



英语国家概况

世纪应用英语

Century Applied English

主 编：杨筱霞
审 校：Adam Gunnar Kassir



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前言

英语国家概况课程的教学目的在于一方面培养学生用英语来学习英语国家文化基础知识,使学生在英语语言文化课程的基础上从更广阔的视角,进一步了解主要英语国家的地理、历史、政治、经济、文化及社会生活等基本情况,拓宽相关专业学生关于英语国家背景的知识面;另一方面进一步提高学生的英语水平和英语应用能力,从而增强与不同文化背景人士进行跨文化交往的信心和能力。

《世纪应用英语 英语国家概况》以全国以应用型人才为培养目标的院校英语专业以及公共英语素质拓展课程的学生为主要使用对象。课程的教学内容、教学方法和手段是以增加学生对主要英语国家的了解为中心,贯彻“项目为中心、边讲边练”的理念,以着眼于提高学生实际操作能力和就业能力为目的,采取了模块化、多案例、互动式、重实训的编写方式。打破“以教师为主体、以课堂为中心”的传统教学模式,根据学生将来留学、旅游等实际需求,以强调应用性和适用性来合理地设计教学方法,让学生在理论够用的基础上,在实训环节上有所突破。教学采用任务驱动、项目导向等模式,建立传统教学、多媒体教学、网上教学、实训现场教学相结合的立体化课程教学体系。

本教材是由高等院校从事英语专业及公共英语素质拓展课程教学的一线教师合力编写的。全书共分6章,由杨筱霞任主编,由林晓岚、陈艳娟任副主编,努尔阿依、喻一、常耀霞、甘丽华、肖俊一参与了编写工作。本书由包春花担任主审。

在编写过程中,编者参阅了大量书刊和网站,并汲取了其中的研究成果和有益经验,恕不一一注明,在此谨向原作者致以衷心感谢!特别应该提到的是,在编写本教材的过程中,我们得到了大连理工大学出版社领导、编辑及参编院校业务部门相关人员的鼎力支持,在此一并表示感谢!

由于时间紧迫,水平有限,错误与不妥之处在所难免,恳请广大读者不吝批评指正,以便再版时修订,使之日臻完善!

编者

2016年7月

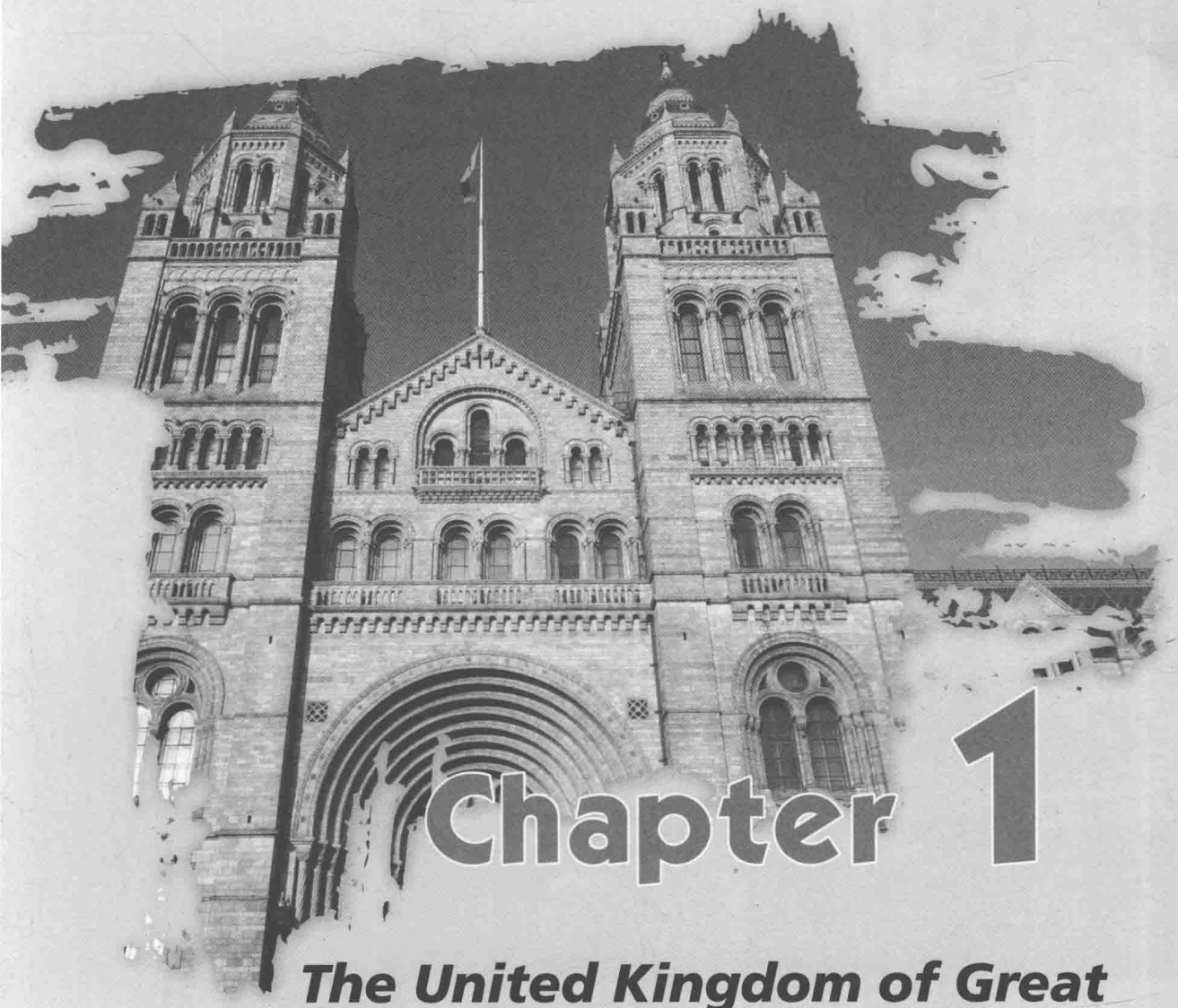
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Chapter 1

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Learning Goals

To understand geography, economy, education, people and culture in the UK.

To know more about the sports and the places of interest in the UK.

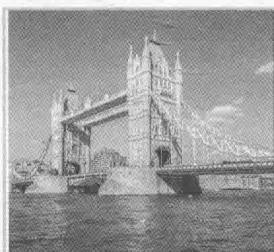
Section A

Exploring the World



Leading In

1. What do you know about the following pictures?



2. Please fill in the following form.

Names of the Four Parts in the United Kingdom	Capital City

A Brief Introduction to the United Kingdom



Geography

The United Kingdom is constitutional monarchy^[1] in northwestern Europe, officially the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.^[2] Great Britain is the largest island in the cluster of islands, or archipelago, known as the British Isles. England is the largest and most populous division of the island of Great Britain, making up the south and the east. Wales is on the west and Scotland is to the north. Northern Ireland is located in the northeast corner of Ireland, the

second largest island in the British Isles. The capital of the United Kingdom is the city of London, a major financial centre of the world, in front of New York City, Hong Kong and Singapore.

英国是世界上最早确立君主立宪制[1]的国家,国王(女王)处于统而不治的地位,议会成为国家权力中心。

1922年,爱尔兰自由邦脱离联合王国,1927年联合王国的名称改成了今天的大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国[2]。

Formation of the United Kingdom

The Acts of Union^[3] between the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland in 1707 caused the dissolution of both the Parliament of England and Parliament of Scotland in order to create a unified Kingdom of Great Britain governed by a unified Parliament of Great Britain.

《联合法案》[3]是1706年和1707年英格兰国会和苏格兰国会分别通过的一对国会法案,使两个王国(那时已经由同一个君主管理,但立法机构还是分开的)结合成为大不列颠王国。

The Act of Union of 1800 formally assimilated Ireland within the British political process and from 1 January 1801 created a new state called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, which united the Kingdom of Great Britain with the Kingdom of Ireland to form a single political entity. The English capital of London was adopted as the capital of the Union.

People often confuse the names for this country, and frequently make mistakes in using them. United Kingdom, UK, and Britain are all proper terms for the entire nation, although the term Britain is also often used when it comes to the island of Great Britain. The use of the term Great Britain to refer to the entire nation is now outdated; the term Great Britain, properly used, refers only to the island of Great Britain, which does not include Northern Ireland. The term England

should never be used to describe Britain, because England is only one part of the island. It is always correct to call people from England, Scotland, or Wales British, although people from England may also properly be called English, people from Scotland Scottish, and people from Wales Welsh.

Government

In a broad sense, the British government comprises the monarch, the Parliament^[4] and the executive branch led by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister forms a Cabinet. The Cabinet initiates policies, proposes all important bills in Parliament, and coordinates the work of different government departments. The Prime Minister as Head of Cabinet and Government as a whole is ultimately responsible for the policies and decisions of the government.

Parliament^[4] is the law-making body of the United Kingdom. It comprises the monarch, often referred to as the Crown, the House of Lords^[5], and the House of Commons^[6]. The monarch's role is only ceremonial, unpolitical and symbolic. The House of Lords, sometimes referred to as the Upper House, consists of

英国实行议会合一的政治制度,议会[4]是英国的最高权力机构和立法机关,为两院制,分为上议院[5]和下议院[6]。上议院的成员都是任命的,下议院成员由全国选举产生。议会选举中的多数党成为执政党,内阁是由议会产生的,对议会负责。

two groups of members: a religious group and a secular group. One important role of the House of Lords is its function as the highest court of the United Kingdom. The House of Commons is composed of 659 elected members who are called MPs for short. The seats are distributed according to population. Its most important function is to make laws, known as “Act of Parliament”.

The organization of local government^[7] in the United Kingdom varies from region to region. Traditionally, most parts of the country had a two-tier system: country, shire, or borough councils and district councils. Local councils are controlled by laws and policies established by the central government, particularly concerning budgets and spending. The councilors of the local government are all elected.

英国是一个有地方自治传统的单一制国家，它既不同于地方权力较大的联邦制国家，也区别于地方权力较小的中央集权的单一制国家。早在中世纪英国就已建立起郡一级的地方机构[7]。

British Law

British law consists of two parts, the civil and the criminal law, and there are different courts at various levels to handle cases in each category. All judges are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister and are irremovable. Lawyers in the United Kingdom are divided into two groups: the solicitors and barristers.

Climate

The United Kingdom is a small nation in physical size. At 244,110 sq km, like the rest of northern Europe, it is warmed by the Gulf Stream flowing out of the North Atlantic Ocean. The climate, in general, is mild, chilly, and often wet. Rain or overcast skies can be expected for up to 300 days per year. These conditions make Britain lush and green, with rolling plains in the south and east and rough hills and mountains in the west and north.

Population

Despite its relatively small size, Britain is highly populated, with an estimated population density of 270 persons per sq km in 2013. It is economically highly developed preeminent in the arts and sciences, sophisticated in technology, which belongs to one of the more affluent states of Europe and enjoys a high standard of living compared with the rest of the world.

Economy

The UK economy is made up (in descending order of size) of the economies of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Based on market exchange rates, the United Kingdom is today the sixth largest economy in the world and the third largest in Europe after Germany and France(2015).

The UK is a developed country, with the fifth (nominal GDP) or sixth (PPP) largest economy in the world. It was the world's first industrialized country and the world's foremost

power during the 19th and early 20th centuries, but the economic cost of two world wars and the decline of its empire in the latter half of the 20th century diminished its leading role in global affairs. The UK nevertheless remains a major power with strong economic, cultural, military and political influence. It is a nuclear power and has the second or third highest defence spending in the world. It holds a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, and is a member of the G8, NATO^[8], OECD^[9], World Trade Organization and the Commonwealth of Nations.

NATO[8] (North Atlantic Treaty Organization 北大西洋公约组织)

OECD[9] (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 经济合作及发展组织)

Agriculture and Industry

Britain's mild climate has provided the country with a favorable environment for agriculture and animal husbandry. Britain's agriculture is distinguished by two outstanding features: the small proportion of population engaged in agricultural activities and the high degree of mechanization. The most important crops in Britain are wheat, barley, sugar beet and potatoes.

Once as the "factory of the world", Britain's manufacturing and textile industries have been declining dramatically over the last two decades or so. Britain has dominance in the production of certain chemical products,

especially paint. Its industrial development is well backed up by its iron and steel industry, which to a large extent is government-controlled.

Natural Resources

The United Kingdom is endowed with some major natural resources: coal, oil and gas, etc. It is also self-sufficient in nonmetallic minerals like sand, gravel, chalk, limestone, salt, slate, and china clay, etc.

Service

Service industry is Britain's most rapidly growing and most important sector of the national economy.

A. Financial Service

Britain boasts one of the world's oldest, most extensive, and most highly developed financial systems. London is one of the three financial centres of the world. At the heart of the British financial system is the Bank of England, which functions as Britain's central bank. Besides the Bank of England, Britain has many commercial banks. Apart from banks, there are also other financial institutions, among which the most famous is the London Stock Exchange.

B. Tourism and Transportation Service

Britain is the 5th largest tourist country in the world. Tourism is another pillar of the country's service industry. Britain's transportation system is well developed, and important means of transportation include railways, highways, airlines and shipping, etc.

C. Trade Service

Britain has been a trading country for hundreds of years. Its important exported goods are manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals, food, beverages, and tobacco; its important imported goods are manufactured goods, machinery, fuels, foodstuffs. Its most important trade partners are the United States, major European countries and Ireland.

Literature

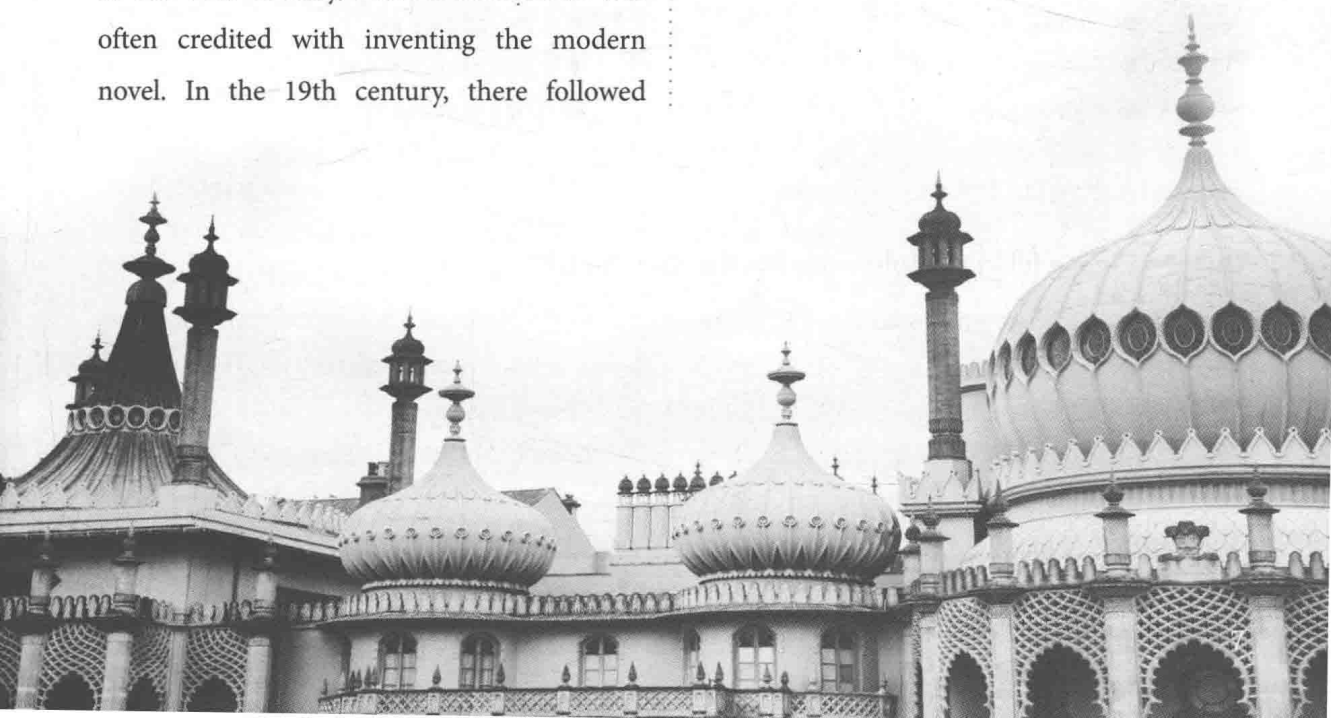
British literature refers to literature associated with the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands as well as to literature from England, Wales and Scotland prior to the formation of the United Kingdom. Most British literature is in the English language.

The English playwright and poet William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest dramatist of all time. Among the earliest English writers are Geoffrey of Monmouth (12th century), Geoffrey Chaucer (14th century), and Thomas Malory (15th century). In the 18th century, Samuel Richardson was often credited with inventing the modern novel. In the 19th century, there followed

further innovation by Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters, the social campaigner Charles Dickens, the naturalist Thomas Hardy, the visionary poet William Blake and romantic poet William Wordsworth. The 20th century writers include the science fiction novelist H.G. Wells, the controversial D. H. Lawrence, the modernist Virginia Woolf, the satirist, Evelyn Waugh, the prophetic novelist George Orwell, the popular novelist, Graham Greene, and the poets John Betjeman and Ted Hughes. Most recently, the children's fantasy "Harry Potter" series by J. K. Rowling has recalled the popularity of J. R. R. Tolkien.

Welfare

The United Kingdom has one of the best social welfare programs in Europe. The key elements of the welfare state include Social Security, the National Health Service, the Housing Program, Education and Personal Services.



Vocabulary Power

constitutional [ˌkɒnstɪ'tjuːʃən]	a.	宪法的
monarchy ['mɒnəki]	n.	君主政体
dissolution [ˌdɪsə'luːʃn]	n.	分解, 分离
assimilate [ə'sɪmɪleɪt]	vt.	吸收, 消化, 使同化(into, with)
overcast ['əʊvəkɑːst]	a.	多云的
lush [lʌʃ]	a.	茂盛的, 繁荣的
density ['densɪti]	n.	密度
preeminent [pri'eɪmɪnənt]	a.	优越的, 卓越的
sophisticated [sə'fɪstɪkətɪd]	a.	高级的, 老于世故的
affluent [æfluənt]	a.	富有的
descend [dɪ'send]	vi.	下来, 下降, 下倾
diminish [dɪ'mɪnɪʃ]	vt.	减少, 减小

Lesson Review

Task 1 Explore the UK and introduce the country briefly.

Outline

- ◆ location
- ◆ capital city
- ◆ population
- ◆ climate
- ◆ history
- ◆ language

Useful Expressions

- ◆ lie in/on/to/off the...
- ◆ have a population of
- ◆ political and cultural centre
- ◆ be famous for
- ◆ places of interest
- ◆ be made up of

Task 2 Please fill in the following form about the UK.

Capital

Official Languages

Recognized Regional Languages

Government

Monarch

Area Total

Population

Climate

Currency

Time Zone

Calling Code

Task 3 Conduct a survey of the main imports and exports of the UK.

Text B

People and Cultural Tips of the UK

Britain is a country of mixed cultures. London has the largest non-white population of any European city and over 250 languages are spoken there. Therefore not all British people are White or Christians. Britain is a multi-faith society in which everyone has the right to religious freedom. Although Britain is historically a Christian society, people are usually very *tolerant* towards the faiths of others and those who have no religious beliefs.

The United Kingdom has now a population of about 60 million, of which over 80% live in England, especially around London and the Thames estuary areas. The rest are distributed in Scotland (over 5 million), Wales (around 3 million) and Northern Ireland (close to 1.7 million). The majority of this population are descendents of the Anglo-Saxons. Most people in Wales and Scotland are descendents of the Celtic people

who were the earliest known inhabitants of Great Britain. It has a considerable number of Italians, Greeks, Australians, and New Zealanders, and many immigrants from Africa and Asia.

The British are said to be *reserved* in manners, dress and speech. They are famous for their politeness, self-discipline and especially for their sense of humour. Basic politeness (please, thank you, excuse me) is expected. British people have a strong sense of humour which sometimes can be hard for foreigners to understand.

British people place *considerable* value on *punctuality*. If you agree to meet friends at three o'clock, you can bet that they'll be there just after three. Since Britons are so time-conscious, the pace of life may seem very rushed. In Britain, people make great effort to arrive on time. It is often considered impolite

to arrive even a few minutes late. If you are unable to keep an appointment, it is expected that you call the person you are meeting. Some general tips are as follows:

- * You should arrive at the exact time specified for dinner, lunch, or appointments with professors, doctors, and other professionals.

- * You should arrive at any time during the hours specified for teas, receptions, and cocktail parties.

- * You should arrive a few minutes early for public meetings, plays, concerts, movies, sporting events, classes, church services, and weddings.

If you are invited to someone's house for dinner at half past seven, they will expect you to be there on the dot. An invitation might state "7:30 to 8:00", in which case you should arrive no later than 7:50.

Invitations

"Drop in anytime" and "come see me soon" are idioms often used in social settings but seldom meant to be taken literally. It is wise to telephone before visiting someone at home. If you receive a written invitation to an event that says "RSVP"^[1], you should respond to let the person who sent the invitation know whether or not you plan to attend.

Never accept an invitation unless you really plan to go. You may refuse by saying, "Thank you for inviting me, but I will not be able to come." If, after accepting, you are unable to attend, be sure to tell those expecting you as far in advance as possible that you will not be there.

Although it is not necessarily expected that you give a gift to your host, it is considered polite to do so, especially if you have been invited for a meal. Flowers,

chocolate, or a small gift are all appropriate. A thank-you note or telephone call after the visit is also considered polite and is an appropriate means to express your appreciation for the invitation.

Dress

Everyday dress is appropriate for most visits to people's homes. You may want to dress more formally when attending a holiday dinner or cultural event, such as a concert or theatre performance.

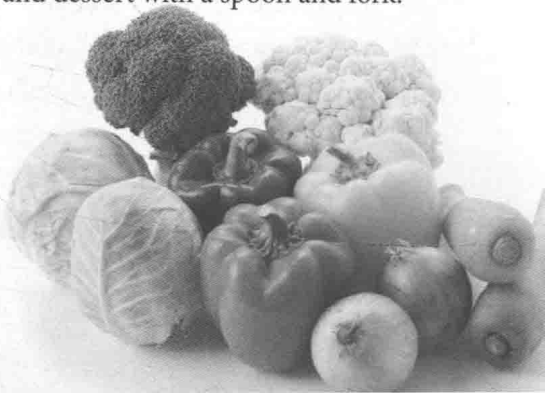
Introduction and Greeting

It is proper to shake hands with everyone to whom you are introduced, both men and women. An appropriate response to an introduction is "Pleased to meet you." If you want to introduce yourself to someone, extend your hand for a handshake and say "Hello, I am...". Hugging is only for friends.

Dining

When you accept a dinner invitation, tell your host if you have any dietary restrictions. He or she will want to plan a meal that you can enjoy. The evening meal is the main meal of the day in most parts of Britain.

Food may be served in one of several ways: "family style," by passing the serving plates from one to another around the dining table; "buffet"^[2] style," with guests serving themselves at the buffet; and "serving style," with the host filling each plate and passing it to each person. Guests usually wait until everyone at their table has been served before they begin to eat. Food is eaten with a knife and fork and dessert with a spoon and fork.



Vocabulary Power

tolerant ['tɒlərənt]	<i>a.</i>	忍受的;宽大的,宽容的
reserved [rɪ'zɜ:vɪd]	<i>a.</i>	有节制的;保留的;缄默的;冷淡的
considerable [kən'sɪdərəbl]	<i>a.</i>	相当大的;重要的
punctuality [ˌpʌŋktju'ælɪti]	<i>n.</i>	准时
appropriate [ə'prəʊpriət]	<i>a.</i>	适当的,恰当的

- ## Notes
- [1] RSVP 来自法语中的 Répondez S'il Vous Plait, “请在最短时间内回复”的意思,常出现在英文的邀请信中。
- [2] buffet:一种由食客自行选取食物的用餐方式。

Lesson Review

Task 1 Talk about the cultural tips that you can get from the passage.

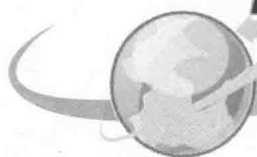
Task 2 Manners are especially important among British people. Please list as many Dos and Don'ts as possible.

Dos and Don'ts (Taboos) Among British People

[illegible]

Section **B**

Broadening My Horizon



Text **A**

Education in the United Kingdom

Education in Britain is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 16. Education in the United Kingdom is divided into four stages: primary, secondary, further education and higher education. The National Curriculum divides primary and secondary education into four key stages and sets the minimum learning requirements for all children at each stage. At each stage there are core subjects that are taught as compulsory courses. These include English, mathematics, science, technology, physical education and religious education. Subjects like history, geography, music and art are compulsory up to Stage 3, but become optional at Stage 4.

Primary and Secondary Education

There are two parallel school systems in Britain for primary and secondary education. One is the state system where education is provided free. Schools in this system are also known as maintained schools. The other is the independent system where fees are required. Generally speaking, state schools do not take

in international students below the age of 16, unless their parents live in Britain. Independent schools, in contrast, welcome international students.

Higher Education

Britain boasts some of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the world, such as Cambridge University and Oxford University.

Britain's universities are legally independent and enjoy complete academic freedom. The administrative of a university alone is responsible for the university's maintenance and development, including staff appointment, students' enrollment, course design, and degree conference.

There is no national entrance examination of any sort in Britain. Universities select and admit students mainly on the basis of the grades of their AS-levels^[1] or GNVQs^[2], usually in conjunction with school references plus an interview.

All British universities are partially