

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 2

Социокультурное общение

Часть 1

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Модуль 2 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 тренировочной 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 АЭФ и ФПУ БГАТУ.

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СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

ВВЕДЕНИЕ	4
МОДУЛЬ 2: СОЦИОКУЛЬТУРНОЕ ОБЩЕНИЕ.....	8
2.1 СОЦИОКУЛЬТУРНЫЙ ПОРТРЕТ ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ	8
2.2 СОЦИОКУЛЬТУРНЫЙ ПОРТРЕТ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ.....	27
2.3 НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ ТРАДИЦИИ И ЦЕННОСТИ.....	34
2.3.1 Национальные традиции Великобритании	34
2.3.2 Белорусские национальные традиции	38
ПЕРЕЧЕНЬ КОМПЬЮТЕРНЫХ СРЕДСТВ ОБУЧЕНИЯ, РЕКОМЕНДУЕМЫХ СТУДЕНТАМ ПРИ ПОДГОТОВКЕ К УСРС.....	42

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 настоящей программой;
- читать и переводить литературу по специальности обучаемых (изучающее, ознакомительное, просмотровое и поисковое чтение);

- письменно выражать свои коммуникативные намерения в сферах, предусмотренных настоящей 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-2. Социокультурное общение**» представлено в Таблице.

Тема модуля	Содержание	Кол-во час.	Формируемые компетенции
М-2. Социокультурное общение	Социокультурный портрет страны изучаемого языка и Республики Беларусь.	44	КК МПК КГП КСВ КЗ КС
Студент должен:			
знать: социокультурные нормы бытового общения;			
уметь: в письменной и устной форме аргументированно представить свою точку зрения по темам «Страна изучаемого языка», «Беларусь», «Образование», «Спорт», «Досуг», «Экология», владеть всеми видами чтения, сочетать диалогическую и монологическую формы речи, участвовать в дискуссии по изучаемым проблемам.	УСПС: Национальные традиции и ценности. Социокультурный портрет молодежи: образование, спорт, досуг и т.п. УСПС: Проблемы молодежи. Нравственность и духовность в современном обществе. Экологическая культура. Технический прогресс и глобальные проблемы человечества. УСПС: Текущие события культурной жизни в соизучаемых странах.		

УМК составлен в соответствии с требованиями Типовой учебной программы для высших учебных заведений по иностранному

языку, утвержденной Министерством образования РБ. В основу структурирования содержания учебного материала положен принцип модульного подхода, который предполагает разбивку учебного материала на относительно самостоятельные модули (разделы) курса.

Модуль 2 «Социокультурное общение» включает упражнения, направленные на формирование и развитие социально-личностных компетенций студентов. Цель модульного 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 2: СОЦИОКУЛЬТУРНОЕ ОБЩЕНИЕ

2.1 СОЦИОКУЛЬТУРНЫЙ ПОРТРЕТ ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ

Active Vocabulary

1. Make sure you know all the words given below.

Island / isle	To be divided	To inhabit	Changeable
Kingdom	To be separated	To influence	Humid
State	To be situated	To vary	Mountainous
Surface	To be washed by	To occupy	Temperate

a) Translate the sentences containing the words of your active vocabulary.

1. A piece of land completely surrounded by water is called an **island**.
2. Nearly 10 percent of the Earth's **surface** is covered by ice.
3. A **mountainous** area has a lot of mountains.
4. If people **inhabit** an area or place, they live there.
5. The garden **occupies** 5 acres.
6. The country **is washed by** the Atlantic Ocean.

b) Match the words up with their synonyms and antonyms. Consult a dictionary if necessary.

Words	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. humid	a. inconstant, unsteady	A. to have no impact on something
2. changeable	b. to isolate	B. to be similar
3. to separate	c. to differ	C. constant, invariable
4. to vary	d. to affect	D. dry, arid
5. to influence	e. moist, damp	E. to link up, to connect

2. Read and translate the text. Do the exercises below.

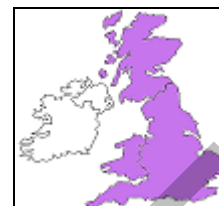
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) 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 situated off the west coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the northwest 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 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland occupies most of the territory of the British Isles. It consists of four main parts which are: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. England, Scotland and Wales occupy the territory of Great Britain. Northern Ireland is situated in the northern part of Ireland. The two main islands are separated by the Irish Sea.



Great Britain



UK



British Isles

The UK is one of the world's smaller countries (it is twice smaller than France or Spain), with an area of some 244,100 square kilometres.

The population of the United Kingdom is about 60 million people (in mid-2009). The population lives mostly in towns and cities and their suburbs. The UK is inhabited by the English, the Scots, the Welsh, and the Irish who constitute the British nation. English is not the only language which people use in the UK. English is the official language. But some people speak Gaelic in western Scotland, Welsh – in parts of northern and central Wales.

The surface of Great Britain varies greatly. The northern and the western parts of the country are mountainous. England is a vast plain.

The climate in the UK is generally mild and temperate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream. The southwestern winds carry the warmth and moisture into Britain. The climate in Britain is usually described as cool, temperate and humid. The weather is so changeable that the English often say that they have no climate but only weather.



Of the four parts which make up the United Kingdom **England** is the largest and most densely populated. Over 46 million people of the population of the UK live in England. The capital of England is *London*. Its emblem is a rose.

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.

There are many rivers in England. The longest is the Severn (388 km), the most important is the Thames (354 km). 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 favourite holiday area.

England is mostly a lowland country. There are upland regions in the north and the southwest, but the rest of England is almost flat.

The wool industry is centred 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.



Although **Scotland** takes up one third of the territory of the British Isles, it is not densely populated: its population is a little over 5 million people. *Edinburgh* has been the capital since the 15th century. It is the cultural centre of Scotland. The city is associated with the names of George Gordon Byron and Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Burns and Arthur Conan Doyle. Its emblem is a thistle.

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 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 (1343 m). 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 centre of Scotland.

Shipbuilding is one of its most important industries, other industries are iron and steel, heavy and light engineering and coal-mining.



Another country of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is **Wales**. The population of Wales is over 3 million people. The capital of Wales is *Cardiff*, the largest city of Wales. It is an important industrial city and a port. It is also an administrative and educational centre.

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. Wales has its own flag called the Welsh dragon.

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.

Except for coal, mineral resources are limited, and include gold, silver, lead and copper. South Wales is more developed: coal-mining, steel production, electronics, electrical engineering can be found here.

Northern Ireland is the smallest component of the United Kingdom. It occupies the north-east of the island of Ireland, only one-sixth of its territory. Its capital city is *Belfast*. The population of Northern Ireland is about 1.5 million people. Its emblem is a shamrock.

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 is 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 rivers of Ireland are short, but deep. The largest river is the Shannon.

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. It occupies about 72 per cent of the land area.

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

3. Give English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Объединенное Королевство; Британские острова; официальное название государства; состоять из четырех частей; располагаться в северной части; острова разделены морем; побережье омывается морем; обширная равнина; гористый; изменчивая погода; влажный климат; самая густонаселенная часть; важный промышленный город и порт; ведущая отрасль; кораблестроение; текстильная промышленность; культурный центр.

4. Make up sentences of your own using the above translated words and word combinations.

5. Answer the questions to discuss the details of the text.

1. What is the official name of the British Kingdom?
2. Where is the United Kingdom situated?
3. What countries does the UK consist of?
4. What are the most important rivers of Great Britain?
5. What influences the climate of Great Britain?
6. What can you say about mountains, rivers and lakes in Great Britain?
7. What are the capital cities of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland?
8. Name the emblems of each country of Great Britain.
9. What are the most important industrial centres of Great Britain?
10. What are Britain's chief industries?

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

<i>nature</i>	<i>lawns</i>	<i>garden</i>
<i>beauty</i>	<i>park</i>	<i>landscape</i>
<i>bushes</i>	<i>orchards</i>	<i>hedges</i>

The English landscape

Many people say that England looks like a large well-kept 1) _____. The country owes its park-like appearance to the 2) _____, which take up a large part of English farm land and are green almost all the year round. There are beautiful forests, plenty of greenery everywhere. The Englishmen love 3) _____ and the greenery of their land. It is the aim of every Englishman to have a 4) _____ no matter how small. In the East of London families have only window gardens. In the small suburban cottages around the big cities, where land is very expensive, people have a minilawn and plant a few 5) _____. In the country-side we find a large number of beautiful gardens, with rosaries and well-kept 6) _____.

There are many places of 7) _____ in England. Devon and Cornwall in the south-west are known for the beauty of their

8) _____. In Devon you feel that nature is man's friend. There is friendliness in the pretty farmhouses, the colourful gardens, the green fields.

The south coast of England, the valley of the Thames and the fruit 9) _____ of Kent are also very beautiful places, much visited by tourists.

7. Read the following dialogues and supply the missing words. Act them out.

1

- Is England the name of that country?
- No, it isn't. It's called, or simply Britain. is a part of it.
- Really? So, I'm sorry, I'm mistaken.
- In my opinion you simply mix the names.
- And what about the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or ? That sounds more official, doesn't it?
- Yes, it's the official name of that country. But you shouldn't forget that though in everyday speech is used to mean the United Kingdom, it's the name of the island which is made up of England, Scotland and
- Thanks, I've guessed at last.

2

- Oh, I'm tired with the Customs formalities. Let's take a short rest now. Shall we sit here?
- It's a good idea and the armchairs look cosy. Let's enjoy fresh air.
- Certainly. Well, that's what La Manche looks like.
- You mean the
- Why? What's the difference?
- Oh, no difference between ourselves, because you are Belarusian and I'm German, but when you speak to a Frenchman, call it
- On the other hand, British people prefer the English Channel.

- Then I think it should be called the British Channel, shouldn't it?
- That's history, traditions and all that.
- Thanks a lot, because it's very good to know the "likes and dislikes" of the country you are going to visit for the first time.

8. Complete the table. If necessary use the information above.

Country	Capital	People	Language	Symbol
England	...	...	...	...
...	Edinburgh	...	...	...
...	...	Welsh	...	...
...	...	...	Irish	shamrock

9. Using the information from the text speak about:

- the geographical outline of Great Britain;
- the population of the country;
- the climate and weather in the country;
- each of the four parts of the United Kingdom.

10. Have you ever been to London? Not yet? Then read some information about the capital of the United Kingdom before visiting this city.

LONDON IS WORTH SIGHTSEEING

It's a pity you haven't been to London yet but of course you have heard a lot about it. So you have no doubt that London is worth sightseeing! 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.

London is the capital of England, the capital of Great Britain, and the capital of the United Kingdom. It is the largest city in Europe and one of the oldest cities in the world. The old Celts gave it its name, the Romans made it the centre of their new colony, the Germanic invaders tried to burn and to destroy it, the victorious Normans made it the capital of the country.

The central part of London is full of historical remains. Nearly every building, every bridge, every street, palace, house, and stone – each of them has its own story, its own past. In London past and present are so mixed together that they cannot easily be separated and when you are in London you see the past in the present and the present in the past.

Sightseeing tours in London usually start in Trafalgar Square. It's the centre of London, and I think it's the best starting point for anybody's tour of the English capital. Tourists are particularly impressed by the Nelson Column there in the centre of the square. You can see it in many pictures, but you should see it in reality. Imagine, it's 185 feet high.

From Trafalgar Square you can go along down Whitehall and see the Houses of Parliament which stand in Parliament Square. It's a very large square. And no people around, only a tall policeman in the middle. The Houses of Parliament is a long building that stretches for about 1,000 feet. At one end is the famous Big Ben. Behind is the Thames and Westminster Bridge. Westminster is the political heart of London.

The oldest part of London is called the City. In the City the streets and pavements are very narrow and the traffic is very heavy on weekdays. That is because the most important London firms and banks have offices there. But at weekends the City is almost dead.

The most fashionable and the most expensive part to live in is the West End. It is situated between the City and Hyde Park. The City and the West End are the heart of London; they are the parts which everybody who comes to London must see and wants to see, because they are more interesting than any other part of London. All the most interesting buildings, shops and offices are situated here.

The Tower of London, the Bank of England, the Mansion House where the Lord Mayor lives, the Law Courts, and many interesting old churches are situated in the City. The Houses of Parliament with Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, the National Gallery and many theatres and good shops are in the West End.

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

London has many bridges over the Thames, more than twenty but the most interesting of them all is the Tower Bridge situated near the Tower of London. The Tower of London is an old castle, with high walls, high towers, small windows and large gardens. Once it was a royal residence,

a strong fortress and a state prison. Here many important people, among them two wives of Henry VIII, were imprisoned and beheaded.

One of the oldest and the most famous places of London is St. Paul's Cathedral. It has been destroyed and rebuilt several times since the original construction in the 7th century. It stands in the centre of the so-called Little Britain. A large part of Little Britain was destroyed during the war; the houses that were close to the Cathedral's walls disappeared and for the first time in centuries St. Paul's Cathedral's beauty can be seen.

11. Choose the right sentences. Correct the wrong ones.

1. London consists of four parts: the City of London, the East End, the West End and the North End.
2. London is the capital of the UK, its political and cultural centre.
3. Downing street is the main shopping centre.
4. The largest park is Hyde Park.
5. One of the youngest and the most famous places of London is St. Paul's Cathedral.
6. In the East End we can see many historical places, parks, museums, theatres.
7. Stock Exchange is situated in the City of London.
8. The East End is the district where working people live and work. The port of London is also there.
9. Red is London's favourite colour.
10. Taxi, London underground and red buses will take you in every part of the city.

12. Match the sights with the right names of the places.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. This is the building where Big Ben is situated. | a. Westminster Abbey. |
| 2. It is the home of the Queen or the Queen's Residence. | b. The Queen Victoria Memorial. |
| 3. It's a royal church. Many English kings and queens and other famous people are buried there. This is where the coronation takes place. | c. Number 10 Downing Street. |

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 3. This is the place where Nelson Column stands. And it's a geographical centre of London. | d. The Tower. |
| 4. This monument is situated in front of Buckingham Palace. | e. St. Paul's Cathedral. |
| 5. One of the greatest English churches, built by the famous English architect Sir Christopher Wren. | f. The Houses of Parliament. |
| 6. William the Conqueror built it. It was a fortress and a royal palace. Later it was a prison and even a zoo. Now it is a museum. | g. The City of London. |
| 7. It's a place where the Prime Minister lives. | h. The Odeon. |
| 8. The financial centre of London. | i. Buckingham Palace. |
| 9. The best cinema in London. | j. The memorial to Admiral Nelson. |
| 10. The memorial that is in the centre of Trafalgar Square. | k. Trafalgar Square. |

13. Read the text, find and correct the wrong facts.

London

This text is about London. London is the capital of Wales. It is one of the oldest and smallest cities in the world.

Now London is a big political, industrial and cultural centre. More than 1 million people live there. London is situated on the river Clyde. The river connects the capital with the sea.

London is divided into three parts. They are the City, the East End and the West End. The West End is the place where the working people live. The East End is the richest part of the city with many beautiful shops, hotels, bars and restaurants. The City is the political centre. Westminster is the heart of business and commercial life.

14. The parts of the following text are all mixed up. Put them in the right order. Ask as many questions on the text as you can.

BIG BEN

The minute-hand is 14 feet long. Its weight is equal to that of two bags of coal. The hour-hand is 9 feet long.

The big clock on the tower of the Palace of Westminster in London is often called Big Ben. But Big Ben is really the bell of the clock. It is the biggest clock bell in Britain. It weighs 13.5 tons.

The clock bell is called Big Ben after Sir Benjamin Hall. He had the job to see that the bell was put up.

But someone said for a joke, "Why not call it Big Ben?" Now the bell is known all over the world by that name.

Sir Benjamin was a big man. One day he said in Parliament, "Shall we call the bell St. Stephen's?" St. Stephen's is the name of the tower.

But its face is 23 feet wide. It would only just fit into some classrooms.

The clock tower is 318 feet high. You have to go up 374 steps to reach the top. So the clock looks small from the pavement below the tower.

15. Read and translate the following dialogues. Act them out.

1. NASTYA AND JANE ARE IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Nastya is a girl of nineteen. She's Belarusian. Now she's in London as a tourist. Jane is an English girl. She's nineteen too. She's Nastya's friend and guide in London. They're in Trafalgar Square now. It's the centre of London.

NASTYA: What's that, Jane?

JANE: That big column with a statue on top of it? It's a memorial to Admiral Nelson.

NASTYA: Oh, I see. It's very impressive. Look at the fountains, aren't they lovely? And what are those birds, all over the square, Jane?

JANE: They are pigeons. They're one of the sights of London.

NASTYA: Now, what's that long building in front of us?

JANE: That's the National Gallery. It's got our best collection of international pictures in it.

NASTYA: Let's go and see it, Jane.

JANE: All right, let's. The Gallery's open now.

2. SIGHTSEEING IN LONDON

There are a lot of places of interest in London. One of them is the Tower of London. There is not only one tower on the site. There are several towers, with different names. They are: the White Tower, the Bloody Tower, the Green Tower and others. There is much to see in the Tower of London. Natasha and Jane are in the Tower of London now.

NASTYA: Well... There's so much history here. Everything's so impressive, almost terrifying.

JANE: Yes, isn't it? Let's just have another look at the White Tower which is nine hundred years old.

NASTYA: And who are those men in the striking uniform, Jane?

JANE: Those are the "Beefeaters", the wardens. There are a lot of them here. Let's come here tonight, Nastya. There's a very interesting ceremony here at 10 o'clock, the Ceremony of the Keys.

NASTYA: Very well, let's come tonight. There must be very many stories about the Tower, Jane.

JANE: Oh yes, there are quite a lot. There are also a lot of books and films about it; and they are about English kings and queens at the same time. And the Tower Bridge... Isn't it beautiful?

NASTYA: Yes, it is beautiful and it is quite unique in design, isn't it?

JANE: Exactly. There are lots of bridges over the Thames and they're all different. Let's have a trip on the Thames in one of the water-buses one of these days.

NASTYA: Yes, let's. And how many palaces are there in London, Jane? One?

JANE: There are two main ones – Buckingham and St. James's. There's also Kensington Palace.

NASTYA: Are the palaces far from each other?

JANE: They are rather. But you should see them all, all the same. There's a lot to see. In Buckingham Palace there's the Queen's picture gallery, and in Kensington Palace there's the London Museum.

NASTYA: Oh, how interesting!

16. Read the information about the British and try to give your answer on the question: What is it like to be British?

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE BRITISH?

Trying to explain what the British are like is the same as attempting to describe the difference between Europe and Asia in one sentence. But let's try anyway.

BRITAIN – THE RIGHT NAMES. *Britain* – or *Great Britain (GB)* – is the name for England, Wales and Scotland. Britain is the eighth largest island in the world. *The British Isles* is the name for England, Scotland, Wales, both parts of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. *The United Kingdom (UK)* is England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The British government is the government of the UK. People who live in Britain are called British. Many people think that 'English' is the same as 'British'. But England is only one of the four nations in the UK. The Scots, Welsh and Northern Irish are British too. They sometimes get angry when they are called 'English'.

FLAG. Britain's flag is called the 'Union Jack'. It is really three flags on top of each other – the red cross on white background of St George for England, the white 'X' on blue background of St Andrew for Scotland, and the red 'X' on white background of St Patrick for Ireland. Of course, each country in Britain also has its own flag. It's worth remembering that the Union Jack is more popular in England than in Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The reason is that the Welsh, Scottish and Irish do not like being reminded of the time when they lost their independence to England.

The British like to have fun with their flag. They put it on party hats, bags, socks and even wigs. But they don't like to talk about or show their patriotic feelings. They feel too embarrassed. But on certain occasions, like a royal anniversary or a football match, they forget to be embarrassed...

LANGUAGES. Most British people speak English, but Gaelic is also spoken in the west and north of Scotland and in Northern Ireland. Welsh is spoken by over half a million people in Wales. The UK also has speakers of many other languages like Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and Chinese.

RELIGION. Most British are Protestants (Anglicans and Methodists). Besides Protestantism and Catholicism there are a lot of different religions in Britain today.

DRESS. The most famous traditional British dress is undoubtedly the Scottish kilt. The particular pattern of tartan, the checked fabric from which Scottish national dress is made, represents the family clan that the person is from. Many people think that Scottish men wear kilts every day. This is not true! Just like no Russian woman wears a 'kokoshnik' anymore, kilts are only worn on special occasions such as weddings or dances. So, when you see people in Scottish national dress in the streets of Edinburgh, they are probably not Scotsmen. They are probably American tourists!

SONGS. The Scots, the Welsh and the Irish are very proud of their national songs. When the English play football against Scotland or Wales, the Scots sing *Flower of Scotland* and the Welsh sing *Land of My Fathers*. But the English national song is the same as the British national song – *God Save the Queen*.

NAMES. A person's name sometimes tells us where their family first came from. 'Mac' or 'Mc' in a surname (for example, McDonald) is always either Scottish or Irish. 'O' in a surname (for example, O'Brien) is always Irish. Other surnames, like Morgan and Jones, are Welsh.

Sometimes, as a joke, Scotsmen are called 'Jock' or 'Jimmy' as a first name, Irishmen are called 'Paddy' or 'Mick' and Welshmen are called 'Dai' or 'Taffy'. But if you don't know someone well, don't call them by these names!

THE BRITISH CHARACTER. This is where things become even more complicated. Although the British live on the same island, it is wrong to say that the English are just like the Scottish, Irish or Welsh (or the other way around). Of course, there are some common cultural characteristics. For example, it is true that British people often talk about the weather, especially if they don't know each other very well. It is true that they are more reserved than Russian people: they don't like to show their emotions and they don't make friends easily with strangers. It also seems to be true that the British are not very good at learning foreign languages.

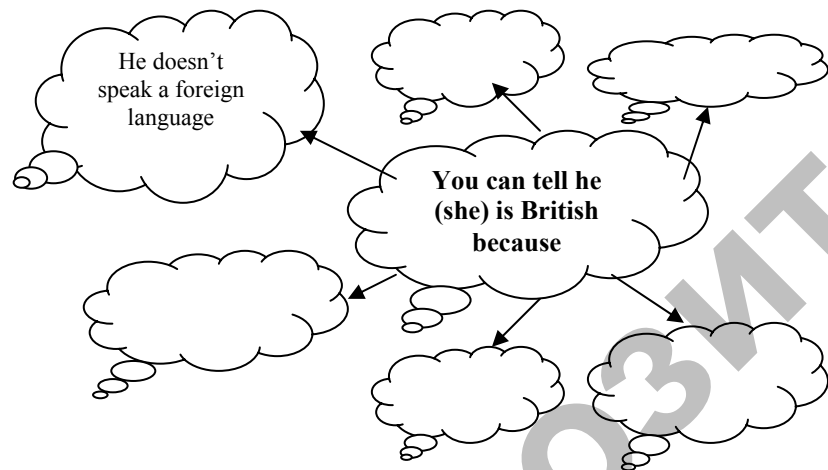
However, there are certain things that make an Englishman different from an Irishman or a Welshman from a Scotsman. Take, for example, the famous English cup of tea. Nowhere else in Britain a cup of tea plays such an important role as it does in England. Tea is not just a drink, it's a whole English institution. In joy and trouble, a good cup of tea is what makes English people cope with whatever life throws at them. In

England, if you need to hire workmen to fix your roof or do some other work like that, make sure that hot cups of tea are in good supply or you might find yourself with a roof that leaks worse than before. Another example is some Scottish eating habits. One of them is deep-fried Mars-bars. Do you know how they are made? It's very simple – you take a Mars-bar, dip it in batter and then fry it in hot oil. Do you know any other nations that do that? I think not!

STEREOTYPES. There are certain stereotypes of national character which are well known in Britain. For example, the Irish are supposed to be great talkers and the Scots have a reputation of being careful with money. But these descriptions are not true!

WHERE NOW? So, what are the British like? As you can see there are so many things that make the British who they are, that the only way to find an answer to this question is to keep exploring. Happy journey!

17. Fill in the empty “bubbles” with your own ideas.



18. Prove the words: “The world is the book, and those who do not travel, read only a page!” (St. Augustine).

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH QUIZ

Part 1 Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. The capital of Northern Ireland is
 - a) Dublin
 - b) Cardiff
 - c) Belfast
2. The mysterious Loch Ness Monster is from
 - a) Wales
 - b) Ireland
 - c) Scotland
3. The British flag is often called
 - a) the Union Jack
 - b) the Stars and Stripes
 - c) the Maple Leaf
4. The kilt is
 - a) a shirt
 - b) a skirt
 - c) a pair of trousers
5. Ben Nevis is
 - a) a famous footballer
 - b) a sort of whiskey
 - c) a mountain
6. The Beatles started their career in
 - a) London
 - b) Liverpool
 - c) Birmingham
7. The national currency of the UK is
 - a) the euro
 - b) the dollar
 - c) the pound
8. The famous British newspaper which is printed on pink paper is
 - a) The Times
 - b) The Guardian
 - c) The Financial Times
9. The most popular sport in Britain is
 - a) ice hockey
 - b) baseball
 - c) football
10. The colour that represents Ireland is
 - a) green
 - b) red
 - c) yellow
11. Britain's national drink is
 - a) tea
 - b) Coca-Cola
 - c) coffee
12. Stonehenge is about ____ years old.
 - a) 40
 - b) 400
 - c) 4000

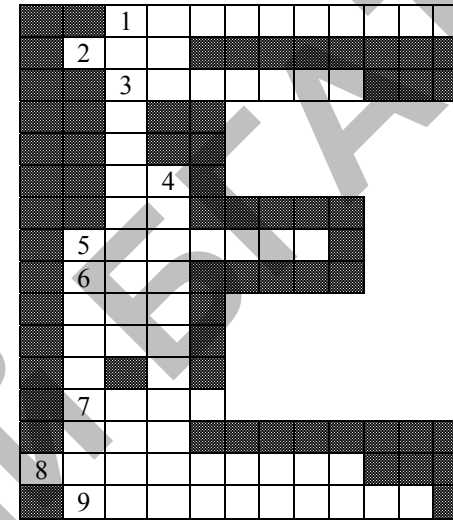
Part 2 True or false?

1. The future king of England is called the Prince of Wales.
2. Welsh is an official language in Wales.
3. The BBC stands for 'Best British Culture'.
4. A mile is longer than a kilometer.
5. Elizabeth II has two birthdays.
6. Speaker's Corner is part of the British Parliament.
7. In Scotland, the name for New Year's Eve is Hogmanay.
8. Haggis is a traditional Scottish musical instrument.
9. A bobby is a guard at the Tower of London.
10. Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Part 3 Match the dates with the main events.

1455	The first underground line was opened to passengers in London.
1666	The Channel Tunnel was opened.
1805	Elizabeth II started her reign.
1863	Great fire of London.
1952	Battle of Trafalgar: Nelson defeats Napoleon's invasion armies.
1979	Wars of the Roses: houses of Lancaster and York fight for the throne.
1993	Margaret Thatcher became the first woman Prime Minister.

Part 4 Crossword Puzzle



All the answers to this alphabet crossword begin with the letter E.

Across:

- 1) a festival of Welsh culture
- 2) one of the commonest trees in Scotland
- 3) a branch of biology which deals with relations of living things to their surroundings
- 5) one of the countries of Great Britain
- 7) another name of the Irish Republic
- 8) the capital city of Scotland
- 9) citizens of England

- Down:**
- 1) one of the major industries in South Wales
 - 4) one of the most important industries in Glasgow
 - 6) one of the three parts of London

2.2 СОЦИОКУЛЬТУРНЫЙ ПОРТРЕТ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ

Active Vocabulary

1. Make sure you know all the words given below.

Agriculture	Forest	To border on	Independent
Anthem	Industry	To cover	Marshy
Aurochs	Meadow	To participate	Picturesque
Flax	Plain	To produce	Sovereign

a) Translate the sentences containing the words of your active vocabulary.

1. The Republic of Belarus **borders on** five countries.
2. There are no mountains in the country, it's a broad **plain**.
3. Every **independent** state has its **anthem**.
4. The largest **forests** in Belarus are called pushchas.
5. The climate of the country is rather favourable for **agriculture**.
6. The national crops of our republic are potato, **flax** and sugar-beet.

b) Derivatives. Look at the words made with *suffixes and pre-fixes*. Translate them.

- agriculture, agricultural, agriculturist;
- forest, forester, forestry;
- industry, industrial, industrious;
- produce, producer, production, product, productive, unproductive;
- participate, participant, participation, participative;
- sovereign, sovereignty;
- independent, independence, dependent, dependency;
- flax, flaxy, flaxen.

c) Unscramble the words.

loutpnipao, husaorc, dwamoe, cuptuqesier, sahrmy, ecvor, uableftiu.

2. Read the text and get ready to speak about Belarus.

THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS



The Republic of Belarus is the official name of a sovereign independent state with its own government, constitution, state emblem, flag and anthem. It is situated in the eastern part of Europe. It covers 207 600 sq km and stretches for 650 km from east to west and for 560 km from north to south. The republic borders on Latvia, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Russia and Poland. Its present-day population is more than 9 million people.

Belarus is a land of vast plains and picturesque hills, thick forests and green meadows, deep blue lakes and flowing rivers. Forests cover 2/5 of Belarus, they are scattered all over the country. Broad plains and marshy lowlands occupy nearly three quarter's of the territory. They are called Belarusian Polesye. There are a lot of rivers and more than 10.000 lakes in our country. The Dnieper, Pripyat, Berezina, Sozh, Western Dvina, Neman are the biggest rivers with more than 500 kilometres in length. The largest lake in Belarus is Lake Naroch which stretches 131 kilometres from west to east. It is a very popular recreation area in our country.

Belarus has a moderately continental climate with a comparatively mild winter and warm summer.

The nature of Belarus has suffered much from the nuclear catastrophe that took place in Chernobyl in 1986. The radiation has spoiled our soil

and air, rivers and lakes; it has poisoned our flora and fauna. Besides it has badly affected the health of people and the climate.

Today Belarus is a developed industrial state. Industry makes up 70% of the Gross National Product. The main industries are engineering, chemical industry, wood-making industry, light and food industries. The major industrial centres in Belarus are Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk, Mogilev, Soligorsk, Zhodino, Brest and others. Belarusian goods are exported to many countries and are known all over the world.

Agriculture of Belarus specializes in milk and meat production, flax, vegetables (especially potatoes) and fruit (especially apples).

The Republic of Belarus has well-developed science and education system. The National Academy of Sciences founded in 1929 is one of the largest centres of science in the country. Its research institutes work on various important problems in such fields as mathematics, optics, genetics, biology, etc. The demand for higher education remains high. State institutions are the centers for both education and scientific research. Nowadays in Belarus there are a lot of universities, academies and institutes which provide training in various spheres of science and humanities.

At present Belarus actively participates in an effective international partnership with the governments of different states and international organizations.

3. Answer the questions on the text.

1. Where is Belarus situated? What do you think are the advantages of the geographical position of the country?
2. What are the characteristic features of the landscape in Belarus?
3. How does the territory of Belarus compare with that of Great Britain?
4. What countries does Belarus border on?
5. Our republic is rich in forests, rivers and lakes, isn't it?
6. How many rivers are there in Belarus? What are the longest rivers of our country?
7. How many lakes are there in Belarus? Which are the largest of them?
8. What is the Belarusian Polesye famous for?
9. What climate do we have in Belarus?
10. What can you say about the republic's agriculture?

4. Give English equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Суверенное независимое государство; государственный герб; гимн; в восточной части; граничить с; густые леса; глубокие голубые озера; болотистые низменности; зона отдыха; плохо влияет на здоровье; развитое промышленное государство; легкая промышленность; главные промышленные центры; экспортировать товары; мясомолочное производство; спрос на получение высшего образования; международное сотрудничество.

5. Make up your own sentences using the above translated word combinations.

6. Work in groups. Find out from your partners:

- where Belarus is situated and what its area is;
- what countries Belarus borders on;
- why Belarus is sometimes called «blue-eyed»;
- what consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe are.

7. Prove that:

- Belarus is remarkably beautiful;
- our country has many lakes and rivers;
- the nature of Belarus has suffered much.

8. Put the words of the sentences below into the correct order.

1. Attractive/ land/ countries/ has been/ for/ our/ very/ many/ geopolitically/ foreign.
2. Lakes/ a lot of/ republic/ and/ there/ are/ rivers/ and/ more/ streams/ 10.000/ than/ in/ the.
3. The Ukraine/ north/ Belarus/ east/ on/ south/ the/ borders/ to/ and/ Russia/ on/ the/ to.
4. Meet/ situated/ of/ heart/ the/ Belarus/ where/ a/ roads/ is/ Europe/ that/ all/ country/ is/ in.
5. Country/ history/ is/ rich/ Belarus/ the/ unique/ and/ heritage/ with/ cultural.

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

<i>soil</i>	<i>country</i>	<i>south</i>
<i>north</i>	<i>elevations</i>	<i>wind</i>
<i>sky</i>	<i>west</i>	<i>people</i>

Have you ever tried asking yourself a seemingly simple question, «Why and what for do I love my 1) _____? » I am sure you will find enormous difficulty trying to answer the question.

There is hardly anyone who will be able to describe the blue of the 2) _____ or the peculiar flavour of the home 3) _____, or the specific softness of the native 4) _____, or the unusual beauty of the 5) _____ around us. What we shall probably be able to say is that it all belongs to us and that it is where we belong.

To describe our land one needs to be a poet. If you go 6) _____, you will see a land of Braslav lakes with crystal-clear blue waters surrounded by pine groves. If you go 7) _____, you will find yourself in the Brest province – the land of immense fields and meadows. In the 8) _____ you will be engulfed by infinite forests and marshes.

Broad plains and marshy lowlands occupy nearly three quarter's of the territory. They are called Belarusian Polesye. There are also some hills and 9) _____. They can be found in the northern and central parts of the country.

10. Read and translate the following dialogue. Act it out.

— Steve, my cousin is coming tomorrow. Where shall I take him, I wonder?

— Well, the problem is what you want him to see.

— Look, he's already been here several times. And what if I take him to Brest.

— But where will you stay?

— A friend of mine lives there. She'll show us around the city.

— Don't forget to go to the Brest Fortress. The memorial there is really impressive. There are always a lot of people there. I'm sure you'll remember your excursion there for a long time.

— Agreed. So, I'll go and buy the tickets for a train to Brest for the day after tomorrow.

11. Do you know why our country is called Belarus? Read about the origin of the name “Belaya Rus”. Make up 5 questions of your own on the text.

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.

12. The independent and sovereign Belarusian state has been created due to work of its people. Who are they, the Belarusians? Can you point out the main features of our national character? What are they?

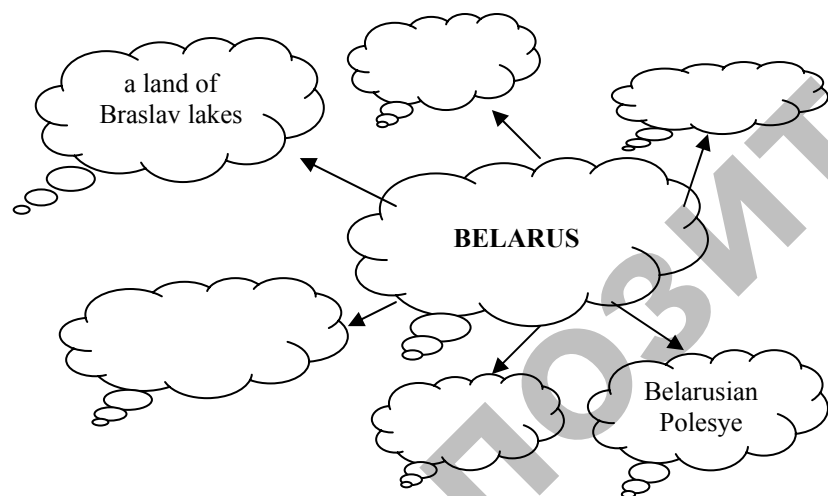
NATIONAL CHARACTER

The Belarusians ... Who are they? This is a peaceful nation, independent and kind-hearted. They love their motherland, helped it stay alive in wars and give a lot of effort to make it rich and modern. They are very hard-working, friendly, hospitable and merry people. The citizens of Belarus love their families, respect the elderly generation and bring up the young to be grateful to their ancestors and history for freedom and peaceful sky over their heads.

The Belarusians are the great lovers of everything natural. Long time ago our grandparents could make everything necessary for living with their hands. They taught their children the same handicrafts, that's why this tradition is still alive. Especially popular nowadays are different straw hand-made articles, woven flaxen towels and embroidered cloth. Ceramic articles such as cups, bowls and mugs enjoy their popularity too.

13. Put different types of questions to the underlined sentences.

14. When you pronounce the word "BELARUS" what images do you see?



15. Prove the words: "He who loves not his country, can love nothing" (George Byron).

2.3 НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЕ ТРАДИЦИИ И ЦЕННОСТИ

2.3.1 Национальные традиции Великобритании

1. "True" or "False". Prove your point of view.

1. Every country has its own traditions and customs.
2. There are no common traditions all over the world.
3. English people celebrate Maslenitsa.
4. There are some common holidays in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
5. The typical image of Father Christmas is the President.
6. Belarusian people seldom eat pancakes for Maslenitsa.

2. Read the text. Do the exercises below.

Customs and Traditions Celebrated in Britain

So many countries so many customs, an English proverb says. The combination of the words tradition and custom means a usual manner of doing something, a believe of principal, of conduct passed on from generation to generation. English traditions can be subdivided into the traditions dealing with private life of the English national and religious holidays, public celebrations, traditional ceremonies and traditional sporting events. To know the customs and traditions means to understand the people, their art and culture better.

Here are some of the holidays the British celebrate during a year.

FEBRUARY: St Valentine's Day

St. Valentine is the saint of people in love, and St Valentine's Day is February 14th. On that day, people send Valentine cards and presents to their husbands, wives, boyfriends and girlfriends. You can also send a card to a person you don't know. But traditionally you must never write your name on it. Some British newspapers have a page for Valentine's Day messages on February 14th.

APRIL: April Fool's Day

April 1st is April Fool's Day in Britain. This is a very old tradition from the Middle Ages (between the 5th and 15th centuries). At that time

the servants were masters for one day of the year. They gave orders to their masters, and their masters had to obey. Now April Fool's Day is different. It's a day for jokes and tricks.

MAY: May Day

May 1st was an important day in the Middle Ages. In the very early morning, young girls went to the fields and washed their faces with dew. They believed this made them very beautiful for a year after that. Also on May Day the young men of each village tried to win prizes with their bows and arrows, and people danced round the maypole. Many English-villages still have a maypole, and on May 1st, the villagers dance round it.

OCTOBER: Halloween

October 31st is Halloween, and you can expect to meet witches and ghosts that night. Halloween is an old word for "Hallows Evening", the night before "All Hallows" or "All Saints' Day"

On that one night of the year, ghosts and witches are free. A long time ago people were afraid and stayed at home on Halloween. But now it's time for fun. There are always a lot of parties on October 31st. At these parties people wear masks and dress as ghosts and witches, or as Dracula or Frankenstein's monster. And some people make special Halloween lamps from a pumpkin. First they take out the middle of the pumpkin. Then they cut holes for the eyes, nose and mouth. Finally they put a candle inside the pumpkin.

DECEMBER: Christmas and the New Year

There are lots of Christmas and New Year traditions in Britain. For example...

Christmas Eve. British children don't open their presents on December 24th. Father Christmas brings their presents in the night. Then they open them on the morning of the 25th.

There's another name for Father Christmas in Britain – Santa Claus. That comes from the European name for him – Saint Nicholas. In the traditional story he lives at the North Pole. On Christmas Eve he climbs down the chimney and leaves lots of presents in the houses.

Christmas Day. In Britain the most important meal on December 25th is Christmas dinner. Nearly all Christmas food is traditional, but a lot of the traditions are not very old. For example, there were no turkeys in Britain before 1800. And even in the nineteenth century, goose was the traditional meat at Christmas. But not now. A 21th-century British Christmas dinner is roast turkey with carrots, potatoes, peas, Brussels

sprouts and gravy. There are sausages and bacon too. Then, after the turkey, there's Christmas pudding.

Boxing Day. December 26th is Boxing Day. Traditionally boys from the shops in each town asked for money at Christmas. They went from house to house on December 26th and took boxes made of wood with them. At each house people gave them money. This was a Christmas present. So the name of December 26th comes from the boys' wooden boxes. Now, Boxing Day is an extra holiday after Christmas Day.

3. Give English equivalents to the following word combinations.

Обычаи и традиции, отправить открытку, слуги становились хозяевами, отдавать приказы, шутки и розыгрыши, умываться росой, лук и стрелы, майское дерево, ведьмы и приведения, день всех святых, вырезать сердцевину тыквы, поставить внутрь свечку, Дед Мороз, спуститься по дымоходу, жареная индейка с подливой, деревянные коробки, дополнительный выходной.

4. Answer the questions to discuss the details of the text. Use the text for reference.

1. How can English traditions be subdivided?
2. What does it mean to know the customs and traditions?
3. What holidays do the British celebrate?
4. What is St. Valentine?
5. Why do some British newspapers have a page for Valentine's Day messages?
6. What day is for jokes and tricks?
7. How was the May Day celebrated in the Middle Ages?
8. What is the way to make a Halloween lamp?
9. What are the main December holidays? How are they celebrated?
10. Do you believe in Santa Claus? Why not?

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

<i>four parts</i>	<i>look after</i>	<i>bring some food</i>
<i>more important</i>	<i>traditions and customs</i>	<i>the bird's wings</i>
<i>conservative</i>	<i>twelve black ravens</i>	<i>English legends</i>

Every nation and every country has its own 1) _____. In Britain traditions play a 2) _____ role in the life of people than in other countries. They say British people are very 3) _____. They are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. But when we speak about British traditions we always remember that there are 4) _____ in Britain – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Traditions are different in these parts of the country. You already know some of the English traditions and holidays. Here is one more fact about old English traditions. One of the old 5) _____ says that London can be the capital of the country, rich and great until 6) _____ live in the Tower of London. Each has got its name and the keepers carefully 7) _____ them. If one of the birds dies, another younger raven takes its place. Londoners believe this legend and always 8) _____ to give to the birds when they come to the Tower. The keepers cut 9) _____ a bit as they are afraid that they may fly away.



6. Make a logical plan of the text. Retell the text, use the material of the tasks above.

7. Make a project work.

2.3.2 Белорусские национальные традиции

Perhaps, one of the most pleasant ways to understand the soul of a nation is to start exploring its national cuisine. Tasting of some original dish may tell you about Belarusian traditions more than books. Hospitable Belarusians will undoubtedly invite you to a home table to treat you, as they say, “with what God has sent us”. Yet restaurants, cafes, bars are also ready to introduce you to Belarusian cuisine. It is quite similar to the Russian and Ukrainian ones, though some of its dishes are absolutely unique.

1. Find the definitions for each of the meal.

Bliny	Draniki	Kholodnik
Borsch	Gorshochki	Mochanka
Chebureki	Ikra (caviar)	Okroshka

- 1) a beet-based soup with potatoes and vegetables served hot with sour cream.
- 2) a chilled beet soup with cucumbers, sliced hard-boiled eggs with a dash of sour cream.
- 3) a thick soup mixed with lard accompanied by hot pancakes.
- 4) black from sturgeon and red from salmon.
- 5) boiled sausages chopped into kvas with spring onions and sliced hard-boiled eggs.
- 6) fried potato pancakes served with butter and sour cream or mushrooms, might be filled with meat and/or mushrooms.
- 7) meat-filled fried pocket of bread.
- 8) potato pancakes with mushrooms, stewed meat served in a pot.
- 9) thin pancakes doused in butter with sour cream.

2. Read and translate the text.

As for soups we recommend you “**kholodnik**” (especially in summer) and nutritious “**zatirka**”, but the king of the local cuisine is certainly potatoes. Belarusians are able to prepare most unthinkable dishes out of it! First of all, of course, it is “**draniki**” — rather peculiar pan-

cakes made of grated potatoes, that can also have stuffing: mushrooms, meat, berries. The one, who hasn't tasted "draniki", can not say he/she has visited Belarus. Potatoes may also be stuffed, stewed in a pot, baked in an oven, with mushrooms, vegetables and bacon — no need to continue, because in Belarus there exist even potatoe jams! We hope you understand now, why neighbouring nations sometimes call Belarusians "bulbashi" (from the Belarusian word for potatoes — "bulba"). But don't think that the local menu is limited only with this vegetable – restaurants and cafes offer dishes to any taste. Belarusians are also curious about exotic cuisines, therefore Chinese, Mexican, Caucasian and other restaurants are quite frequent in Minsk.

3. Give Russian equivalents to the following words and word combinations.

Nutritious, local cuisine, grated potatoes, rather peculiar, stuffing, neighbouring nations, to offer dishes, to be curious about.

4. Write a recipe of your favourite Belarusian dish.

5. Read the text about famous Belarusian folk holidays.

Belarusian folk holidays



Kupalie is the most mysterious of all Belarusian festivals. It is celebrated on the night from the **6th to 7th of July**. According to popular legends existing for thousands of years, a flower of a fern unfolds on 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 such miraculous flower. In the meantime girls bind wreaths and let them drift down the river trying to find out their

destiny and marital future. At the same time it is the celebration of the power of nature through the marking of the summer solstice. It would be difficult to find a more picturesque holiday. The essential part of it is the great fire, which according to the belief has a purifying power. Young couples hand in hand must jump over it. Sometimes young people clear themselves in water of rivers and lakes. Besides, they move on a round dance. 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 sort of a little flame is glimmering in the depth of the forest? Is it really the flower of fern?

Kolyady is actually the celebration of the New Year as per the old calendar (prior to 1917) on the night of **January 13–14**. Traditionally some people dress in the images of animals or fiction creatures. Then noisy companies, holding the depiction of the sun and a nanny-goat's head, begin to visit houses one after another singing original Kolyady songs. In response people treat them with the food from their tables and sometimes give them money. Nowadays this old holiday is celebrated mostly for fun.

One more folk festive of pagan origin is **Maslenitsa**. It is a ceremony at the junction of two seasons; it sees off winter and meets spring. Popular festivals of folk music is organized at the time of Maslenitsa. People sing traditional songs and dance in the streets wearing national costumes. But the distinguishing feature of this holiday is, of course, pancakes!

6. Answer the questions to discuss the details of the text. Use the text for reference.

1. What festival is the most mysterious of all Belarusian ones?
2. Why do a lot of young people want to find an unfolded flower of a fern?
3. What is the way to find out your destiny?
4. How do people usually celebrate Kupalie?
5. Why are people dressed in the images of animals or fiction creatures given food and money on the night of January 13–14?
6. When do two seasons meet?
7. What is the distinguishing dish of Maslenitsa?
8. How do you celebrate Belarusian folk holidays in your family?

7. Match the dates with the official holidays and significant days celebrated in Belarus.

- 7 January a) Constitution Day.
 23 February b) Union Day of Belarus and Russia.
 8 March c) Victory Day.
 15 March d) Independence Day.
 2 April e) Orthodox Christmas.
 26 April f) Fatherland Defenders and Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Belarus.
 9 May g) Women's Day.
 22 June h) October Revolution Day.
 3 July i) Catholic Christmas.
 7 November j) Day of Remembrance of the Chernobyl tragedy.
 25 December k) Day of Remembrance of the victims of the Great Patriotic War.

8. Match the holidays with their definitions.

*Constitution Day, Union Day of Belarus and Russia,
 Victory Day, Day of the National Emblem and Flag of Belarus,
 Independence Day, Commemoration Day (Radonitsa), Women's Day.*

- 1) The day in 1994 when Belarus established its new Constitution.
- 2) This is the official holiday marking the union of the states of Belarus and Russia. On this day in 1996 the Presidents of Belarus and Russia signed the Commonwealth agreement in Moscow. One year later, on 2 April 1997, came the agreement to form a Belarus-Russia Union.
- 3) This holiday is dedicated to the main symbols of the country which embody the ideas of national unity and are the major attributes of sovereignty and independence in Belarus.
- 4) The Day commemorates victory in the World War 2 (known as the Great Patriotic War). During the war, 25 per cent of the population of Belarus died. The occasion is marked with a large parade in Minsk Victory Square led by war veterans.
- 5) The holiday is celebrated on 3 July and marks the liberation of Minsk in 1944 from fascist aggressors.
- 6) This day was established following the revolution in 1917. In modern Belarus it is a celebration of love and respect toward women.
- 7) On this day, people in Belarus usually visit cemeteries to pay respect and lay flowers on the tombs of relatives and friends.

ПЕРЕЧЕНЬ КОМПЬЮТЕРНЫХ СРЕДСТВ ОБУЧЕНИЯ, РЕКОМЕНДУЕМЫХ СТУДЕНТАМ ПРИ ПОДГОТОВКЕ К УСРС

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.dailvesl.com	информационные сайты для самостоятельной работы, самообразования
	www.globalenvision.org (английский язык)	
	www.Irs.ed.uiuc.edu/Impact/	
http://www.ezslang.com/		
	http://iteslj.org/questions/	

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