



高职高专“十一五”规划教材

English

英语国家社会 与文化简明教程

A Concise Course to the Society and Culture of
Major English-Speaking Countries

第二版

王祖兴 主编



化学工业出版社

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·北京·

全书简明介绍了英国、美国、加拿大、澳大利亚和新西兰五个英语国家的地理、历史、政治、经济、教育、家庭生活、社会风俗和传统等文化知识,旨在引导学生将语言学习与文化知识紧密结合起来,提高学习英语的效果并为培养学生的跨文化交际能力打下一定基础。书中内容新颖、文字通俗易懂。对新词、难词、专门术语等作了汉语标注。全书分三个部分,英国、美国各为一部分,另外三个国家为一部分,共计42章,可供高职高专英语专业的学生使用,也可作为自学者的参考用书。

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第二版前言



本书自 2003 年出版发行以来,至今已有五个年头。这期间书中述及的五个英语国家在政治、经济、教育、社会和文化等各方面都发生了很大的变化。美国的“次贷危机”所引发的全球经济衰退就是突出的例证。变化了的形势会直接影响到人们的生活方式和行为规范,影响一个国家的文化价值观。作为教材,理应为学生提供最新的知识素材,摒弃那些过时的或不太适用的内容。基于这种想法,我们进行了全面修改。

修改后的教程突出了以下几个特点。

1. 以“适度、够用”为原则。教育部对高职高专课程建设的要求中以知识的“适度、够用”为原则。按此原则,结合近年来学生的英语水平,教学课时数等实际情况,从丰富纷繁的资料中加以筛选,在覆盖面的取舍上做到优化,在每一章节的内容上做到简化,不求详尽。

修订后的教程仍由三部分构成。英国部分十二章,美国部分十三章,第三部分包括加拿大、澳大利亚和新西兰三个国家共十七章。

2. 突出一个“新”字。这次修订的重点是用目前国内外已报道的最新素材补充或替代原版中较过时的内容。例如新增了美国的“次贷危机”(subprime mortgage crisis)引发的全球经济衰退(the global economic decline)。

对英国部分做了全面调整,或增补新的内容,或重新布局,或重新撰写。力求让学生以新的视角、新的观念学习、观察、认识这些国家的文化价值观。

第三部分的内容增、舍也多达二十几处。

3. 增强实用性。

① 突出了文化与语言学习的结合,文字浅显易懂。

② 为减少学生查阅生词的负担,在一些生僻的词语后面直接加注释义。把每章的注释分别在每页末注明。

新版教程还对第一版中的错漏、赘词、赘语作了修补和删减。

参加本书编写的有王祖兴,龚淑梅(美国部分的第 1、7、8、9、10、11 章),段照炜(英国部分的第 2、5、6、8、9、11 章),张艳玲(美国部分的第 2、3、5、6、12 章),段静红(加拿大部分的 1~6 章),李康映(澳大利亚部分的 1~5 章和加拿大部分第 7 章),朱亚宁(英国部分的第 1、3、4、7、10、12 章),鲁兴冉(美国部分的第 4、13 章和新西兰部分的第 3 章),王振(新西兰部分的第 1、2、4、5 章)。其中王祖兴为主编,龚淑梅、段照炜、张艳玲、段静红为副主编。

本书在修订过程中参考了许多专家学者的专著或教材,在此表示衷心的感谢。

限于编者水平,书中疏漏或欠妥之处敬请同行专家和读者批评指正。

编者

2009 年 4 月

第一版前言



本书是面向高职高专英语专业的学生而编写的，全书共分3个部分，第一部分介绍英国，共12章；第二部分介绍美国，共13章；第三部分介绍加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰，共11章。

本书简要介绍了上述5个国家的地理、历史、政治、经济、文学、教育、宗教信仰、风俗习惯、家庭生活、社会福利等基本情况，目的是帮助学生获得上述以英语为主要语言的国家的社会文化知识，增强学生对中西文化差异的敏感性，逐步形成跨文化交际意识，进而提高语言交际能力和文化修养。

本书的突出特点有两个方面：第一是“简”；第二是“新”。所谓“简”是指各部分内容突出重点，涉及的面尽量宽泛，但对各点的叙述尽量简单扼要。这样做一方面为了适应高职高专课时限制的需要；另一方面对学生的自学不会造成太多的困难。所谓“新”是指本书所选资料能够反映英美国家的最新变化，最新面貌。特别突出了这些国家文化的多元化特征。

本书是高等学校英语专业学生的一门必修课，是由7所院校的12位老师共同完成的。其中英国部分由张二旗编写第5、6、7、9、10、11章；李培娥编写第1、2、3、4章；李艳艳编写第8、12章。美国部分由周金洁编写第4、5、10、11、12、13章；龚淑梅编写第6、7、8、9章；刘俊红编写第1、2、3章。第三部分中的加拿大部分由段照炜和胡爱强共同编写；新西兰部分由聂鉴锋编写；澳大利亚部分由赵万哲编写。

本教材由河南大学外语学院博士生导师王宝童教授担任主审，王教授认真审阅了全书的内容，提出了许多宝贵意见，在此表示衷心感谢。

在本书编写过程中，我们参考了国内外许多名家专著，作者姓名及著作已列入参考书目之中，在此我们对所有作者表示诚挚的谢意。

开封大学的主管领导和教务处的领导同志，外语系的领导对本书的编写工作给予热情的关心和支持。开封大学外语系的王磊同志帮助整理打印了全部书稿和其他文字资料，在此，谨对他们的关心、支持和帮助表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平和掌握资料的限制，加之时间仓促，书中定有错误和不足之处，恳请使用本教材的师生和读者给予批评和指正。

编者

2003年6月22日

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Part One

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland^①

Chapter One Geography

Section 1 Position, Name and Areas

To the northwest of mainland Europe are the British Isles (不列颠群岛). Great Britain (大不列颠岛) and Ireland (爱尔兰岛) are the two main islands of the British Isles. In the British Isles there are two states. One is the Republic of Ireland (爱尔兰共和国), which is an independent country. The other state has authority over the rest of the British Isles (the whole of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and most of the smaller islands).

The full and official name of this country is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. But due to the geographical features people often use different names to refer to this country, such as Britain, Great Britain or informally England. It is usually shortened to the United Kingdom or UK.

The island of Great Britain accounts for more than 90% of the country's landmass. It is geographically and historically divided into three parts: England, Scotland and Wales. The island of Ireland is divided into two parts: Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland is a part of the United Kingdom, while the Republic of Ireland is self-governing.

The UK has a total land area of 244,100km², which accounts for less than 2% of the land area of the world. Britain is just under 500km across in the widest part and under 1,000 km in a straight line from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland. Its coast line runs about ten thousand km, making it one of the countries with a long coastline in the world.

England is the largest and most developed division of Britain. It is located in the south of the island. It has an area of over 130,000km² and covers nearly 60% of the whole island.

London is the capital of both England and the United Kingdom. It is located in south-east England. In the north of the island is Scotland with an area of 78,789km². Edinburgh (爱丁堡) is its capital. Scotland is the second largest of the four parts of the UK, both in population and area. Scotland has the majority of Britain's highest mountains and also many lakes and it is famous for its beautiful countryside. Tourists from all over the world come to

① The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: 大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国, 由英格兰、苏格兰、威尔士及北爱尔兰四部分组成。

enjoy the beauty of Scottish scenery.

Wales lies to the west of England. The capital of Wales is Cardiff (加迪夫). Wales has an area of about 20,750 square kilometers. Wales has been dominated by England longer than the other parts of the union. However, it retains a powerful sense of its difference from England. Wales has its own language—Welsh (威尔士语) which is spoken by about 20% of the population, much more than those who speak Gaelic (盖尔语) in Scotland and Ireland.

Northern Ireland is the smallest of the four regions, both in population and in area. It covers an area of 14,144 km². The capital of this region is Belfast (贝尔法斯特). Northern Ireland, although small, is quite significant partly because of the political troubles there.

Section 2 Major Cities

London, the capital of both England and the United Kingdom, is situated on the Thames River near its mouth. London is the political, industrial, cultural and financial center of the country and also it is one of the three largest ports in the world. London has many famous buildings and places, such as Westminster Abbey (威斯敏斯特教堂) and St. Paul's Cathedral (圣保罗大教堂). The former is a traditional place where English kings and queens are crowned and great men and women are buried.

The Tower Bridge of London over the River Thames has been one of the symbols of the city. The University of London, the British Museum, the National Gallery, the Covent Garden (考文特花园) are the cultural institutions.

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is famous for the University of Edinburgh, one of the largest universities in Britain. The city is very beautiful and its architecture is renowned the world over.

Cardiff has been the capital city of Wales since 1955. The city has undergone an enormous amount of urban regeneration (重建) and restoration and it has now become one of the most fashionable cities in Britain. With modern shopping centers, world-class restaurants and hotels, thousands of visitors from home and abroad each year are attracted to Cardiff.

Belfast, as the capital of Northern Ireland, is an important, historic city. It is full of spectacular landmarks and monuments. In recent years this city has undergone a remarkable transformation. Many areas have been redeveloped.

Section 3 Climate and Environment

The climate of Britain is generally mild and temperate. It is not too cold in winter and not too hot in summer. The annual temperature is about 10°C, varying from around 5°C in the coldest month to 17°C in the warmest month on the average.

It has a plentiful rainfall throughout the year. The precipitation (降雨量) is more than 1,600 mm in the north and west but less than 800 mm over central and eastern parts. Rain can occur at any time but on average, March to June are the driest months and September to January are the wettest.

During May, June and July the average daily duration of sunshine varies from five hours in the north to eight hours in the south. November, December and January are the shortest daylight months. The average drops of sunshine is to one hour a day in the north and two

hours in the south.

Although Britain has a high density of population, there are huge amounts of quiet and unspoilt countryside. Traveling across Britain, visitors are struck by how green the countryside is all year round. The landscape in Britain is varied from the flatlands around the south and east to the hills and mountains of Scotland and Wales.

Since the days of the industrial revolution, awareness of the importance of a clean and ecologically stable environment has grown. The oft-quoted “smog” of London is a thing of past. Problems and debates still remain with pollution, but there are a large number of environmental groups ready to publicize such things and campaign for change.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the full name of the UK?
2. Give a statement of the geographical position of Great Britain.
3. What is the weather like in Britain?
4. Can you say something about the major cities in Britain?

Chapter Two People

Section 1 The People of Britain Today

British people live in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. So British people can either be English, Scottish, Welsh or Irish.

The total population of the United Kingdom is over 60 million according to the statistics in 2005. Almost a quarter of the population lives in England’s prosperous and fertile south-east, with over seven million in the capital. The rest are distributed in Scotland (over 5 million), Wales (around 3 million) and Northern Ireland (close to 1.7 million), etc.

This is a very large population for such a small area. The population density is one of the highest in the world.

The majority of the population are the descendants (后裔) of Anglo-Saxons^①, a Germanic people (日耳曼人) from Europe who went to England between the 5th and 7th centuries. These people settled in England and drove the native Celtic people (凯尔特人) to the mountainous areas of Wales and Scotland.

Most people in Wales and Scotland are descendants of the Celtic people who were the earliest known inhabitants of Britain. The Irish people were also of Celtic origin.

89.4% of Britain’s population lives in urban areas and 10.6% lives in the rural areas. Since the nineteenth century there has been a trend, especially in London, for people to move away from the crowded city centers into the suburbs.

Many old people when they retire move to the towns on the south coast of England.

① Anglo-Saxons: 盎格鲁-撒克逊人, 属日耳曼民族, 包括盎格鲁人 (the Angles)、撒克逊人 (the Saxons)、朱特人 (the Jutes) 等。

Section 2 A Mixed Race Society

“We celebrate the diversity in our country, get strength from the cultures and races that go to make up Britain today.”

—Tony Blair^①

People from all cultures and ethnicities can be found in every corner of Britain. Each person in his or her own way has contributed to make Britain the place it is today.

If you walk down a street in Britain, especially in the bigger cities, you will see people with different hair, skin and eye colours. They may have white, brown or black skin and blonde (白肤金发女人) or green eyes, because the people of Britain are a mixed race.

Britain is and has always been a mixed race society. Early in its history it was invaded by Romans, Saxons, Vikings^② and Normans armies and later Africans were brought to Britain by force in the 17th and 18th centuries as slaves or servants.

Over the years, thousands of people have arrived in Britain as refugees (难民) from France, Ireland, Russia and other countries, escaping from the persecution (迫害) or famine (饥荒) in their own countries.

There are British people whose parents first came to Britain in the 1950s and 1960s from the Caribbean (加勒比海), India, Pakistan, Hong Kong and other places. Their homes are mainly in the big English cities like London, Birmingham and Manchester (曼彻斯特). About 8% of the population of Britain today are people from other cultures and ethnicities. According to a BBC Report in September 2005, immigration made up more than half of Britain's population growth from 1991 to 2001.

People from minority ethnic groups were likely to live in England than in the rest of the UK. They made up 9% of the population of England.

Different people moving to Britain have brought their own cultures and try to keep two cultures alive. An excellent example of this is the Notting Hill Carnival^③ which celebrates the Caribbean Culture and is now a very big part of the British life today.

Section 3 Class Structure

The “class structure” of Britain is often cited in negative terms. The conservative Prime Minister John Major, in early 1990s, once gave a speech in which he looked forward to building “a classless society”. Although it is impossible to accurately define “class” in such a way as to be able to neatly categorize individuals. There is no doubt that people do have a feeling of which class they belong to. Up to 1985 the percentage of those who feel they belong to the middle class increases and the percentage of those with a sense of being working class decreases. The “upper class” is thought to be fairly constant at around 2%.

One way to classify people is by the job they do and this is used by government in its

① Tony Blair: 托尼·布莱尔, 1997~2007 任英国首相。

② Vikings: 斯堪的纳维亚人(也称威金人)。在8~10世纪,这些人常在北欧和西欧海岸抢劫,故被人叫做北欧海盗。

③ Notting Hill Carnival: 诺丁山狂欢节。自1966年起每年8月在伦敦的诺丁山大街由西印度群岛人举行的狂欢活动。规模盛大成为英国人文化生活的重要部分。

surveys.

Below is the official classification based upon the job a person does:

A—Professional, e. g. accountant, doctor, dentist or solicitor.

B—Managerial & technical, e. g. manager, teacher, librarian, nurse, farmer.

C1—Clerical & supervisory (non-manual), e. g. shop assistant, police officer, bank clerk.

C2—Skilled manual. e. g. electrician, bus driver, cook.

D—Semi-skilled manual. e. g. post worker, telephone operator.

E—Unskilled manual, e. g. labourer, cleaner.

It is certain that class awareness still exists. It is difficult to exactly convey how class is identified, statistical information about jobs people do and their income levels is one method. Whilst economic criteria (判别事物价值的标准) are one important aspect in determining class. It seems that differences in taste and behaviour are as significant for people in deciding whether they and others belong to a particular class.

Section 4 Religions

(1) The Christian

Britain is a Christian country. Religion its first Christian Church was established at Canterbury in 597. Most people believe in God and the Bible. Over half of the citizens embrace Christian religion, either Protestantism (基督教) or Catholicism (天主教).

The Ten Commandments (圣经中的十戒) are found in the Bible and are central to the Christian faith. They are believed to be the word of God and to have been handed down to his people through the prophet Moses (先知摩西). They set out a basic ethical system of moral and social behaviour, governing the standards of family relations, regard for human life, sex, property, speech and thought. They are summarized from the Bible as follows:

- ① I am the Lord your God.
- ② Thou shalt not worship any other God but me. (thou shalt not = you will not)
- ③ Thou shalt not take the name of thy God in vain (随便的, 不敬的).
- ④ Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day^① (=the day of rest, i. e. Sunday).
- ⑤ Love thy father and thy mother. (thy = your)
- ⑥ Do not commit murder.
- ⑦ Do not commit adultery.
- ⑧ Do not steal.
- ⑨ Do not accuse others falsely.
- ⑩ Do not desire another man's property or anything that he owns.

The Christian faith still maintains the first four commandments which insist upon belief in only one God.

Commandments 5-10 are still the basic moral principles accepted by most British people and many of the laws of the land can be seen to have been derived from them.

① Sabbath [sedəθ] day: 安息日。犹太教徒是星期六, 基督徒是星期日。