

МИНИСТЕРСТВО СЕЛЬСКОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА
И ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ

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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Учебно-методический комплекс для студентов
АЭФ и ФПУ дневной формы обучения

Модуль 3

Социально-политическое общение

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Модуль 3 учебно-методического комплекса включает в себя упражнения, направленные на формирование и развитие социально-личностных компетенций студентов. Цель обучения состоит в овладении студентами знаниями особенностей системы изучаемого иностранного языка в его лексико-грамматическом аспекте; социокультурных норм бытового и делового общения, правил речевого этикета, позволяющих специалисту эффективно использовать иностранный язык как средство общения в современном поликультурном мире; истории и культуры стран изучаемого языка. Содержит сведения теоретического характера, аутентичные тексты и комплекс упражнений, как тренировочной, так и коммуникативной направленности по тематике модуля. Составлен в соответствии с требованиями типовой учебной программы для высших учебных заведений по иностранному языку, утвержденной Министерством образования Республики Беларусь.

Предназначен для студентов первого курса агроэнергетического факультета и факультета предпринимательства и управления БГАТУ.

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ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Главной целью обучения иностранному языку является формирование иноязычной коммуникативной компетенции специалиста, позволяющей использовать иностранный язык как средство профессионального и межличностного общения.

В русле современной образовательной идеологии иностранный язык рассматривается не только в качестве средства межкультурного общения, но и средства формирования личности как субъекта национальной и мировой культуры. Предполагается, что мировоззрение, включающее в себя ценности личности, общества, государства, а также более широкого сообщества (европейского, мирового), способствует большему взаимопониманию и сближению народов в современном поликультурном мире, а, следовательно, стабильности и устойчивости его развития.

В качестве стратегической интегративной компетенции в процессе обучения иностранным языкам выступает коммуникативная **(КК)** в единстве всех составляющих: языковой, речевой, социокультурной, компенсаторной, учебно-познавательной компетенций.

Языковая компетенция **(ЯК)** – совокупность языковых средств (фонетических, лексических, грамматических), а также правил их использования в коммуникативных целях.

Речевая компетенция **(РК)** – совокупность навыков и умений речевой деятельности (говорение, письмо, аудирование, чтение), знание норм речевого поведения, способность использовать языковые средства в связной речи в соответствии с ситуацией общения.

Социокультурная компетенция **(СК)** – совокупность знаний о национально-культурной специфике стран изучаемого языка и связанных с этим умений корректно строить свое речевое и неречевое поведение.

Компенсаторная компетенция **(КомпК)** – совокупность умений использовать дополнительные вербальные средства и невербальные способы решения коммуникативных задач в условиях дефицита имеющихся языковых средств.

Учебно-познавательная компетенция (**УПК**) – совокупность общих и специальных учебных умений, необходимых для осуществления самостоятельной деятельности по овладению иностранным языком.

В процессе социально-гуманитарной подготовки выпускник должен развить такие метапредметные компетенции (**МПК**) как владение методами системного и сравнительного анализа; сформированность критического мышления; умение работать в команде; владение навыками проектирования и прогнозирования; сформированность личностных качеств: самостоятельность, ответственность, организованность, целеустремленность, а также мотивационно-ценностные ориентации; умение учиться, постоянно повышать квалификацию.

В соответствии с целями и принципами социально-гуманитарной подготовки выпускник высшего учебного заведения при подготовке по образовательной программе первой ступени (специалист) должен приобрести следующие социально-личностные компетенции:

- компетенции культурно-ценностной и личностной ориентации (**ККЦЛО**),
- компетенции гражданственности и патриотизма (**КГП**),
- компетенции социального взаимодействия (**КСВ**),
- компетенции коммуникации (**КК** = ЯК + РК + СК + КомпК + УПК),
- компетенции здоровьесбережения (**КЗ**),
- компетенции самосовершенствования (**КС**).

В результате изучения дисциплины студент должен **знать**:

- особенности системы изучаемого иностранного языка в его фонетическом, лексическом и грамматическом аспектах (в сопоставлении с родным языком);
- социокультурные нормы бытового и делового общения, а также правила речевого этикета, позволяющие специалисту эффективно использовать иностранный язык как средство общения в современном поликультурном мире;
- историю и культуру стран изучаемого языка.

Студент должен **уметь**:

- вести общение социокультурного и профессионального характера в объеме, предусмотренном программой;

- читать и переводить литературу по специальности (изучающее, ознакомительное, просмотровое и поисковое чтение);
- письменно выражать свои коммуникативные намерения в сферах, предусмотренных программой;
- составлять письменные документы, используя реквизиты делового письма, заполнять бланки на участие и т.п.;
- понимать аутентичную иноязычную речь на слух в объеме программной тематики.

В соответствии с учебной программой по иностранному языку изучение дисциплины «Иностранный язык» рассчитано на 150 аудиторных часов.

Содержание учебного модуля «**М-3: Социально-политическое общение**» представлено в Таблице 1.

Таблица 1

Тема модуля	Содержание	Кол-во час.	Формируемые компетенции
М-3. Социально-политическое общение Студент должен: знать : историю и культуру стран изучаемого языка и Республики Беларусь;	Страны изучаемого языка и Республики Беларусь в современном мире (социально-политический профиль). УСРС : Текущие события социально-политической жизни в Республике Беларусь.	16	КК МПК ККЦЛО КГП КС
уметь : резюмировать полученную информацию в монологической либо диалогической речи (устной и письменной), аргументировано описать социально-политический профиль стран.			

УМК составлен в соответствии с требованиями Типовой учебной программы для высших учебных заведений по иностранному языку, утвержденной Министерством образования

Республики Беларусь. В основу структурирования содержания учебного материала положен принцип модульного подхода, который предполагает разбивку учебного материала на относительно самостоятельные модули (разделы) курса. Модуль 3 «Социально-политическое общение» включает упражнения, направленные на формирование и развитие социально-личностных компетенций студентов. Цель обучения состоит в овладении студентами знаниями особенностей системы изучаемого иностранного языка в его лексико-грамматическом аспекте; социокультурных норм бытового и делового общения, правил речевого этикета, позволяющих специалисту эффективно использовать иностранный язык как средство общения в современном поликультурном мире; истории и культуры стран изучаемого языка. Содержит сведения теоретического характера, аутентичные тексты и комплекс упражнений, как тренировочной, так и коммуникативной направленности по тематике модуля.

Предназначен для студентов первого курса факультета предпринимательства и управления и агроэнергетического факультета БГАТУ.

МОДУЛЬ 3: СОЦИАЛЬНО-ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОЕ ОБЩЕНИЕ

3.1 СТРАНЫ ИЗУЧАЕМОГО ЯЗЫКА В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ

1. Do you think the following statements are true or false?

- A. English was already an important world language four hundred years ago.
- B. It is mainly because of the United States that English has become a world language.
- C. One person out of seven in the world speaks perfect English.
- D. In the future, all other languages will probably die out.

2. Read the article on *English as a world language*. Find out the answers to the true/false statements. Discuss your answers in pairs.

English as a world language

Today, when English is one of the major languages in the world, it requires an effort of the imagination to realize that this is a relatively recent thing – that in Shakespeare's time, for example, only a few million people spoke English, and the language was not thought to be very important by the other nations of Europe, and was unknown to the rest of the world.

English has become a world language because of its establishment as a mother tongue outside England, in all the continents of the world. This exporting of English began in the seventeenth century, with the first settlements in North America. Above all, it is the great growth of population in the United States, assisted by massive immigration in the

nineteenth and twentieth centuries, that has given the English language its present standing in the world.

People who speak English fall into one of three groups: those who have learned it as their native language; those who have learned it as a second language in a society that is mainly bilingual; and those who are forced to use it for a practical purpose – administrative, professional or educational. One person in seven of the world's entire population belongs to one of these three groups. Incredibly enough, 75% of the world's mail and 60% of the world's telephone calls are in English.

THE FUTURE OF ENGLISH. Geographically, English is the most widespread language on Earth, second only to Mandarin Chinese in the number of people who speak it. It is the language of business, technology, sport, and aviation. This will no doubt continue, although the proposition that all other languages will die out is absurd.

3. Here are the answers to some questions. Work out the questions.

1. A few million.
2. Because it is the mother tongue of many countries outside England.
3. In the seventeenth century.
4. 75 %
5. 60 %
6. Mandarin Chinese.

4. Fill in the gaps with the words given below.

<i>practical</i>	<i>official</i>	<i>periodicals</i>
<i>second</i>	<i>international</i>	<i>foreign</i>
<i>politics</i>	<i>countries</i>	<i>businessmen</i>

Today it is quite evident that everyone should know at least one 1 _____ language. The knowledge of a foreign language today is a life necessity.

In the recent years English has become not only an 2 _____ language, it is now a number one language in the world. Besides, English is becoming a lingua franca. It is used a great deal by 3 _____ from different countries, which don't have a common language, in order

to do business. It is already a lingua franca at international conferences. Besides, every person who travels in Europe, Asia or Africa, even in the South America gets around by using English. So English is becoming more and more the language for 4 _____ use.

English has become the world's most important language in 5 _____, science, trade and cultural relations, aviation, international sport and pop music. It is nowadays 6 _____ only to Chinese. It is the official language in 44 countries: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand and others. It is used as one of the 7 _____ languages in Canada, the Irish Republic. It is also spoken as a second language by many people in India, Pakistan and numerous 8 _____ in Africa, to say nothing of people all over the world who know English as a foreign language. From the British Isles English spread all over the world. 75 per cent of the world's mail is in English, 60 per cent of the world's radio stations broadcast in English and more than a half of the world's 9 _____ are printed in English.

5. Answer the questions on the text.

1. English is becoming a lingua franca, isn't it? What does it mean?
2. Where is English spoken as an official language?
3. Can you prove that English has spread all over the world?
4. Can you say that English is the most fashionable language nowadays? Why?

6. Translate the following sentences from Russian into English.

1. Миллионы людей изучают английский язык.
2. Один миллиард человек говорит по-английски.
3. 400 млн. человек разговаривает на английском языке как на своем родном (первом).
4. Для остальных 600 млн. человек – это либо второй язык, либо иностранный.
5. Английский язык – язык международного сотрудничества в XXI веке.

7. Make a project work.

The role of English in my life.

English-Speaking Countries

8. Here you can see five flags of the English-speaking countries. Name these countries and match each flag with the proper country.



2



3



1



4



5

9. Have you ever visited English-speaking countries? If no, then read the texts about some of these countries and answer the questions.

THE USA

The United States of America is the fourth largest country in the world (after Russia, Canada and China). It occupies the southern part of North America and stretches from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean. It also includes Alaska in the north and Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean. The

total area of the country is about 9.5 million sq. km. The USA borders on Canada in the north and on Mexico in the south.

The USA is made up of 50 states and the District of Columbia, a special federal area where the capital of the country, Washington, is situated. The largest state is Alaska. Major cities include New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, San Francisco, Washington D.C. and others. The population of the country is about 260 million. Americans are made up from nearly all races and nations, including Chinese and Native Americans, Europeans and Africans. The American flag is known as 'The Stars and Stripes'. The 13 stripes represent the original number of states in 1776. The 50 stars represent today's total. The national symbol is the bald headed eagle.

Americans are often called the nation of immigrants because at present the US continues to take more immigrants than any other country in the world. America is often called the "Melting Pot", the "Salad Bowl" or the "Pizza". "Melting Pot", because many of the earlier immigrants have been assimilated, using or giving up the language and traditions of their ancestors. The US is one of the few countries in the world that has no "official" national language. Major languages are American English and Spanish.

The United States of America is a country of great contrasts and similarities. If we look at the map of the USA, we can see lowlands and mountains. The highest mountains are the Rocky Mountains, the Cordillera and the Sierra Nevada. The Rocky Mountains divide the country into two parts – the East and the West. The Appalachian Mountains run along the Atlantic coast of the country. They are ancient, strongly destroyed mountains of no great height. The highest peak is Mount McKinley, which is located in Alaska.

America's largest rivers are the Mississippi, the Missouri, the Rio Grande and the Columbia. The Great Lakes on the border with Canada are the largest and deepest in the USA. The Largest Lake is the lake Superior. Between Erie and Lake Ontario, on the Niagara River is the powerful Niagara Falls (50 metres).

The climate of the country varies greatly. The coldest regions are in the north. The climate of Alaska is arctic. The climate of central part is continental. The south has a subtropical climate.

The USA is a highly developed industrial country. It's the world's leading producer of copper and oil, iron ore and coal. Among the most

important manufacturing industries are aircraft, cars, textiles, radio and television sets, armaments, furniture and paper.

The US is a federal union of 50 states, each of which has its own government. The seat of the central government is Washington, DC. According to the US Constitution the powers of the government are divided into 3 branches: the executive, headed by the President, the legislative, exercised by the Congress, and the judicial. The Congress consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are two main political parties in the USA: the Republican and the Democratic.

Think and answer.

1. How do you find the geographical position of the United States in the world?
2. What are the geographical and economic advantages of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for the United States?

CANADA

Do you know that Canada is the second largest country in the world? It's 7730 km from Newfoundland in the east to British Columbia in the west. It takes about 4 days to travel across Canada by car or train. The total area of the country is nearly 10 million square kilometers.

The word Canada comes from one of the Red Indian languages "Kannata" meaning a number of huts.

Now Canada is a federal state consisting of 10 provinces and 2 territories. In the east, the four maritime (Atlantic) provinces are Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Quebec and Ontario are Canada's two largest provinces, situated in central Canada. The three prairie provinces of western Canada are Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Canada's Pacific province is British Columbia. The territories are the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territory.

The population of 27 mln lives only in 1/3 of Canada, besides it's very thinly spread – 2 people per sq km. Most Canadians live close to the USA, within 160 km of the USA border. English and French are the two official languages. French is spoken by 1/5 of the whole population, concentrated mostly in Quebec.

Canada is a land of different kinds of scenery. It is a land of beautiful beaches and rocky shores, of high mountains and rolling hills, of flat yellow prairies and green pastures; it has 7 of the world's largest lakes (sharing with the USA) – Superior, Huron, Ontario, Erie and many rivers. About 25% of its territory is covered by the forests.

Such a variety of scenery provides a variety of vegetation and wildlife. It's represented by different kinds of bears (Grizzly, Black Polar), deer, bison, and wolf coyote and of course beaver, which is one of Canada's symbols. This animal is known for its industriousness, hence the expression "busy as a beaver".

The climate varies from arctic in the north (with 5 months-long snowy and severe winters) to moderate (with pleasantly warm summers) in the east and west. There are 4 distinct seasons, all of which occur right across the country although their arrival time varies.

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. It's the member of the British Commonwealth. It's ruled by a parliamentary system with the head of the state officially remaining the monarch of Britain, represented by the governor general, which's named by the Canadian Cabinet. The leading figure in the political life of the country is the Prime Minister. The 10 provinces are self-governing, presided by premiers, elected provincially. The federal capital is Ottawa.

Canada's current flag was proclaimed in 1965, in the centre there is a red sugar maple leaf, the side bars represent the ocean boundaries, the colour is not blue, meaning independence from Great Britain and France. The national anthem is "O, Canada".

Canada is a highly developed industrial country; the national economy is based on natural resources (fish, timber, wood, minerals, gas, oil, and machine building; metal, chemical industries are developed). Agricultural sector based mainly on wheat and barley accounts for much of the Canadian export total.

Think and answer.

1. Who are the main foreign trade partners of Canada?
2. With regard to origin what are the three main types of sport in Canada?

AUSTRALIA

The name *Australia* comes from the Latin word *australis*, meaning *southern*. Australia is an island continent lying south-east of Asia and forming, with nearby island of Tasmania and a number of smaller islands, the *Commonwealth of Australia*. In fact, it is the only country in the world which occupies the territory of an entire continent. Australia covers an area of 7.7 mln sq km (it is more than 30 times larger than Great Britain). Australia is the smallest continent and the largest island in the world.

The flattest of all continents, Australia's most significant mountain chain is the Great Dividing Range running down most of the east coast.

There are few rivers and lakes in Australia. Its best-known river is Murray (2,600 km). The longest is the Darling (2,740 km).

There are three types of climate in Australia: subtropical wet (in the south-eastern part), subtropical with dry summers (in the south-western part) and continental climate with low rainfall all the year round and sharp changes of temperatures (in the central southern part). Thus great parts of the country are very dry. Most of these areas are desert country. In fact, the Great Sandy and Great Victoria Deserts rank among the largest deserts in the world.

The continent is south of the Equator, so the seasons are the opposite way round in that part of the world. In December, January and February, when people are sledging and ice-skating in North America and the European countries, Australians are enjoying summer-time. The winter season is from June to August.

It's a federation of six states: New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, and two territories: Australian Capital territory, Northern Territory.

Australia is the least populated of the world's continents, its population is about 19 mln people. More than 80 per cent of the people live in the six capitals on the coastal strip (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart) and less than 15 per cent actually live in the rural areas. Now there are many nations in Australia speaking different languages, English being the official language.

The isolation of the continent has resulted in the development of a distinctive Australian flora and fauna. This is reflected in the country's coat-of-arms by the symbols of Australia's native animals and plants: the

kangaroo and the emu and a twig of wattle. It is also reflected in Australia's poetic name: «Land of Wattle».

The Commonwealth of Australia is a federal state and a member of the British Commonwealth. The Head of the state is the British Monarch represented by the Governor-General. It has a Parliament in each state for local affairs and the Federal Parliament of the Commonwealth at Canberra which is the official capital of the country.

Canberra, like Washington D.C., is in its own separate area of land, the Australian Capital Territory, and is not under the rule of one of the states. The government is headed by the Prime Minister. The main parties are the Australian Liberal Party and the National Party.

The Australian flag has the British flag in the top left-hand corner and shows the stars of the Southern Cross in white and a blue field. The national anthem is "Advance Australia Fair".

Australia is rich in silver, iron, minerals (gold makes 25% of them). Coal and agriculture (sheep and cattle rearing) forms the basis for the national economy.

The most important branches of industry are metal works, motorcar and machine building, clothing, food, woodcarving. To the rest of the world it's the producer of three things: wool, wheat and gold, and exporter of minerals, leather, butter, fresh and dried fruits. The most important and the biggest cities are Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane.

Australians are extremely friendly and helpful. But there is something unique about them, which probably has deep historical roots: the country began as a country of criminals and then it became "a working man's paradise". The people are still very close to their mother-country – Great Britain, but also shares joys, sorrows and problems with neighbouring countries – Japan, Indonesia, Guinea and Hong Kong.

Think and answer.

1. Is Australia an island or a continent?
2. Why is Australia known as a land of geographical surprises?

NEW ZEALAND

What's interesting about New Zealand? May be its living national emblem? – kiwi? It's a very unusual bird found only in some parts of the country. It has not tail, almost no wings and its nostrils are situated near the end of its bill which is used to find food. It lives in thick forests and prefers to spend its time in the dark. Its main food – about 300 worms a day.

In some English-speaking countries New Zealanders are known as kiwis, because the bird is also the symbol of the people of New Zealand.

New Zealand consists of a group of hilly evergreen islands that lie in the south-west Pacific Ocean. The country includes two main islands – the North Island (115000 sq. km) and the South Island (151000 sq. km) which are separated by a relatively narrow Cook Strait, and a number of smaller islands. So its combined area of 268000 sq. km is similar to the size of Japan or the British Isles. New Zealand is more than 1600 km long and 450 km wide; it has a long coastline, providing many natural harbours.

The territory of the country is mainly hilly and mountainous. The mountains run from southwest to northwest throughout both the larger islands. The east coast consists of fertile plains, especially the broad Canterbury Plains on South Islands. There are many beautiful lakes, hot springs, geysers and mud baths in this region. The biggest of the lakes Taupo in North Islands is volcanic in origin.

A notable feature of New Island's geography is the country's great number of rivers. There is a lot of rainfall in New Zealand and all that rain has to go somewhere, it forms plenty of short rivers. The Waikato River is the longest river (425 km) and Whanganui River is the country's longest navigable river in the North Island. Except in the west of the Southern Alps the climate is temperate, with moderate rainfall and with a lot of sunny days.

New Zealand's flora and fauna are not found anywhere else in the world, besides it has developed plants with unique characteristics. More than 250 kinds are common to both Australia and New Zealand. But native ecosystem has been dramatically affected changed by plants and animals brought by settlers for the last 200 years. New Zealand's population is about 3.5 million people.

The nation's capital is Wellington but Auckland is the largest city, other big cities are Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton.

The government structure of New Zealand is modelled on the British parliamentary system. The country is a constitutional monarchy. The traditional head of State, the reigning British king or queen is represented by a governor-general, who is appointed for a 5-year term. The Head of the Government is the Prime Minister. The main parties are the National Party and the Labour Party. The two party systems have traditionally made it difficult for other parties to gain much power. The New Zealand and Australian flag are very much alike. With the British flag in the top-left corner, the New Zealand shows the stars of the Southern Cross in red on a blue field.

The country has two official languages: English and Maori. As everywhere in the world where English is spoken, in New Zealand it is spoken in a unique way. The elision of vowels is the most distinctive feature of the kiwi pronunciation of English.

New Zealand is a capitalist country and its economy, everyday life and politics are dominated by monopoly capital.

We can hardly say that the country is rich in mineral resources though there's a number of them: oil, gas, iron, coal, and gold. The climate of the country lets the grass grow green all the year round, that's why dairy industry is the most efficient. The export of dairy products is the largest in the world.

For the traditional orientations of its wool, meat and milk productions the main branch of the economy on the British market, New Zealand has been called the sheep farm of Britain. Just fancy that New Zealand has over 70 mln sheep and 9 mln head of beef and dairy cattle. The people are very proud of their highly industrialized agriculture.

Now industry plays a more important role in its economy than farming. The main industries are tourism, food processing, manufacturing, transport equipment, oil, refining, fertilize. New Zealanders are conscious of their strong dependence of Britain which takes the bulk of their exports and serves as their major source of imports. Fresh air, magnificent scenery and outdoor activities are the feature attractions of New Zealand. You can tramp on the sides of active volcanoes, in rugged patches of virgin rainforest, through thermal areas of geysers and boiling mud. You can swim with dolphins, watch whales, fish, watch penguins and fur seals. There are many chances to experience the fascinating Maori culture and the warmth of New Zealand's friendly people.

Think and answer.

1. What made New Zealand a self-reliant nation?
2. Why does the country have different slang names, like Kiwiland, Maoriland, Shaky Isles?

10. Are the statements true or false? Correct the false statements.

The USA

1. The United States of America is situated in central North America, with Canada to the north, Mexico to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east.
2. The Appalachian Mountains divide the country into two parts – the South and the North.
3. With every variation of surface the United States possesses every variety of climate, from that of arctic to that of continental.
4. English is the official language in the United States.
5. According to the Constitution the powers of the government are divided into two branches: the legislative and the judicial.

Canada

1. Spanning six times zones, Canada indeed, is the second largest country in the world, covering an area of 9,960,555 square kilometers.
2. Canada is bordered by only one other country – the United States.
3. About 70 per cent of Canadian territory is classified as forest area.
4. Most Canadians live quite far from the southern border with the United States.
5. The Territories in Canada have no autonomy and are governed directly from Ottawa.

Australia

1. The Indian and Pacific Oceans meet along the south coast of Australia.

2. The official title of the country is the Commonwealth of Australia.
3. As a result of Australia's isolation the animals and plants developed differently from those on other continents and took on a unique character.
4. More than a half of the population live in the rural areas.
5. The government is headed by the Governor-General.

New Zealand

1. The nation's capital is Auckland but Wellington is the largest city.
2. The two largest islands of New Zealand are the West Island and the East Island.
3. Rain falls fairly evenly throughout the year in New Zealand.
4. The country has two official languages: English and Spanish.
5. As an independent nation, member of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, like the UK, is a constitutional monarchy, and recognizes the British Queen as its head of state.

11. Guess the country.

1. Because of a comparatively long coastline of this country no place, like in Britain, is more than 120 kilometres from the sea.
2. What first strikes the traveler is the size of this country.
3. This country is surrounded by water, like an island, but geographers classify it as a continent because of its great size. Sometimes it is referred to as an island continent.
4. This country is about half the size of Russia; about three-tenths the size of Africa; slightly larger than Brazil; slightly smaller than China; about two and a half times the size of Western Europe.
5. In this country there are nearly 105 females to every 100 males. The average life expectancy is 72 years for men and 78 – for women.

12. Make a project work.

13. Read the information about the political set-up in the United Kingdom and answer the questions.

GOVERNMENT

The British Monarchy Today

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. This means that it has a monarch (a king or a queen) as its Head of State. The monarch reigns with the support of Parliament. The powers of the monarch are not defined precisely. Everything today is done in the Queen's name. It is her government, her armed forces, her law courts and so on. She appoints all the Ministers, including the Prime Minister. Everything is done however on the advice of the elected Government, and the monarch takes no part in the decision-making process.

Once the British Empire included a large number of countries all over the world ruled by Britain. The process of decolonisation began in 1947 with the independence of India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Now, apart from a few small islands, there is no longer an empire. But the British ruling classes tried not to lose influence over the former colonies of the British Empire. An association of former members of the British Empire and Britain was founded in 1949. It is called the Commonwealth. It includes many countries such as Burma, the Sudan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others. The Queen of Great Britain is also the Head of the Commonwealth, and so the Queen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others.

The Queen is very rich as are other members of the royal family. In addition, the government pays for her expenses as Head of State, for a royal yacht, train and aircraft as well as for the upkeep of several palaces. The Queen's image appears on stamps, notes and coins.

Parliament consists of two chambers known as the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Parliament and the monarch have different roles in the government of the country, and they only meet together on symbolic occasions such as the coronation of a new monarch or the opening of Parliament. In reality, the House of Commons is the only one of the three which has true power. It is here that new bills are introduced and debated. If the majority of the members are in favour of a bill it goes to the House of Lords to be debated and finally to the monarch to be signed. Only then it becomes law. Although a bill must be supported by all three bodies, the House of Lords only has limited powers, and the monarch has not refused to sign one since the modern political system began over 200 years ago.

The British Parliament and the Electoral System

The British Parliament consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons and the Queen as its head.

The House of Lords consists of more than 1000 hereditary lords and peers. About 70% of them are hereditary peers, because their fathers were peers before them. The other 30% are "life peers", whose titles are not passed on to their children. They are officially appointed by the Queen. The House of Lords has very little power. The function of the House of Lords is debating a bill after the House of Commons. It works as the highest and final Court of Appeal. The chairman of the House of Lords is the Lord Chancellor who sits on the Woolsack.

The House of Commons plays the major role in law making. It is made up of 650 elected members, known as Members of Parliament (called MPs for short), each of whom represents an area in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. MPs are elected either at a general election, or at a by-election following the death or retirement of an MP.

Parliamentary elections must be held every five years, but the Prime Minister can decide on the exact date within those five years. The minimum voting age is 18, and the voting is taken by secret ballot.

The election campaign lasts about three weeks. The election is decided on a simple majority – the candidate with most votes wins. An MP who wins by a small number of votes may have more votes against him (that is, for the other candidates) than for him. Many people think that it is unfair because the wishes of those who voted for the unsuccessful candidates are not represented at all.

The British parliamentary system depends on political parties. The political parties choose candidates in elections. The party which wins the majority of seats forms the Government and its leader usually becomes Prime Minister. The Prime Minister chooses about 20 MPs from his or her party to become the Cabinet of Ministers. Each minister is responsible for a particular area of the government. The second largest party becomes the official opposition with its own leader and 'Shadow cabinet'. Leader of the Opposition is a recognized post in the House of Commons.



Questions:

1. Which of these people are not elected: a peer, an MP, a civil servant, the Prime Minister?
2. What is the difference between a life peer and a hereditary peer?
3. What differences are there between Parliament and the Government?
4. How many chambers are there in your Parliament and what are they called?
5. What is the title of the most powerful person in Parliament in Great Britain?

14. Put the following words or phrases in its correct place in the passage below. You can use some words more than one time.

<i>secret ballot</i>	<i>House of Commons</i>	<i>Parliament</i>
<i>Houses of Parliament</i>	<i>Prime Minister</i>	<i>Government</i>

Laws in Great Britain are made by 1 _____. It consists of two chambers: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The 2 _____ is more important as it governs the country. The members of the House of Commons are elected by 3 _____. They belong to different political parties. The main parties are the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. The chief executive is the 4 _____. He heads the 5 _____ but he is not the Head of State.

Great Britain is a monarchy and the head of State is a monarch whose power is limited by 6 _____. The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the Party that has a majority in the 7 _____. Each new Prime Minister can make changes in the size of his cabinet, appoint new ministers and make other changes.

The Prime Minister takes policy decisions with the agreement of his ministers. He often holds Cabinet Meetings at his official residence at No 10 Downing Street which is very near the 8 _____ in Westminster.

The Power of the Cabinet is controlled by 9 _____.

15. Make up your own sentences with the words below to describe the British system.

MPs	election	House of Commons
Prime Minister	ministers	Cabinet
majority	House of Lords	hereditary

16. Turn the following nouns into adjectives.

1. Constitution
2. ceremony
3. politics
4. administration
5. empire royalty

17. Read and translate the dialogue.

A VISIT TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

One day Mr. Jameson invited his partner Mr. Smirnov and his friends to make a tour round the Houses of Parliament. John Wilson, Mr. Jameson's friend, is a member of the British Parliament and he kindly agreed to show Mr. Smirnov and his friends the British Parliament. The visit promised to be very interesting and the guests accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Wilson: Now we are in the centre of London. You see the Houses of Parliament.
Smirnov: Why do you say the Houses of Parliament and not the House of Parliament?
Wilson: The fact is there are two Chambers in the British Parliament and they are called Houses.
Smirnov: I see.
Wilson: I think we'll start with the House of Lords. You'll be able to see the throne on which the Queen sits when she opens Parliament.

(A few minutes later)

Wilson: Here we are now.
Smirnov: Oh, the place is really wonderful. Something you can never forget.
Wilson: Do you see that woosack over there? This is where the Lord Chancellor sits. For hundreds of years wool had been known as one of the most important exports of our country.
Smirnov: But today, I suppose, he must sit on a piece of machinery. Although that won't be so comfortable.
Wilson: Yes, you are right. Well, and now let's go to the House of Commons.

(In the House of Commons)

Smirnov: I can say it doesn't look as splendid as the House of Lords with its beautiful red benches.
Wilson: Yes, you are right.
Smirnov: What's that over there?
Wilson: This is the Strangers' Gallery of the House of Commons.
Smirnov: Why is it called the Strangers' Gallery?
Wilson: It's easy to explain. Each Chamber has galleries. The seats in the galleries are reserved for the use of the public who are called "strangers" in the language of Parliament.
Smirnov: I see.

Wilson: Look at that green chair over there. That's where the Speaker sits. It has been given to the Commons by Australia. On the speaker's chair there is a switch that puts on the light in the Clock Tower above "Big Ben" to tell Londoners that Parliament is in session.
Smirnov: And where does the Prime Minister sit?
Wilson: His seat is on the Government front bench which is on the Speaker's right. And on the Speaker's left you can see the Opposition front bench. These are the most interesting places I could show you, gentlemen.
Smirnov: We are very grateful to you. Thank you for the enjoyable time, Mr. Wilson.

18. Say what you have learned from the dialogue about:

1. the House of Commons;
2. the House of Lords.

19. Think and answer.

1. Why does the British Parliament attract a lot of visitors?
2. Why does Smirnov say that the Lord Chancellor must sit on a piece of machinery?
3. Why are seats in the Strangers' Galleries reserved for the use of the public?

20. Read the texts A-F and match them to the headings 1-7. One heading is not necessary.

1. The funny tradition.
2. Important things.
3. The Queen's speech.
4. The British Government.
5. Two lines.
6. The famous Woosack.
7. The oldest part of the Palace of Westminster.

A. The Palace of Westminster consists of three parts: the Royal Apartments where the colour is gold, the House of Lords where the seats are red and the House of Commons where the seats are green. The Chamber of the House of Lords is also called the Parliament Chamber, because every year when the Queen comes to open Parliament, all three parts of Parliament come together here for the Queen's Speech. In fact, it's not really the Queen's Speech, because she doesn't write it. The Government writes it for her. In the speech the Queen tells Parliament about the Government's plans for the next year.

B. Oh, and that cushion is, actually, the famous Woolsack. And yes, there is wool inside it. It's a part of a very old tradition which started in the 14th century. It was put in Parliament to symbolise the importance of wool to the British economy at that time. The person who usually sits on the Woolsack is the Lord Chancellor. He presides over the House of Lords.

C. The House of Commons is where MPs make decisions on new laws. There are two statues, one on each side of the arch. Both of these two men were Prime Ministers. One is David Lloyd George, and the other – Sir Winston Churchill. They represent the two main British political parties – the Labour Party and the Conservative Party. They have a tradition: if you're a Conservative, touch Churchill's shoe, and if you're Labour, touch Lloyd George's shoe.

D. These are two long narrow corridors which are very important for the whole country because MPs come here to vote on bills for new laws. On the left there is the "aye", or yes, lobby. MPs who agree with a bill go there. On the right there is the "no" lobby for MPs who want to vote against the bill. Then the officials count the "ayes" and the "noes" to get the results. So in the British Parliament MPs don't vote by pushing a button; they vote with their feet.

E. Now look at the floor. Can you see two red lines in front of the benches on each side of the chamber? That's part of a tradition too. The distance between these two lines is two swords' lengths. In the old days when MPs used to carry swords, it was dangerous if they got angry with each other. So these two lines are here to remind MPs that they shouldn't start a fight, and they can't go over this line when they are speaking in a debate.

F. Westminster Hall is the oldest part of the Palace of Westminster, and it's more than a thousand years old. The son of William the Conqueror... Do you remember the Norman leader who won the Battle of Hastings? Well, it was his son who started the building of the hall. This building has seen a lot of famous events. In 1605 Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament, and in World War II bombs fell on it.

21. Read about the US Constitution. Fill in the gaps with the words given below.

freedom
growth
rights

progress
authority
governments

stability
structure
law

THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the US was formed in 1787, in Philadelphia. The Constitution is the source of government 1 _____ and the fundamental 2 _____ of the land. It has guided the evolution of governmental institutions and has provided the basis for political 3 _____, individual 4 _____, economic 5 _____ and social 6 _____. The Constitution sets the basic form of government: 3 separate branches, each one having powers over the others. These 3 powers established a system of checks and balances. The ultimate power under the Constitution is not given to the President, or to the Congress, or to the Supreme Court. It belongs to "We the People", in fact and in spirit. In the first ten Constitutional Amendments, known together as the Bill of Rights, what they considered to be the fundamental 7 _____ of religion, speech, and the press, the right to petition the government to correct wrongs. Other rights guarded the citizens against unreasonable searches, arrests, and seizures of property, and established a system of justice guaranteeing orderly legal procedures. This included the right of trial by jury. The federal and state 8 _____ formed under the Constitution, therefore, were designed to serve the people and to carry out their majority wishes. The great pride Americans have in their Constitution. Each state has its own Constitution. The State Constitution has a similar 9 _____ with the Constitution of the US.

22. Answer the following questions.

1. When was the US Constitution formed?
2. What is the role of the Constitution in the life of people?
3. What do you know about the Bill of Rights?
4. What is guaranteed by the Constitution to the people?

TEST YOURSELF

I. English-speaking countries in questions

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Where is the United Kingdom situated?
2. What is the area of the United Kingdom?
3. What countries does it consist of?
4. What is the highest mountain on the British Isles?
5. What is the longest river?
6. What is the highest mountain in Wales?
7. What is the population of the United Kingdom?
8. What is the population of London?
9. What industry is developed in South Wales?
10. What kind of state is the United Kingdom?
11. What houses does the British Parliament consist of?
12. What are the main political parties?
13. Who chooses the Cabinet of Ministers?
14. What is the flag of the United Kingdom called?

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Where is the USA situated?
2. What area has the USA?
3. What mountains are there in the country?
4. What is situated between the Cordilleras and the Appalachian mountains?
5. What are the main rivers?
6. What kind of climate is there in the USA?
7. What is the population of the USA?

8. How many states are there in the USA?
9. What kind of state is the USA?
10. Who is the head of the state?
11. What is the capital of the USA?
12. What are the main parties?
13. What is the financial & business centre of the country?
14. When is Independence Day celebrated?

CANADA

1. What is the capital of Canada?
2. What is the area of Canada?
3. Where is Canada situated?
4. What is Canada rich in?
5. What is the population of Canada?
6. What are the most important cities?
7. What are Canada's largest ports?
8. What are the largest lakes in Canada?
9. What mountains are there in Canada?
10. What are the longest rivers?
11. What is the largest island in the north of Canada?
12. What kind of state is Canada?
13. How many provinces and territories does it consist of?
14. What houses does the Federal Parliament consist of?
15. What are Canada's main agricultural products?

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

1. What is the official name of Australia?
2. What territories are there in the Commonwealth of Australia?
3. What area has Australia?
4. What is the capital of Australia?
5. In what hemisphere is Australia situated?
6. What is the population of Australia?
7. What are the biggest cities in Australia?
8. What is the main occupation in Australia?
9. What agricultural product is Australia famous for?
10. What are the longest rivers?

11. What mountains are there in Australia?
12. What houses does the Federal Parliament consist of?
13. Who is formally the head of the state?
14. Who represents the Queen of England?

NEW ZEALAND

1. Where is New Zealand situated?
2. What islands does it consist of?
3. On which island are there many lakes?
4. What sea washes the western coast of New Zealand?
5. What is the highest mountainous range?
6. What is the national emblem of New Zealand?
7. What is the capital?
8. What are the main cities?
9. What is the nickname of New Zealand?
10. Which city resembles Edinburgh?
11. What is the population of New Zealand?
12. Who are the Maoris?
13. What are they famous for?
14. What houses does the Parliament consist of?
15. Who represents the Queen of England?

II. Odd the word out. Explain.

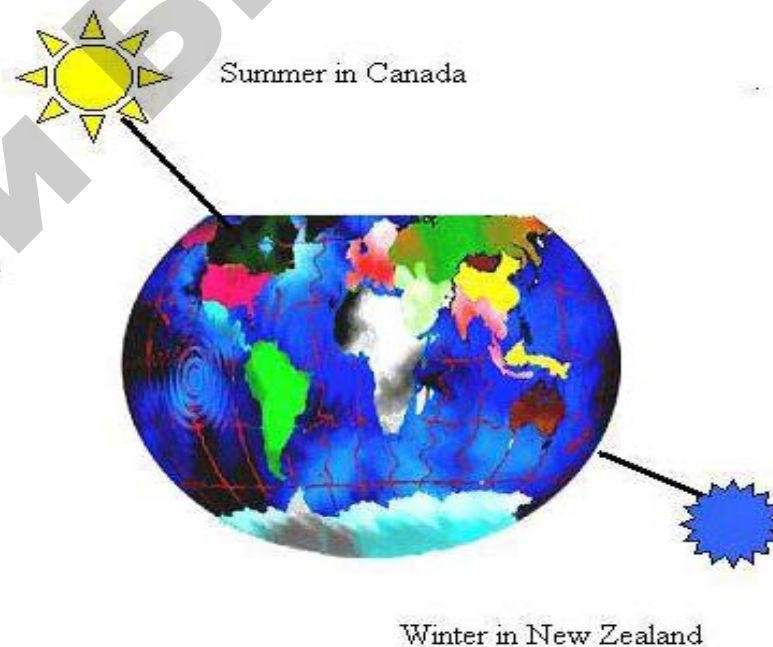
Example: The Murray, the Hudson, the Mississippi, the Yukon. (The Murray, it is in Australia).

1. San Francisco, Chicago, Manchester, New York.
2. Europe, Asia, Belarus, North America.
3. The Severn, the Thames, the Darling, the Avon.
4. The Kimberly, the Cordilleras, the Flinders, the Hamersley.
5. The Appalachian Mountains, the Flinders, the Rocky Mountains, the Cordilleras.
6. Desert, plain, floods, mountains.
7. The St. Lawrence River, the Severn, the Columbia, the Colorado.
8. The Great Sandy Desert, the Great Victoria Desert, the Cordilleras, the Simpson Desert.

9. Scotland, Australia, Wales, England.
10. Liverpool, Edinburgh, Atlanta, Manchester.

III. With or without *the*?

Great Britain, USA, Australia, UK, Darling, Mississippi, Pacific Ocean, Scotland, Great Sandy Desert, North Sea.



3.2 ТЕКУЩИЕ СОБЫТИЯ СОЦИАЛЬНО-ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОЙ ЖИЗНИ В СТРАНАХ ИЗУЧАЕМОГО ЯЗЫКА

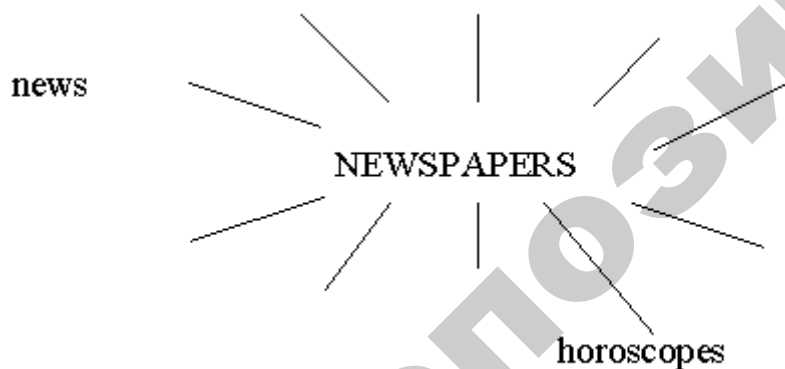
1. Where do you find out about the news? Number these sources in order of importance:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> local newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV | <input type="checkbox"/> other people |

2. Which of these adjectives best describes what you think about the news? Number them in order. I think the news is:

depressing	interesting	boring	annoying
amusing	relevant	irrelevant	

3. The British is one of the biggest newspapers – reading nations in the world. What do people read newspapers for? Give your ideas.



4. Read and translate the text. What are the two groups of British newspapers?

THE BRITISH PRESS

There are dozens, often hundreds of different newspapers in every country. Daily papers – national papers – local papers, evening papers, Sunday papers, free papers.

There are some factors to make a good newspaper story:

1) It must be new, giving extra detail, comment or background information (the facts behind a story or event) and printing completely different stories which TV doesn't broadcast.

2) The story has to be dramatic. People don't want to read about ordinary, everyday life. That's why many stories involve some kind of conflict or danger.

3) Human interest. People are interested in other people, rich, famous and powerful. Stories about the private lives of pop stars, TV personalities, actors, politicians and royalty appear regularly.

Papers find stories from their own reporters or from international news agencies. There are two kinds of reporters – general and special. General reporters cover a wide range of news stories, including accidents, conferences, crimes, festivals, local politics, strikes and about one subject, as the arts, the environment, finance, the law, foreign affairs, the media, politics and sport. Journalists are expensive – especially foreign correspondents. Most newspapers can't afford to have their own reporters in every foreign capital. So, they get international news from news agencies. These are large organizations, which have reporters all over the world. Every day they collect information and then sell it to newspapers, TV and radio stations.

One of the biggest agencies is Reuters. It has about 900 reporters, working in 118 cities in 82 countries. Their stories (over 400 per day) are used by more than 1000 newspapers in 5 countries. The Press Association – the organization, which provides news about Britain to newspapers, radio and television stations in other countries and informs industry and the government of the news as it happens. There are other agencies: Agency France Press, United Press International and Associated Press.

Fleet Street in London used to be the home of most national daily and Sunday newspapers. People often said "Fleet Street" to mean "the press". But today the old image of London's Fleet Street as the centre of the newspaper printing and publishing world has changed. More national and regional daily newspapers are sold for every person in Britain than in most other developed countries. National newspapers have a total circulation of 14,2 mln on weekdays and 16,2 mln on Sundays. There are about 130 daily and Sunday newspapers, over 2000 weekly newspapers and some 7000 periodical publications. There are also more than 750 free distribution newspapers, mostly weekly and financed by advertising, and some 60 newspapers and magazines produced by members of the ethnic minorities.

There are 12 national morning daily papers: 5 qualities ("The Times", "Financial Times", "The Daily Telegraph", "The Guardian," "the Independent");

7 populars: among them "Daily Express", "Daily Mail", "Daily Mirror", "Daily Star", "The Sun", etc.

11 national Sunday ones:

qualities – "The Sunday Telegraph", "The Independent on Sunday", "The Observer", "The Sunday Correspondent", "The Sunday Times";

populars — "News of the World", "Sunday Express", "Sunday Mirror", "Sunday Sport", "The Mail on Sunday".

Qualities and populars differ in style and content. The qualities are newspapers giving serious accounts of the news and reports on business matters, industry, culture and society. They are large-sized. The populars, that are called "tabloids" because of their size, don't contain serious news, but has stories about famous people, sport, sex, scandalous aspects of life in Britain with lots of illustrations; political issues are explained in easily understandable language. Many newspapers are printed in colour, and a number of papers produce colour magazines as part of the Saturday and Sunday paper. They provide reading material about fashion, clothes, cooking, diet, the house and home, holidays, articles on travel, food.

Newspapers have an important effect on public opinion. The press is free to comment on matters of public interests, subject to law. There is no state control or censorship of the press, which caters for a variety of political views, interests and levels of education. Newspapers are almost always financially independent of any political parties. All the national newspapers use computer technology. One of the beneficial results of computerized production has been improved graphics and photographs.

The tendency has been for newspapers to become smaller but to contain more pages.

Sunday papers have colour magazines and several of the dailies have weekend supplements.

Running a newspaper is an expensive business and several newspapers started and failed during the 1980s.

5. Which of the statements are true? Prove your point of view.

1. "Tabloids" (popular) papers contain sensational stories.
2. Quality papers are more popular than tabloids.
3. Quality press covers national and international news.
4. "Tabloids" have short articles about less important events.
5. Quality papers use large colour headlines and many photographs.

6. Answer the questions.

1. Who writes for newspapers?
2. What are the sources of getting information and news?
3. What news agencies do you know?
4. What are the factors to make a good newspaper story?
5. What's the difference between 'qualities' and populars'?
6. Are the British one of the biggest newspaper – reading nations in the world?

7. Group the papers.

<i>National dailies 'Populars'</i>	<i>National Sundays 'Populars'</i>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
<i>'Qualities'</i>	<i>'Qualities'</i>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	

Daily Express, Sunday Telegraph, Financial Times, News of the World, Daily Mail, Sunday Express, The Daily Telegraph, The Observer, The Sunday Times, The Guardian, Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, The Sunday Correspondent, The Independent, Daily Star, The Sun, Sunday Sport, The Times, The Mail on Sunday.

8. Complete each sentence with a word or phrase from the list below. Use each item once only.

editorial	news flash	cable television	respect for privacy
headline	live coverage	unbiased account	pick up
in depth	spokesperson	current affairs	speculation
obituary	special issue	press conference	increase circulation

- In an attempt to the editor decided to print more "human interest" stories.
- The company held a to launch their new range.
- This channel is devoted solely to news and
- With this short-wave radio I can broadcasts from all over the world.
- There has been a lot of in the press that the minister is about to resign.
- This month there's a of the magazine with information and advice about going on holiday.
- We live in a mountainous region so if it wasn't for we wouldn't receive any broadcasts of a reasonable quality.
- We interrupt this programme to bring you an important
- Exclusively on this channel we have of the big match.
- Next morning an appeared in the newspaper, criticising the government's defence policy.
- These reports are so subjective. Where can I find an of what happened?
- The President's was not at all flattering and his widow was extremely upset.
- There, right on the front page, was the, ANOTHER RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT.
- Some tabloid journalists have no I'm sure my telephone has been bugged!

- A interviewed on the local news denied that the company was in any way responsible for the accident.
- In our evening bulletin we try to report on the news by providing more background information.

9. Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place in the passage below.

cartoons	editorials	circulation	correspondents
headlines	reviews	sensational	entertainment
advertising	editorials	news agencies	views
gossip columns			

A newspaper makes its money from the price people pay for it and also from the 1 it carries. A popular newspaper with a 2 of over five million daily makes a lot of money. Less serious newspapers are probably read just for 3 They have big 4 above the news stories, funny 5 to look at and 6 photos of violence. The 7 are full of stories of the private lives of famous people. No one takes the political 8 of such papers very seriously. On the other hand, in a free country where there is no 9, serious newspapers are read principally for their news, sent to them by their 10 round the world and by the big 11 People also read these newspapers for their 12 of new books, films and plays and for their 13, which represent the opinion of the newspaper itself about the important events and issues of the moment.

10. Give definitions.

- What do we call a paper that comes out daily?
a magazine that is issued once a month?
a paper that circulates in one town and its district?
a paper that circulates all over the country?
a printed notice about things to be sold or things that are needed?
a magazine that is published at regular intervals?

b) What do we call a man who is responsible for publishing a newspaper or a magazine?

a man who writes articles, reviews, etc. to papers and magazines?

a man who makes reports for the newspaper?

a man who comments on some events?

11. Paraphrase the statements using the following words instead of italicized ones.

an editorial	to come out	home news
dailies	foreign news	to carry

1. Newspapers in some countries *publish* a lot of advertisements.
2. In addition to national *daily papers* there are local papers published in every town.
3. Local papers publish local, *national* and *world news*.
4. As a rule, each paper begins with a *leading article*.
5. The majority of magazines *are issued* monthly.

12. Make a project work.
Current events in the English-speaking countries.

1. BBC News: www.news.bbc.co.uk
2. The British Parliament: www.parliament.uk
3. The Guardian: www.guardian.co.uk
4. The New York Times: www.nytimes.com
5. USA Today: www.usatoday.com
6. Euronews: www.euronews.net

3.3 РЕСПУБЛИКА БЕЛАРУСЬ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ МИРЕ

The Republic of Belarus today: General Outlook

Active Vocabulary

1. Match the words of your active vocabulary in English with their Russian equivalents.

1. domestic policy	a. двусторонний
2. foreign policy	b. судебный
3. legislative	c. получить признание
4. executive	d. целостность
5. judicial	e. внутренняя политика
6. bilateral	f. законодательный
7. constitutional amendment	g. внешняя политика
8. electoral suffrage	h. исполнительная власть
9. gain recognition	i. поправка к конституции
10. integrity	j. избирательное право

2. Go through the text and check your understanding by doing the tasks that follow.

The Parliament of the Republic of Belarus declared the sovereignty of the country on 27 July 1990, and following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Belarus declared its independence on 25 August 1991. According to the Constitution, adopted in March 1994, the Republic of Belarus is a unitary democratic social state based on the rule of law, which exercises supreme control and absolute authority over its entire territory, and pursues an independent internal and foreign policy. Currently the Republic of Belarus is a sovereign independent state with its own government, constitution, state emblem, flag and anthem. The national anthem of the Republic of Belarus is "We, Belarusians".

The politics of Belarus takes place in a framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President of Belarus is the Head of State, the

Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, the guarantor of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the rights and liberties of man and citizen. The President personifies the unity of the nation, the implementation of the main guidelines of the domestic and foreign policy, represents the State in the relations with other states and international organizations. The President provides the protection of the sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, its national security and territorial integrity, ensures its political and economic stability, continuity and interaction of bodies of state power, maintains the intermediation among the bodies of state power. Under the Constitution, the President is elected directly by the people of the Republic of Belarus for a term of office of five years by universal, free, equal, direct electoral suffrage and by secret ballot.

State power in the Republic is exercised on the principle of division of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary. State bodies, within the confines of their powers, are independent: they cooperate among themselves acting on the principle of checks and balances.

The country's supreme legislative authority is the National Assembly, however the President may enact decrees that are executed the same way as laws. The National Assembly is a bicameral Parliament comprising the 110-seat House of Representatives (the lower house) and the 64-seat Council of the Republic (the upper house). The House of Representatives has the power to appoint the Prime Minister, make constitutional amendments, call for a vote of confidence on the Prime Minister, and make suggestions on foreign and domestic policy. The Council of the Republic has the power to select various government officials, conduct an impeachment trial of the President, and accept or reject the bills passed by the House of Representatives. Each chamber has the ability to veto any law passed by local officials if it is contrary to the Constitution of Belarus.

Executive power in the Republic of Belarus is exercised by the Government – the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus – the central body of state administration. The Government in its activity is accountable to the President and responsible to Parliament. The head of the Council is the Prime Minister, appointed by the President with the consent of the House of Representatives. The Prime Minister manages

the activities of the Government and informs the President on its basic guidelines and on all the most important decisions.

The judicial power in the Republic is performed by the Supreme Court and specialized courts such as the Constitutional Court, which deals with specific issues related to constitutional and business law. The judges of national courts are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Council of the Republic. Supervision of the exact and uniform execution of laws by all bodies of state management, local councils and other legal and physical persons is carried out by the General Public Prosecutor of the Republic of Belarus.

Control over the fulfilment of the republican budget, the utilization of state property, the execution of parliamentary acts, regulating the relations with state property, economic, financial and tax relations, is carried out by the State Control Committee.

The first political party in independent Belarus other than the communist party was the United Democratic Party of Belarus founded in 1990. It seeks an independent Belarus, democracy, freedom of ethnic expression, and a market economy. The Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly advocates an independent Belarus, which does not rule out membership in the CIS, and a market economy with state regulation of certain sectors. The Belarusian Peasant Party's goals involve privatization of land, a free market, a democratic government, and support of Belarusian culture and humanism. The Belarusian Christian Democratic Union espouses Christian values, non-violence, pluralism, private property, and peaceful relations among ethnic groups. Other parties include the Communist Party of Belarus, the National Democratic Party of Belarus, the Liberal Democratic Party of Belarus, the All-Belarusian Party of Popular Unity and Accord, the Republican Party of Labour and Justice, the Agrarian Party of Belarus, the Belarusian Ecological Party, etc. All in all in 2008 there were 15 officially registered political parties in Belarus.

The Republic of Belarus has significant scientific and technical potential, aimed at solving major social and economic problems, fundamental research and development. The opening of the Belarusian State University in 1921 became an important step in the development of Belarusian science. In 1929 the Academy of Sciences of Belarus was founded. The achievements of Belarusian scientists in the fields of mathematics, physics, nuclear power, chemistry,

biology, 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.

Belarus possesses a rich folklore and a legacy of literature, art and architecture from the Kievan and Lithuanian periods. The period from the 16th to the 18th century is considered the golden age of Belarusian culture. The 18th and 19th centuries were a time of Polish and Russian cultural ascendancy. The revival of Belarusian culture began only in the late 1980s. At present the Ministry of Culture finances events promoting Belarusian arts and culture both inside and outside the country. The Belarusian Government sponsors various cultural festivals like the Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk, which showcases Belarusian performers, artists, writers, musicians, and actors. Several state holidays, for example, Victory Day and Independence Day, draw big crowds and often include displays such as fireworks and military parades.

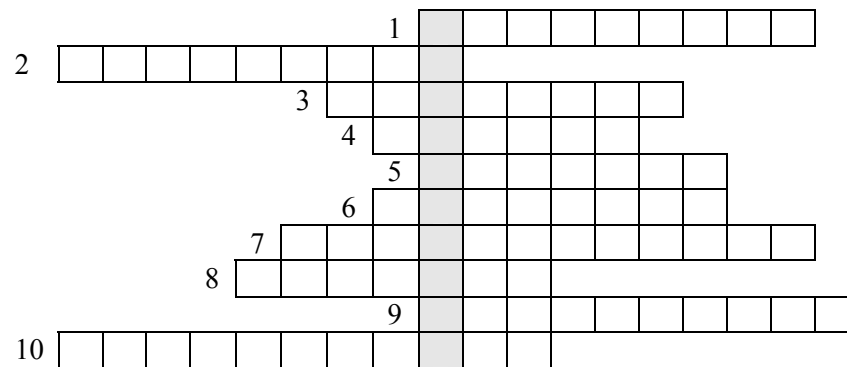
Belarus and Russia have been close trading partners and diplomatic allies since the break-up of the Soviet Union. Since 1996, Belarus has been negotiating with Russia to unify into a single state called the Union of Russia and Belarus. Belarus has trade agreements with several European Union member states as well as with its neighbours Lithuania, Poland and Latvia. Bilateral relations with the United States are based on intellectual property protection, prevention of human trafficking and technology crime, and disaster relief. Belarus has recently increased its cooperation with China, India, Venezuela, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of South Africa and Syria. In addition to the CIS, Belarus has membership in the Eurasian Economic Community and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. Belarus interacts with the major international institutions such as the United Nations Organisation, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Non-Alignment Movement, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc.

The Republic of Belarus owns a valuable potential of natural, architectural and ethnic resources, rich cultural and historical heritage, favourable geographical position on tourist routes connecting Western Europe, Russia, Scandinavia and Asia. International economic and cultural activity of Belarus today is becoming more and more intensive. It contributes to the world peace, friendship and cooperation among nations.

3. Consult a dictionary to fill in the missing parts of speech in the table below.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
		supervising
declaration	constitute	
	prevent	
government		independent
	preside	
legislature	authorize	
union		

4. Scan the text and find the words which correspond to these definitions. Complete the puzzle and find a key word.



1. affecting or undertaken by two parties; mutual
2. to talk (with others) to achieve an agreement
3. a sudden failure or breakdown
4. the democratic practice of selecting a representative or a course of action by submitting the options to a vote of all qualified persons
5. a renewed use, acceptance of, or interest in past customs, styles, etc.
6. relating to the administration of justice

7. the system or body of fundamental principles according to which a nation or state is constituted and governed
8. to assign officially, as for a position, responsibility, etc.
9. an addition, alteration, or improvement to a document
10. supreme and unrestricted power, as of a state

5. Check your understanding of the text by marking these statements as True or False. Provide evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. The Republic of Belarus as a sovereign country was formed in 1990, following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.
2. Our national Constitution was adopted in March 1994 in which the functions of the Prime Minister were given to the President.
3. According to the Constitution, the Republic of Belarus is a presidential republic, governed by the President and the National Assembly.
4. Alexander Lukashenko has been the President of Belarus since 1992.
5. The unicameral Parliament consists of the Council of the Republic and the House of Representatives.
6. The Council of Ministers is the legislative branch of state power, and is appointed by the President of Belarus.
7. Control over the constitutional compliance of normative acts in the country is fulfilled by the Supreme Court.

6. Read the text more carefully and complete the suggested statements.

1. State power is formed and realized through ...
2. Executive power is exercised by ...
3. Legislative power is vested in ...
4. The judicial power is performed by ...
5. In accordance with the Constitution, the President...
6. In Belarus there exist several political parties ...
7. At present Belarus is in close cooperation with ...
8. The Republic of Belarus possesses (owns, has)...

7. Read the text again and give extensive answers to the following questions.

1. What are the country's supreme legislative, executive and judicial authorities?
2. What is the official name of the Belarusian Parliament? What chambers does it consist of?
3. Who is the country's President at the moment? Who is the head of the Government nowadays?
4. Is it true that Belarus is a country of well-developed science, culture and education?

8. Try to give an adequate translation of the following sentences.

1. Беларусь – страна с уникальной историей и богатым культурным наследием.
2. Согласно Конституции, Республика Беларусь – унитарная демократическая социально-правовая держава, которая самостоятельно осуществляет внутреннюю и внешнюю политику.
3. Минск – столица современной Беларуси, крупнейший центр экономической, культурной и социальной жизни общества.
4. Избрание депутатов Палаты представителей осуществляется на основе всеобщего, равного, прямого избирательного права при тайном голосовании.
5. Беларусь находится в союзных отношениях с Россией, сотрудничает со многими международными организациями, поддерживает дипломатические и торговые связи почти со 160 странами мира.
6. Беларусь является членом ООН, СНГ, ОДКБ, ЕврАзЭС, Союзного государства России и Беларуси, МВФ и Всемирного банка.
7. Стратегической целью Республики Беларусь как европейского государства является членство в Европейском Союзе путем выполнения стандартных политических, экономических и институциональных требований.
8. Несмотря на то, что Беларусь – единственная страна в Европе, где нет ни моря, ни гор, у нее есть значительный потенциал для развития сельского туризма.

9. Туристы, посетившие Беларусь, увозят домой богатые впечатления об озере Нарочь и Беловежской пуше, о красоте Полоцкого Софийского собора, средневекового Мирского замка, многих других памятниках истории и культуры.

9. Share your opinions on the following.

1. What are the most typical features of the Belarusian national character?

2. Speak about the advantages and disadvantages of the geographical position of Belarus.

3. If you were a guide, what places of interest in Belarus would you show the tourists? Which of them can give a visitor a good idea of the historic past of the country?

4. If you were asked to send one thing representing your country to an international exhibition, what would you choose? Why?

5. What future would you forecast for the Republic of Belarus?

10. Make a project work.

1. Welcome to Belarus: www.belarus.by

2. Белорусско-европейское сотрудничество и партнерство:

www.eurobelarus.info

3. Министерство финансов Республики Беларусь:

www.minfin.gov.by

4. Совет Министров Республики Беларусь: www.government.by

5. Официальный интернет-портал Президента Республики Беларусь:

www.president.gov.by

6. BBC News: www.news.bbc.co.uk

7. Euronews: www.euronews.net

3.4 ТЕКУЩИЕ СОБЫТИЯ СОЦИАЛЬНО-ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОЙ ЖИЗНИ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ БЕЛАРУСЬ

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

constitution, denounce, ratify, submit, renounce,
conviction, rally, pronounce, substitute

- the act of bringing certainty to the mind;
- laws and principles according to which a state is governed;
- give notice that one intends to end (a treaty or agreement);
- confirm (an agreement) by signature or other formality;
- declare, announce (especially formally, solemnly or officially);
- replace, stand in;
- gathering or assembly, especially to encourage fresh effort;
- put (oneself) under the control of another;
- consent formally to give up (a claim, right, possession).

2. Combine the words with the help of the preposition *of*:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the main document | a. power |
| 2. the constitution | b. the court's decision |
| 3. Declaration | c. the country |
| 4. special Session | d. the creation |
| 5. the conditions | e. the health |
| 6. the monopoly | f. State Sovereignty |
| 7. the agreement | g. the Republic of Belarus |
| 8. Main Law | h. the Union |
| 9. to take care | i. striving |
| 10. the basis | j. the Supreme Soviet |

3. These words can be used both as verbs and nouns. Make up your own sentences to show the difference in their usage:

form, study, work, cause, state.

4. Write the derivatives of the following words:

to declare, policy, economy, to agree, to create, to develop, to decide, free, to express, peace, to move, capable, education.

5. Read the text and get ready to speak about the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Every country has its own Constitution. It's the main document of any country. When Belarus was a member of the former Soviet Union it submitted to the Constitution of the USSR.

A new stage in the history of Belarusian statehood began on July 27, 1990 when the BSSR Supreme Soviet adopted the Declaration «On the State Sovereignty of the BSSR». On August 25, 1991 the BSSR Supreme Soviet declared the political and economic independence of Belarus. On December 11, 1991 the Supreme Soviet ratified the Agreement on the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed on December 8, 1991 by the leaders of Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine. Simultaneously the Supreme Soviet denounced the treaty on the creation of the USSR. The final legal act that pronounced Belarus a new democratic state in Eastern Europe was the new Constitution of the Republic of Belarus adopted by the Supreme Soviet on March 15, 1994.

According to the new Constitution, Belarus is a presidential republic. The head of the state and of the executive power is President who is elected for a 5-year term. The new Constitution consists of a preamble and 8 chapters:

1. the basis of the constitutional system;
2. person, society, state;
3. election system, referendum;

4. legislative, executive and judicial branches of power;
5. local government and self-government;
6. state control and supervision;
7. finance and credit system;
8. the Constitution in action and the order of its changing.

In conformity with **Article 33** of the Constitution each person is guaranteed freedom of opinion, convictions and their free expression. No one may be forced to express his convictions or renounce them.

Freedom of peaceful meetings, rallies, marches, demonstrations and picketing that do not disturb order and the rights of other citizens of the Republic of Belarus is guaranteed by the State (**Article 35**).

Every person has the right for freedom of association (**Article 36**). Public associations are to be organized on the initiative of not less than ten citizens of the Republic of Belarus who have attained to the age of 18. Youth and children's public associations may be organized by citizens of the Republic who have attained to the age of 16. Public associations may found unions of public associations.

The right to education is guaranteed by the Constitution (**Article 49**) **which** says that «each person has the right to education. **Accessible** and free secondary and vocational education **is guaranteed**. Secondary and higher education is accessible **for all** people depending on the capabilities of every person. **Each person has** the right to obtain education in state educational institutions on the basis of contest and free of charge».

6. Imagine that:

- you and your English friend are discussing the Constitution of your native countries. Role-play a dialogue with your partner;
- you are a governmental official. You want to introduce some amendments to the Constitution. Give your arguments.

7. Read and translate the text using a dictionary. Make a summary of the text.

The Role of Belarus in Protecting Peace

The first five years of the 21st century did not make the world more peaceful and stable. The threat of global nuclear catastrophe was replaced by new challenges: international terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The emergence of unipolar world not only failed to ease tensions in international relations, but also brought about new hotbeds of conflicts, most negatively affected fates of many nations. Afghanistan became the centre of drug trafficking. Iraq continues to remain the source of instability of the entire region.

All these features of the modern world development acquired paramount importance for the Republic of Belarus, seriously influenced its foreign policy, the effectiveness of which largely depends on the accuracy of correlation between world trends and national objectives and possibilities at the international arena. Even under such circumstances, far from being favourable, peaceful pragmatism and democratic approach have been and remain political cornerstones of Belarus' international strategy.

The Declaration on State Sovereignty adopted in Belarus in 1990, proclamation of economic and political independence of the country signified a new period of international development. Having realized its natural right to be independent, Belarus started to build a sovereign nation, conduct its own foreign policy, aimed at strengthening independence, inclusion in pan-European processes, fostering cooperation with neighbouring countries and world powers.

Because of the complicated historical path of Belarus, its foreign policy was formed through a synthesis of historical traditions with due regard for fundamentally new approaches related to drastic changes both in Belarus and in the world. The mentality of Belarusian people who had always been looking for friends and partners, specificity of today's stage of development of international relations, pragmatic economic estimates determined the decision taken by Belarus to choose multidimensional foreign policy, which implies constructive work at all directions.

At the same time, objective limitation of Belarus' foreign policy resources makes it necessary to concentrate them on the most important directions – this is a common practice in the world. Strategic goals of Belarus at the international arena are safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation, protecting interests of the citizens, preserving nuclear-free status.

The main goals of Belarus in the field of foreign policy are as follows:

- promotion of a favourable foreign policy environment for improving well-being of the citizens;
- integration of Belarus on an equal basis in the world political, economic, scientific, educational, cultural and communication areas;
- promotion of a stable, just and democratic world order based on the principles of international law;
- building good-neighbour relations with neighbouring countries;
- protection of rights and interests of Belarusian citizens abroad;
- promotion of national, cultural and other rights of ethnic Belarusians residing abroad;
- strengthening of international security, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament and arms control;
- expansion of international cooperation in environmental, informational and humanitarian fields;
- attraction of external intellectual resources for the purpose of educational, scientific and cultural development of Belarus;
- participation in international cooperation in the field of encouragement and promotion of human rights.

The Republic of Belarus has established diplomatic relations with 153 states. Diplomatic infrastructure has been developed abroad. Currently, 51 diplomatic missions in 45 countries worldwide represent Belarus, including 43 embassies, 3 permanent missions to international organizations, and 7 consulates general. 31 embassies of foreign countries, 3 branches of embassies, 1 trade mission, 13 consular offices, 12 missions of international organizations function in Belarus. 81 missions of foreign countries and international organizations are accredited to Belarus concurrently.

The priorities of the foreign policy of Belarus include allied relations with Russia, participation in pan-European political and economic processes, contribution to strengthening of regional and global security, work in international organizations.

Belarus proceeds from the conviction that world order of the 21st century should be based on joint settlement of disputes, on the primacy of UN Charter and international law. Stability of the system of international relations can only be achieved through real equality of all its subjects, mutual respect and mutually advantageous cooperation.

Belarus, more than any other country, understands the necessity to preserve and promote world peace. Our country, having lost during World War II almost one third of its population, knows the price of peaceful life and does its best to ensure that military conflicts disappear from the practice of international relations forever.

Belarus pursues a balanced foreign policy, the main purpose of which is to strengthen its international positions. Belarus acts actively both in trade and economic field, security affairs, as well as in developing cultural ties and comprehensive cooperation between countries and nations.

Press-Release of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
in the Russian Federation

It's interesting to know...

- ✓ Belarus was named 'Byelorussia' until 1991, when the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic decreed by law that the new independent republic should be called 'Belarus' in Russian and in all other language transcriptions of its name.
- ✓ Until the 20th century, the Belarusians lacked the opportunity to create a distinctive national identity, since the lands of modern-day Belarus belonged to several countries, including the Principality of Polotsk, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union.
- ✓ Belarus is twice as small as France, Spain, Sweden. It is twice as large as Greece and Bulgaria; three times as large as Ireland and the Czech Republic; five times as large as Estonia and Denmark.
- ✓ Belarus occupies some 2% of the territory of Europe and ranks 85th in area in the world.
- ✓ The Belarusians account for 1.5% of the population of Europe and the country ranks 86th among the countries of the world in population.

- ✓ On 31 May 2008 a memorial sign was put up in the city of Polotsk, Vitebsk region to mark the geographical centre of Europe.
- ✓ Minsk has been the nation's capital since 1919, and at present it is home to 1,860,400 of Belarus' residents.
- ✓ There are about 0.88 male per female in Belarus. The average life expectancy is 63 years for males and 74.9 years for females.
- ✓ Belarus has a negative population growth rate. In 2007 Belarus' population declined by 0.41% and its fertility rate was 1.22, well below the replacement rate.
- ✓ According to Article 16 of the Constitution, Belarus has no official religion, although the primary religion in the country is Russian Orthodox. While the freedom of worship is granted in the same article, religious organisations that are deemed harmful to the government or social order of the country can be prohibited.
- ✓ Belarus is the only nation in Europe that retains the death penalty for certain crimes during times of peace and war.
- ✓ Belarus has four World Heritage Sites: the Mir Castle Complex, the Nesvizh Castle, the Belovezhskaya Forest Nature Reserve (shared with Poland), and the Struve Geodetic Arc (shared with nine other countries).
- ✓ In 1945 Belarus was one of the 50 member countries that formed the United Nations Organisation to promote peace and international cooperation and security.
- ✓ In December 1991 Belarus was one of the three Slavic republics the former USSR to set up the Commonwealth of Independent States with the purpose of economic, financial and monetary cooperation. The headquarters of the CIS is in Minsk.
- ✓ Almost two thirds (61.5%) of the Belarusians do not support any political party.

**ПЕРЕЧЕНЬ КОМПЬЮТЕРНЫХ СРЕДСТВ
ОБУЧЕНИЯ, РЕКОМЕНДУЕМЫХ
СТУДЕНТАМ ПРИ ПОДГОТОВКЕ К УСРС**

Учебное издание

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Вид	Наименование программного продукта	Назначение
Компьютерные программы	«English Platinum». ТОО «Мультимедиа Технологии».	обучающая программа
	«Профессор Хиггинс. Английский без акцента!». НПЦ «Istrasoft».	обучающая программа
	ЕВС (English Business Contracts). ТОО «Медиахаус».	обучающая программа
Интернет-сайты	http://moodle.batu.edu.by	сайт самоконтроля и проверки уровня знаний
	www.wikipedia.org (английский язык)	энциклопедия
	www.britanica.org	энциклопедия
	www.englishclub.net	обучающие тесты
	http://www.dailyesl.com	информационные сайты для самостоятельной работы, самообразования
	www.globalenvision.org	
	www.Irs.ed.uiuc.edu/Impact/	
http://www.ezslang.com/		
	http://iteslj.org/questions/	