It probably produces fewer headlines than wars, earthquakes and floods, but it is potentially one of history's greatest dangers to human life on earth. If present trends continue for the next several decades, our planet will become uninhabitable.

Overpopulation, pollution and energy consumption have created such planet-wide problems as massive deforestation, ozone depletion, acid rains and the global warming that is believed to be caused by the greenhouse effect.

The seas are in danger. They are filled with poison: industrial and nuclear waste, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The Mediterranean is already nearly dead; the North Sea is following. The Aral Sea is on the brink of extinction. If nothing is done about it, one day nothing will be able to live in the seas.

Every ten minutes one kind of animal, plant or insect dies out for ever. If nothing is done about it, one million species that are alive today will have become extinct twenty years from now.

Air pollution is a very serious problem. In Cairo just breathing the air is life threatening – equivalent to smoking two packs of cigarettes a day. The same holds true for Mexico City and 600 cities of the former Soviet Union.

Industrial enterprises emit tons of harmful substances. These emissions have disastrous consequences for our planet. They are the main reason for the greenhouse effect and acid rains.

An even greater environmental threat are nuclear power stations. We all know how tragic the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster are.

People are beginning to realize that environmental problems are not somebody else's. They join and support various international organizations and green parties. If governments wake up to what is happening – perhaps we'll be able to avoid the disaster that threatens the natural world and all of us with it.

Ex. 6 Read the text again and answer the questions below.

- 1 What is the fastest-spreading disease of civilization?
- 2 What planet-wide problems have overpopulation, pollution and energy consumption created?
- 3 What will happen to our planet if present trends continue?
- 4 What is happening to the seas and rivers?
- 5 The Aral Sea is on the brink of extinction. Do you think it's possible to save it?
- 6 A lot of animals are dying out. But people wear fur coats, crocodile handbags, leather shoes, etc. Are you for or against hunting?
- 7 Is air pollution a serious problem? Why?
- 8 What were the tragic consequences of the Chernobyl disaster?
- 9 Are nuclear power stations dangerous? Why?
- 10 What is the main cause of the greenhouse effect and acid rains?
- 11 What do people of different countries do to save our planet?
- 12 Have you heard of Greenpeace?

Ex. 7 a) Study the information. And pick out the words and phrases defining causes of the ecological disaster and consequences.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Computers project that between now and the year of 2030 we are going to have an increase of the average temperature between 1,5–4,5 °C. Sea levels would rise by several meters, flooding coastal areas and ruining vast tracts of farmland. Huge areas would be infertile and become uninhabitable. Water contamination could lead to shortages of safe drinking water. It looks like the end of civilization on the Earth.

We have upset nature's sensitive equilibrium releasing harmful substances into the air, polluting rivers and oceans with industrial waste and tearing up the countryside to accommodate our rubbish. These are the consequences of the development of civilization.

The range of environmental problems is wide. But the matters of people's

great concern nowadays are atmosphere and climate changes (global warming), depletion of the ozone layer, freshwater resources, oceans and coastal areas, deforestation and desertification, biological diversity, biotechnology, health and chemical and nuclear safety.

POLLUTION

Acid Rains

One of the most alarming forms of air and water pollution is acid rain. It results from the release into the atmosphere of sulphur and nitrogen oxides that react with water droplets and return to earth in the form of acid rain, mist or snow. Acid rain is killing forests in Canada, the USA, and central and northern Europe. It has acidified lakes and streams and they can't support fish, wildlife, plants or insects. (In the USA 1 in 5 lakes suffer from this type of pollution).

Stratospheric Ozone Depletion

The ozone shield that protects the Earth from the Sun's harmful UV (ultra-violet) radiation is being damaged by CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons). They are released by the daily use of industrial and household products: refrigerators, air conditioners, foam insulation, cleaning chemicals, food packaging. They attack the ozone molecules making a "hole". This "hole" allows more UV rays to penetrate to the Earth. It increases the risk of skin cancer, weakens the immune system of people. Besides, UV rays influence the oceans, the growth of plankton, an essential part of the marine-life food chain in the negative way, reduce economically important crops (rice, cotton, soy beans). The life cycle is going to be undermined by the ozone.

Destruction of the Tropical Forest

It's generally agreed that the destruction of the tropical forest has a major impact on the world's climate. The tropical rain forest is a natural recycler, provider and protector for our planet. It recycles carbon, nitrogen and oxygen, helps determine temperature, rainfall and other climatic conditions and supports the most diverse ecosystem in the world. Deforestation could cause one forth of all species on earth to vanish in the next 25 years. These forests in Amazonia, South-East Asia and West and Central Africa are being destroyed at an alarming rate of 42 million acres per year.

CONSUMPTION

Nuclear Energy

The Ukrainian government does not think it can close Chernobyl without

developing alternative energy sources, and it wants assistance from Western nations to finish building five Russian-designed reactors whose safety standards are questioned by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). The \$1.5 billion in aid offered by Western nations and the World Bank in 1994 does not approach the estimated \$14 billion sought by Ukraine. Apparently Ukraine will take no safety measures nor develop new energy without the aid, putting the West in the position of either providing the needed funds somehow or continuing to face the prospect of another possible nuclear accident.

b) Compile a chart using the information from Ex. 2 and Ex. 4.

Causes	Consequences

Ex. 8 Find in the text the English equivalents to the following sentences.

- 1 Мы нарушили хрупкое равновесие в природе, выбрасывая вредные вещества в воздух, загрязняя реки и океаны промышленными отходами.
- 2 Одна из самых тревожных форм загрязнения воздуха – это кислотные дожди.
- 3 Защитный слой Земли, озоновый, защищающий Землю от разрушительных ультрафиолетовых лучей, разрушается хлорфторуглеродами.
- 4 Кроме того, ультрафиолетовые лучи оказывают негативное воздействие на океаны, размножение планктона, сокращают урожай культур, важных с экономической точки зрения.
- 5 Он перерабатывает углерод, азот и кислород, помогает поддерживать температуру, уровень осадков и другие климатические условия.

Ex. 9 Insert the missing words.

- 1 It results from the release into the atmosphere of ... and ... that ... with water droplets and return to earth in the form of acid ... , ... or snow.
- 2 The life cycle is going to be ... by the ozone.
- 3 The tropical rain forest is a natural ... , ... and ... for our planet.
- 4 It has ... lakes and streams and they can't ... fish, wildlife, plants or insects.

5 The Ukrainian government does not think it can close ... without developing alternative ...

Ex. 10 Finish the sentences using the given variants.

- 1 Environmental changes are the consequences of the
 - a) development of sport.
 - b) development of civilization.
 - c) protection of the environment.
- 2 Acid rains are killing
 - a) forests in Canada, the USA, central and northern Europe.
 - b) towns in Africa.
 - c) animals all over the world.
- 3 Tropical rain forests recycle carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and help determine
 - a) temperature, rainfall and other climatic conditions.
 - b) level of the world ocean.
 - c) the development of science.
- 4 In the ozone layer CFCs attack
 - a) spaceships and satellites, making holes.
 - b) birds, killing them.
 - c) the ozone molecules, making a «hole».
- 5 Huge areas would be
 - a) conserved and recycled.
 - b) infertile and become uninhabitable.
 - c) destroyed by UV rays.

Ex. 11 Answer the questions to the text.

- 1 What are the matters of people's great concern nowadays?
- 2 What damage do acid rains bring?
- 3 Why are the ozone «holes» dangerous for the life on the Earth?
- 4 Why is tropical rain forest a natural recycler, provider and protector for our planet?
- 5 What solutions could you suggest to the problem from the position of Ukraine and from the position of the Western nations?

Ex. 12 Using the information in the text speak about

- 1) How the human race has upset the nature's equilibrium.
- 2) The impact of acid rains and ozone «holes» on the Earth's life.

2 Nature Protection

Ex. 13 Look through the abstracts below and discuss the following questions in pairs.

- 1) What can people do to change ecological situation for the better?
- 2) In what other ways could the pollutants coming from the automobile industry be reduced?
- 3) Can we dispense with public transport and cars?

Measures to Be Taken

We have only a few years to attempt to turn things around. We must review our wasteful, careless ways, we must consume less, recycle more, conserve wildlife and nature, act according to the dictum "think locally, think globally, act locally". To my mind, we are obliged to remove factories and plants from cities, use modern technologies, redesign and modify purifying systems for cleaning and trapping harmful substances, protect and increase the greenery and broaden ecological education. These are the main practical measures, which must be taken in order to improve the ecological situation.

Some progress has been already made in this direction. 159 countries-members of the UNO have set up environmental protection agencies. They hold conferences discussing ecological problems, set up environmental research centers and take practical urgent measures to avoid ecological catastrophe. There are numerous public organizations such as Greenpeace that are doing much to preserve environment.

The 5th of June is proclaimed the World Environmental Day by the UNO and is celebrated every year.

Clean Cars, Clean Fuels

Performance and style have always been higher priorities for automobile manufacturers than reducing environmental pollutants. Concerned with an ever-increasing number of automobiles on California's congested highways – automobiles that burn too much gasoline and spew noxious emissions – California decided to legislate a clean, efficient car.

What are some of the fuels being considered by carmakers? An engine that runs on electricity is much cleaner and quieter than a gasoline engine. However, electric cars are cleaner than gasoline-powered cars only when the source of their electricity is natural gas or solar energy. If electricity comes from a coal-fired power plant, electric cars actually produce more emissions than gasoline-powered cars.

Methanol and ethanol are alcohol fuels that burn much cleaner than gasoline and can be made from renewable resources such as agricultural waste. Other possibilities are to reformulate gasoline so it burns with fewer emissions and to improve the design of the conventional gasoline-powered internal-combustion engine so it is more efficient.

Liquid hydrogen is an extremely clean fuel, and some car designs have fuel cells that combine stored hydrogen with oxygen from the air to produce electricity. Mercedes-Benz unveiled a prototype fuel cell-powered minivan in 1995, and BMW displayed hydrogen-fuelled cars at the 1996 World Hydrogen Energy Conference in Stuttgart. Other manufacturers are expected to follow the German car industry.

Futurists look ahead to the time in the not-so-distant future when solar hydrogen will power vehicles. Solar hydrogen fuel is produced when solar energy splits water molecules to produce hydrogen. Cars powered by solar hydrogen will require such extensive modification of existing designs, however, that they could not be available alternative until well into the 21st century.

Ex. 14 a) Study the following set expressions and try to find Russian equivalents.

Think Globally, Act Locally — was reportedly coined by David Brower, founder of Friends of the Earth, as the slogan for FOE when it was founded in 1969, although others have stated it was originated by Rene Dubos as an advisor to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972.

Environmentally friendly — is used to refer to goods or services considered to inflict little harm on the environment. The phrase has been in common usage for at least 20 years and is often added to product advertising or packaging to promote a sale.

It also means "being friendly to the environment". For example, you can be environmentally friendly by recycling, or by being "green", as people call it. There are also many organizations that associate themselves with the term, such as Greenpeace.

Leave No Trace — a philosophy of hiking and backpacking. Proponents of Leave No Trace believe that individual actions in the backcountry accumulate to degrade the wilderness experience. Therefore, any individual in the backcountry should behave in such a way that future visitors cannot tell that anyone was there before. The slogan "Leave no trace" (LNT) summarizes a trend among hikers to address concerns about conservation of the ecosystems and scenery that often motivate hikes.

b) Match the sayings and their Russian equivalents.

- 1) Good deed is never lost
- 2) A sound mind in a sound body
- 3) Actions speak louder than words
- 4) After us the deluge
- 5) Be slow to promise and quick to perform

a) Будь не скор на обещание, а скор на исполнение. *Ср.* Не давай слова, крепись, а давай слово, держись.

b) Поступки говорят громче, чем слова. *Ср.* Не по словам судят, а по делам. О человеке судят по его делам.

c) Доброе дело даром не пропадет. *Ср.* Доброе дело без награды не остается. За доброе дело жди похвалы смело. В здоровом теле здоровый дух.

d) В здоровом теле здоровый дух.

e) После нас хоть потоп.

Ex. 15 Make up and act out short dialogues using the set expressions from Ex. 14 (a, b).

3 Something To Think Over ...

Ex. 16 Read the information thoughtfully and give your own opinion. Use the following phrases.

I (honestly/really) believe (think/feel/guess) (that) ...

It's my opinion that ...

In my opinion ...

To my mind ...

As to/for me ...

I think that ...

I maintain (that) ...

The Earth is being destroyed

— «Every three seconds a football field-sized plot of virgin rainforest disappears. [...] With the loss of protogenic woods thousands kinds of plants and animals vanish from the face of the earth» (*Rand Maknalli, «Illustrated Atlas of the World»*).

— «For two centuries of existence of settlements Great Lakes have turned into the biggest cesspool of mankind» (*the Canadian newspaper «Globe and mail»*).

— Failure on the Chernobyl atomic power station, occurred in 1986, «was the most considerable event of nuclear era... after bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki». «Air, ground and water of the planet have got the amount of steady radiation equal to that released as a result of all nuclear tests and bombardments taken together» («*American Medical Association Journal*», «*New York Times*»).

The «Great Green Wall»

Overgrazing, drought, deforestation, and overexploitation of water resources are turning vast areas of China into a dust bowl. Hence, Chinese authorities have begun «the biggest ecological project the world has ever seen,» says *New Scientist* (2006). «Under this program, which has become known as the 'great green wall,' trees have been planted on an unprecedented scale to create a barrier that will halt the dust in its tracks.» Grasses and shrubs are also being planted to stabilize dusty soils. Begun in 1978, the project is almost halfway to its goal of covering 35 million hectares of land with trees and drought-tolerant plants.

Watching the world

Over the past 100 years, Mexico City's average temperature has risen almost 4 degrees Celsius, compared with 0.6 degrees worldwide. Experts blame deforestation and urbanization. — *EL UNIVERSAL*, MEXICO (2006).

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Ex. 17 Some more information on the topic.

Text A Acid Rain

Imagine rainwater more acid than lemon juice! Imagine forests and lakes dying and historical monuments being destroyed by rain. Not just by normal rainwater but by acid rain. Just what is acid rain? Did you know that normal rainwater is already a little acidic? So, acid rain is any form of precipitation that is more acidic than normal rainwater. This definition is rather unscientific. So let me give you another, more scientific way of saying what acid rain is. In scientific terms, acid rain is defined as any form of precipitation, which has a pH of less than 5.5. The term pH is a term used in chemistry to indicate how acid or how alkaline a solution is. If a solution is neither acid nor alkaline, we say that it is a neutral solution and that it has a pH of 7. If a solution has a pH of less than seven, we say the solution is acidic. So you can see that with a pH of 5.5, normal

rainwater is already slightly acidic. Ordinary rainwater is slightly acidic because there are some normal gases such as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is the gas that all animals, including humans exhale. When these gases dissolve in water, they make the water somewhat acidic. So it is perfectly natural that rainwater is a little acidic. But as you heard, today in parts of Europe and North America rainwater is sometimes more acidic than lemon juice.

What causes this rainwater to be so acidic? The most important cause of the excessive acidity of rainwater has been the burning of fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal. Burning fossil fuels produces not only carbon dioxide, but also gases such as nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide, which go high into the atmosphere. These gases combine with water molecules and form acid. These acidic water droplets then can travel hundreds of miles before they return to earth as rain or snow.

This will not be an easy problem to solve. As more and more countries become industrialized, there will be more and more competition for petroleum for cars, home heating, and industry. While burning petroleum contributes greatly to acid rain, it is less polluting than coal. Unfortunately, petroleum is more expensive than coal and the supply of petroleum will eventually run out. Therefore, there will be more and more pressure to burn coal for energy. Coal is a much dirtier energy source than petroleum. Since we already know how destructive acid rain is, it's very important that we increase our efforts to find a non-polluting source of energy as quickly as possible, so that we can avoid further environmental damage.

1. What will be the consequences of the acid rains?

Text B Greenpeace

Against all odds, Greenpeace has brought the plight of the natural world to the attention of caring people. Terrible abuses to the environment, often carried out in remote places or far out to sea have been headlined on television and in the press.

Greenpeace began with a protest voyage into a nuclear test zone. The test was disrupted. Today, the site at Amchitka in the Aleutian Islands is a bird sanctuary.

Then Greenpeace sent its tiny inflatable boats to protect the whales. They took up position between the harpoons and the fleeing whales. Today, commercial whaling is banned.

On the ice floes of Newfoundland, Greenpeace volunteers placed their bodies between the gaffs of the seal hunters and the helpless seal pups. The hunt was subsequently called off.

In the North Atlantic, Greenpeace drove its inflatables underneath falling barrels of radioactive waste. Now nuclear waste dumping at sea has been stopped.

In the North Sea, Greenpeace swimmers turned back dump ships carrying chemical wastes. New laws to protect the North Sea have been promised.

Peaceful direct action by Greenpeace has invoked the power of public opinion which in turn has forced changes in the law to protect wildlife and to stop the pollution of the natural world.

1. What else do you know about the activity of Greenpeace?
2. What actions of Greenpeace do not appeal to you?
3. What actions could Greenpeace take in Belarus (except Chernobyl, of course)?

Text C Climate Crisis

Holes in the sky

The satellite photographs showed the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica. The hole is pink and white on the computer photograph. The ozone layer stops some of the ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Ultraviolet radiation causes a suntan. Too much ultraviolet radiation causes sunburn and skin cancer.

CFCs in the atmosphere have caused the hole. Scientists first discovered the hole in 1982, and it is getting bigger. Thirty per cent of CFCs come from aerosol cans, thirty per cent from fridges and air-conditioning, and thirty-four per cent from the manufacture of some plastic products.

The Greenhouse Effect

1 Sunlight gives us heat. Some of the heat warms the atmosphere, and some of the heat escapes back into space.

2 During the last 100 years we have produced a huge amount of carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide in the atmosphere works like the glass in a greenhouse. It allows heat to get in, but it doesn't allow much heat to get out. So the atmosphere becomes warmer because less heat can escape.

Where does the carbon dioxide come from? People and animals breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Trees take carbon dioxide from the air, and produce oxygen. We produce carbon dioxide when we burn coal, oil, petrol, gas or wood. In the last few years, people have burned huge areas of rain forest. This means there are fewer trees, and, of course, more carbon dioxide!

A Hotter Earth?

Some scientists think the greenhouse effect will make the world hotter. Ar-

ea near the coasts will be cloudier and wetter. There will be more storms. Inland areas will have a little more rain, but because the temperature will be higher, they will be drier. Sea levels will rise. They have already risen by 15 cm since 1880. Maybe they will rise another 30 cm before 2030. But clouds reflect sunlight back into space, and maybe more clouds will make the earth cooler again. Is the world's climate changing? We don't know.

1. What changes in our life will these problems cause?
2. What could be done to improve the environment and to reverse these facts?

Text D Ecological Problems

The relationship between man and nature has become one of the major problems facing civilization today. Ecology, a vital philosophical issue stands at the crossroads of politics, science and economics.

Air pollution is the result of man's use of toxic chemicals and is a common hazard in both industrial and developing countries. One form of air pollution is acid rain. Electrical generating plants, industrial boilers, large smelters and automobiles are among the chief source of these acid rains. They release into the atmosphere tons of toxic chemicals and this mixture returns to earth in the form of acid rain, mist or snow. Pushed by wind currents, the acid rain often falls to the ground far from its point of origin.

Acid rain is killing vast stretches of forest. It has acidified lakes and streams, rendering them unable to support fish, wildlife, plants or insects.

We know that the tropical rain forest is a natural recycler, provider and protector for our planet. It helps to determine temperature, rainfall and other climatic conditions. Protecting all the forests is one key to our survival on this planet. The tropical rain forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. The problem is that rain forests are found in poor, underdeveloped areas where the governments don't have money to look after them. For this reason, the governments sell their rain forests to cattle farmers, to businessmen who open mines to extract valuable minerals, build dams and highways, or to timber merchants who cut down the trees and sell the valuable tropical wood.

For centuries our humanism has developed in a lop-sided manner proclaiming a man the lord and the king of nature and not the child. The blank spots have practically disappeared from the Earth's geographical map, but the black spots marking deserts, felled forests and other areas of ecological disaster are expanding at a frightening rate. When a plant or animal is gone forever, we say it

is extinct. It is estimated that one species – plant, animal or insect – becomes extinct every day. At that rate, within the next 20 years one-fifth of all species could be extinct. The delicate balance of nature, the very existence of life on Earth is being upset.

Environmental pollution has become in recent years a great obstacle to economic growth in industrialized countries. Too often economic growth and environmental degradation go hand in hand.

Unfortunately, Belarus is running all environmental hazards facing any modern society today. The question of the rational use of water resources and their protection from pollution becomes of primary importance. Waste waters are dumped untreated into our streams, rivers or lakes and make them polluted too. Modern technologies based on water recycling or low water consumption are some of today's answers to the problem of water pollution.

Belarus is the land of pine groves and immense fields and meadows. The beauty of our land is unique, but very often it is decorated with mountains of trash. We are running out of space in which to discard our garbage, and our current methods of disposing of it are endangering the environment, putting hectares of land out of useful circulation. Finding an ecologically safe solution to the problem of waste disposal is one of the headaches of modern civilization. One solution to this problem is recycling.

Agriculture is the chief occupation of the greater part of the population of our republic. Soil pollution is a problem of our agriculture. The primary soil pollutants are fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, when used in unreasonable quantities, and toxic substances contained in untreated waters used for irrigation. Soils, containing harmful chemicals lose their natural fertility and agricultural products produced on such soils are a real health hazard to the consumer.

In addition to all those problems, the fall-out of tons of radioactive dust that followed the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in April, 1986, made 23 per cent of the Belarusian territory unsuitable for habitation and agricultural activity. The problem is that if taken in by the human body in different ways, radioactive elements can increase the risk of cancer, weaken the immune system and destroy its hereditary mechanism.

The ecological situation in Belarus remains grave. The problem of the consequences of that explosion at the nuclear power station is one of the most pressing.

Our ancestors considered the Earth's resources to be boundless and endless. Their greed, egoism, ignorance, criminal neglect, lack of ecological education are responsible for creating ecological tragedies. We are wiser because we have to. It took us a lot of time to understand that ecological problems do not respect national boundaries and that the Earth is our common and the only home.

We should never forget that we all live in a single, closed and delicately balanced ecological space. No amount of lawmaking will make any difference to the quality of environment, unless each one of us plays his own part. The first step in playing that part is to know what your rights and responsibilities are.

- 1 What are the main ecological problems?
- 2 What sources of air, water, land and soil pollution can you name?
- 3 How can they be protected?
- 4 What can you say about ecological situation in Belarus?
- 5 What should be done to create a system of ecological security?
- 6 What do you know about the international organization Greenpeace?
- 7 Would you like to take part in its activities?
- 8 What can you do to keep our environment safe and clean?

Text E Environmental Protection in Belarus

Improving the system of utilizing nature, protecting the environment are the main priorities of the state policy of the Republic of Belarus. The basic purpose of this policy is the maintenance of ecologically safe conditions for habitation by the population, protection and rational use of natural resources of the country in the interests of the present and future generations. To achieve this goal, a system of state management for environmental protection in the industrial sphere with consecutive transition to conserving resources, low waste and non-waste technologies, improvement of environmental legislation, are needed. The basic ecological problems of the Republic of Belarus are:

- high level of radioactive pollution of a significant part of the territory of the republic after the disaster at the Chernobyl power plant;
- slow reduction of wastes and dumps of polluting substances into the environment;
- irrational use of natural resources. The Republic of Belarus uses a much larger amount of raw materials, power resources per unit of production than advanced industrial countries do;
- reduction in some species of animals like elks, wild boars, musk-rats, beavers, etc. A complex republican program of environmental protection, «Ecology», for 1991–2000, includes measures, directed at improving ecological conditions, preserving and strengthening the natural potential of the republic.

The basis of environmental legislation is laid by the Law of the Republic of Belarus «On environmental protection» (1992). As a means of its further development the following laws of the Republic of Belarus were adopted: «On

taxation for use of natural resources» (1991), «On state ecological expertise» (1993), «On wastes of manufacture and consumption» (1993), «The Law on protection of atmospheric air» (1997). State control in the field of environmental protection is carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, and in the field of radiological control – by the Ministry on Emergencies and Protection of Population from the aftermath of the disaster at the Chernobyl power plant. The responsibility for the state of natural environment rests on territorial bodies of state management and subjects of power.

The republic has powerful scientific potential in the field of environmental protection. Ecological problems are the subject of 5 scientific institutions of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, 10 scientific-research academies of sciences of Belarus and many scientific groups of higher educational institutions. A Committee on hydrometeorology within the Ministry on Emergencies and Protection of Population from the aftermath of the disaster at the Chernobyl power plant and scientific groups carry out ecological monitoring. The perspectives, having priority in terms of investing in the field of environmental protection, are the improvement of technologies in the sphere of production, ensuring more rational use of natural resources and reduction in wastes and dumps into the environmental; the expansion of the network of enterprises on secondary waste utilization and processing; the erection and reconstruction of purification facilities, the expansion of industrial production of appropriate equipment; the expansion of production of ecological control devices. The Republic of Belarus is a member of many conventions and international agreements in the area of environmental protection.

Unit Five JOB HUNTING

DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1 CHOOSING AN OCCUPATION
- 2 WHAT MUST YOU BEGIN WITH?

1.1 Topical Vocabulary

1. abilities (talent)	дарования, способности, особые данные
2. calling (for)	призвание
3. values	ценности
4. personal strengths	сильные стороны, талант, умения
5. accomplishments	1) успехи, достижения
6. to make an appointment	2) хорошие манеры, образованность
7. to keep/break an appointment	назначить встречу
	прийти/не прийти в назначенное место или время
8. to cancel an appointment	отменить встречу
9. to work by appointment	работать по "записи"
10. career goals	цели, которые ставит претендент при получении данной работы
11. job hunting	поиск работы
12. job hunting file	банк данных
13. employment agency	агентство по трудоустройству
14. advertisement	объявление, реклама (coll. ad)
15. courtesy	правила вежливости, учтивость,
16. receptionist	секретарь в приемной
17. fee	плата за услуги, гонорар
to pay a fee to smb	
to pay a fee for smth	
18. to claim (v)	претендовать
19. to counsel (v)	давать совет, рекомендовать
counselor	советник, адвокат (амер.) (зл.) служащий агентства, который дает советы и рекомендации
20. resume	описание образования, работы и опыта, выполненное в специальной форме для поступления на работу
21. vacancy	вакансия, свободное место
22. high-salaried job	высокооплачиваемая работа

23. to find a position	найти место работы
What's his occupation ?	
He is a bookkeeper by occupation .	
How long have you been in the trade ?	
24. capacity	в качестве, положение
He works in the capacity of an engineer.	
25. to join the company	поступить на работу в компанию
26. to apply (to smb for smth)	обращаться за работой (помощью, решением)
He applied to the Consul for a visa.	
27. application	заявление, прошение
28. an applicant	претендент, кандидат
29. to employ	предоставлять работу
employer	наниматель, работодатель
unemployed	безработный
employment	занятость, постоянная работа
full-time employment	основная работа на полный рабочий день
part-time employment	работа "по совместительству" на неполный рабочий день
employee	служащий
prospective employer	возможный работодатель/наниматель
30. clerk	канторский служащий
31. to hire	нанимать на работу
32. responsibilities (duties)	обязанности
33. salary (wages, pay, earnings)	заработная плата
at a salary of	с заработной платой
salary	a fixed payment at regular intervals (semi/monthly) for services, esp. clerical or professional
wages (pl)	money paid an employee at relatively short intervals (daily/weekly), esp. for manual or physical labour

Ex. 1 Read the following text.

Choosing an Occupation

One of the most difficult problems a young person faces is deciding what to do about a career. There are individuals, of course, who from the time they are

six years old "know" that they want to be doctors or pilots or fire fighters, but the majority of us do not get around to making a decision about an occupation or career until somebody or something forces us to face the problem.

Choosing an occupation takes time, and there are a lot of things you have to think about as you try to decide what you would like to do. You may find that you will have to take special courses to qualify for a particular kind of work, or may find out that you will need to get some actual work experience to gain enough knowledge to qualify for a particular job.

Fortunately, there are a lot of people you can turn to for advice and help in making your decision. At most schools, there are teachers who are professionally qualified to counsel you and to give detailed information about job qualifications. And you can talk over your ideas with family members and friends who are always ready to listen and to offer something. But even if you get other people involved in helping you to make a decision, self evaluation is an important part of the decision-making process.

Ex. 2 Comprehension questions.

- 1 What is the most difficult problem for a young person?
- 2 Why don't the majority of young people know what they want to be?
- 3 When do they make a decision about an occupation?
- 4 What things do you have to think about when choosing an occupation?
- 5 What should one do to qualify for a particular job?
- 6 Whom can you turn to for advice when making your decision?
- 7 What is the most important part of the decision-making process?

Ex. 3 Find in the text English equivalents to the following words and phrases:

- 1) столкнуться с проблемой, 2) пожарный, 3) большинство из нас, 4) выбор профессии, 5) обладать квалификацией для определенной работы 5) обнаружить, 7) приобрести знания, 8) обсудить, 9) привлечь других людей.

Ex. 4 Read the following text and get ready to work with it. So, You Are Looking for a Job

WHAT MUST YOU BEGIN WITH?

There are several traditional ways of looking for a job.

A civilized and active means of looking for a job is studying the market of the offered vacancies to get an idea of necessary demands and size up your own chances.

The best way of doing this is to use the help of employment agencies or to independently study the ads of job opportunities being published.

Announcements of job opportunities can be read in different printed publications. But which of them is worth reacting to?

Don't put much trust in ads in the yellow press. Solid companies place ads in prestigious expensive publications with a firm reputation.

Your main task is to understand whether the position being offered is consistent with the levels of your skills, education, and experience in work.

The structure of job opportunities ads is usually the same: the name of the vacant position, the list of the candidate's professional duties, the demands made of the candidate, and the system of compensations and benefits. Ads are often published by employment agencies on behalf of their clients. The address of the office is usually not given – it is suggested that the resume should be sent to a P.O. box or else faxed.

Having carefully studied the demands and duties being offered, an experienced reader may extract information on the activities of the company and the prospects of its development.

The phrases often used about «successful work over many years in the Russian market», «New missions being opened», etc., really testify to the company's dependability, serious prospects for its growth, and the durability of its stay in Russia.

First, one must pay attention to the position. To grasp what lurks behind the position's English name, there is a need to visualize at least in general outline the personnel structure at Western companies. For instance one may be misled by the incorrect interpretation of the word «Assistant». There is a need to understand that this word does not at all imply secretarial functions. A more exact meaning of this word is: mate, aid, apprentice manager, high-class specialist capable of independently tackling the tasks set to him.

Therefore using all possible means, try to learn as much as possible about this position to prepare yourself as best as possible for a meeting with the employer.

Carefully read the demands made of the given position. The demand to know a foreign language is very important. In most cases there is a need for free command of the language – Fluent English. Free command implies an ability freely to deal with a foreign manager, competently to compile documents and speak on the phone. This demand may prove to be the most important.

Quite often the ads do not decipher other demands in detail. For example, the ability to type in Russian/Latin. According to international standards, an adequate level of typewriting is a speed of 60 words per minute. Therefore, when claiming the given position, you need to check your speed or bring it up to the

required level. Besides, a secretary is usually required to be able to work on a personal computer. In general, if the ads meticulously enumerate the software products, systems, languages, etc., which the candidate must necessarily know, remember that these demands have a strictly binding force.

Such special demands set the level of the candidate's indispensable qualifications.

Thus, you have decided to find a job: buy «Moscow News» and carefully study the ads given by employment agencies. Now you will be faced with the labor-consuming procedure of writing and circulating your resume.

(abridged from «Moscow News»)

Ex. 5 Give a word or a phrase for the following definition.

1) professional duties; 2) talent, skills, education; 3) appraise, decide the value of; 4) looking for a job; 5) statement about a person's character or abilities; 6) meeting or speaking with a person; 7) communicate; 8) person who gives a job.

Ex. 6 Translate the words given in brackets.

1) There are several ways of (поиска работы). 2) First you should (оценить) your own chances 3) He studied the ads of (о вакансиях) being published. 4) Solid companies (помещают объявления) in prestigious expensive publications. 5) Your main task is to understand whether the position (согласуется) your skills and education. 6) Such special demands (устанавливают уровень) of the candidate's qualification. 7) Remember that the demands enumerated in the ads (обязательны). 8) Carefully read (требования) made of the given position. 9) There is a need to understand that the word does not (подразумевает) secretarial functions. 10) (Предварительный отбор) is carried out on the basis of resumes. 11) Reading the ads you may (выделить/получить) information on the (деятельности) of the company. 12) There is a need (представить себе) at least in general outline the personnel structure of Western companies.

Ex. 7 Answer the question:

What must you pay attention to while looking for a job?

Ex. 8 Analyze the following passages.

Text A

Employment Agencies

In Britain there is a special service for school leavers, the Careers Advisory Service, which helps young people who are looking for their first job. Careers Officers give practical advice on interview techniques, application forms, letters, pay, National Insurance and Trade Unions.

One business organization that you may use when you are job-hunting is an employment agency. There are the state employment services and nonprofit agencies that do not receive fees for finding jobs for people. There exist also some private employment agencies which receive a fee. Some employment agencies see applicants without an appointment. These include the state employment services and nonprofit agencies. Counselors there may spend a few minutes with each applicant.

But an agency that deals with technical and higher-salaried jobs, spends much more time with each applicant. Appointments are necessary in this type of agency, where a counselor may be able to see only a few applicants a day.

An interview for any kind of job, whether the interview is obtained through a friend, classified advertisement, or an agency, generally requires an appointment. It is important to be on time for your appointment. If you have made an appointment and cannot keep it, or if you will be more than ten minutes late, you should always call the interviewer. If you do not cancel the appointment or notify the interviewer that you will be late, you will create a negative impression on your possible employer.

To make efficient use of time, American business people schedule their days hour by hour. In most American business situations, appointments are a necessary courtesy.

Text B

«...They Live by the Appointment Book.»

Victor had recently arrived in the United States, and he didn't completely understand the need for appointments. He thought his friend was exaggerating. One day he went to an employment agency. This agency specialized in placing people according to their qualifications. Victor wanted to start working as soon as possible so that he could afford his own apartment.

When he arrived at the agency at 10 a.m. the receptionist said to him «Do you have an appointment?» Victor looked around the office and said, «No, I don't, but I see that there are very few people waiting here. I'm sure the coun-

selor can see me.» The receptionist answered, «I'm sorry. This agency works by appointment only.» She told him to leave his resume, fill out an application, and make an appointment. Victor did not have a resume, but he was able to get an appointment in two days.

Before dinner that evening, Victor dropped in on his friend Andre. He told Victor again why sometimes in America you cannot just drop in. Victor then turned to his friend and said, «Andre, you are right. In America you don't live from day to day – you live from appointment to appointment!»

(adapted from «Working World» by Baskin M.)

Ex. 9 Find equivalents for the following words and phrases in all the texts:

1) быть готовым к переменам (изменениям); 2) создать положительное/отрицательное впечатление; 3) заполнить анкету для поступления на работу; 4) решить, принять решение; 5) приобрести знания/опыт работы; 6) дать детальную информацию; 7) час за часом; 8) эффективно использовать; 9) предлагать что-либо (советовать); 10) подбирать работу согласно квалификации; 11) специализироваться в области; 12) самооценка; 13) обратиться к кому-либо; 14) изучать что-либо (пойти на курсы).

Ex. 10 Replace the italicized parts of the sentences by words and word combinations from the vocabulary.

- 1 In American business practice making appointments is *a rule of polite behaviour*.
- 2 He went to an employment agency to meet *a person who gives advice*, but first he had to talk to *the employee who receives callers and answers the phone*.
- 3 He went to the manager in order to *formally ask for a job*.
- 4 He doesn't work at the moment, he is *out of work*.
- 5 The company gives *provisions against sickness, death, damage and loss*.
- 6 His parents couldn't make him *leave the job*, they could only give advice.
- 7 His *programme* was very busy, every hour was occupied.
- 8 These agencies deal only with *people having no trade*.

Ex. 11 Match the word-combinations in column A with the definitions in column B.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 self appraisal 2 self concept 3 self evaluation 4 resume 5 give notice 6 give me a call 7 create a good impression 8 classified ad 9 drop in 10 make an appointment 11 get around to smth 12 application form | <p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to consider smth after delaying it b. to visit without an appointment c. to get an appointment d. newspaper listing of job e. your own view of yourself f. to give someone a good opinion of you g. summary of one's employment record h. a form to be filled in when applying for smth i. determine your own value or worth j. estimate your own qualities, abilities k. telephone me l. inform your employer in advance that you are leaving the job |
|--|--|

Ex. 12 Choose the right word.

- a) *job* – position – occupation
«job» – anything that one has to do, task, duty;
«position» – a person's relative place, as in society; rank, status;
«occupation» – that which chiefly engages one's time; one's trade.
- 1 He was unemployed doing only odd
 - 2 Knitting is a useful for long winter evenings.
 - 3 This aid is for those who have a very low ... in society.
 - 4 My sister occupies an important in the Department of Health.
 - 6 The police called the company to find out his at the moment.
 - 7 He had a hard painting the car.
- b) *force* – make
«force» – do smth by force or as if by force; compel;
«make» – to cause or force (followed by an infinitive without "to").
- 1 They the confession from him
 - 2 The robbers the cashier lie on the floor and took the money.
 - 3 They me repeat the story again.
 - 4 He would have never done it, but he was to do it.
- c) *leave* – graduate
«leave» – graduate (school);

«graduate (from)» – to get a degree or diploma, to complete a course of study at a college/university.

- 1 He from Columbia University last summer.
- 2 She school 2 months ago and couldn't find a job.
- 3 What University did you from?

Ex. 13 Fill in prepositions where necessary.

1) After leaving school a young person faces ... a very difficult problem – choosing an occupation. 2) The majority of young people do not get around ... making a decision until they leave school. 3) Boys and girls seldom talk about this problem ... with the family. 4) One has to take special courses to qualify ... the job. 5) There is a special advisory service which counsels ... people who are looking ... work. 6) There are nonprofit agencies that deal ... nonskilled positions. 7) This agency specializes ... placing people ... their qualifications. 8) The agency helped me find ... the information I needed. 9) You can turn ... your teacher ... advice and help. 10) Counselors give practical advice ... interview techniques, application forms, etc. 11) He made an appointment with the career officer ... 11 o'clock.

Ex. 14 Which statement is a good example of the meaning of the italicized word?

- 1 He thought that his friend *was exaggerating*.
 a) He was shouting to make his point understood.
 b) He made it seem much more important than it really was.
- 2 One day he went to *an employment office*.
 a) office where he worked.
 b) organization that helps people to find an occupation.
- 3 The *employment office* places people according to their qualifications.
 a) the office which helps people to find a place to live.
 b) the office which advises people on the job and interview technique.
- 4 He thought he *was imposing* on his brother and sister-in-law.
 a) He made things very difficult for his brother.
 b) He made his brother work hard.
- 5 He *couldn't afford his own apartment*.
 a) he couldn't live alone.
 b) he didn't have enough money to pay the rent.
- 6 One should have *definite qualifications* for the job.
 a) education and work experience
 b) definite personal features

Ex. 15 What should you do to find a job? Find the logical sequence of the steps you should take.

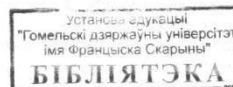
- get an invitation for an interview
- make an appointment with an employment agency counselor
- read the classified ads
- think what kind of job you want
- analyze your skills, personality traits and accomplishments
- get ready for the interview
- find out what employment agency you can use
- find out as much as you can about the company.

Ex. 16 Match the English proverbs and sayings with their Russian equivalents:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A light purse is a heavy curse. | a. Хуже всех бед, когда денег нет. |
| 2. A rolling stone gathers no moss. | b. Кому на месте не сидится, тот добра не наживет. |
| 3. To be busy as a bee. | c. Хорошо начатое наполовину сделано. |
| 4. To know something like the palm of one's hand. | d. Без труда не выловишь и рыбку из пруда. |
| 5. It is never too late to learn. | e. Один утренний час лучше двух вечерних. Утро вечера мудренее. |
| 6. Jack of all trades and master of none. | f. Рывками; судорожно; нерегулярно. |
| 7. No pain, no gain. | g. Если хочешь, чтобы дело было сделано хорошо, — делай его сам. Свой глаз — алмаз. |
| 8. An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening. | h. Работать левой рукой. Работать спустя рукава. |
| 9. Business before pleasure. | i. Знать как свои пять пальцев. |
| 10. By fits and starts. | j. Где хотенье, там и уменье. |
| 11. If you want a thing well done, do it yourself. | k. Учиться никогда не поздно. |
| 12. Live — and learn. | l. Вертеться как белка в колесе. |
| 13. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. | m. Делу время, потехе час. |
| 14. To know everything is to know nothing. | n. За все берущийся человек, но ничего не умеющий делать. |
| 15. Well begun is half done. | o. Никогда не откладывай на завтра то, что можешь сделать сегодня. |
| 16. Where there's a will, there's a way. | p. Знать все — значит ничего не знать. |
| 17. To work with the left hand. | q. Живи и учись. Век живи, век учись. |

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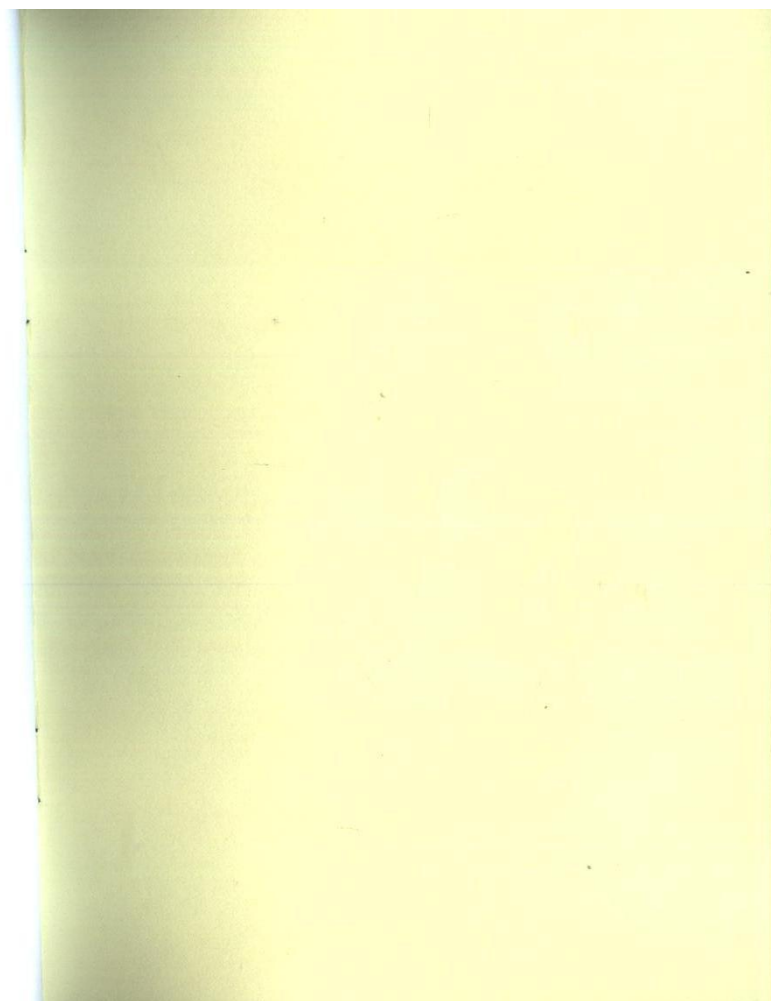
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