

《英美文化基础教程》学习手册

A Handbook to **Essentials** *of* **British and** **American** *Cultures*



外语教学与研究出版社

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英美文化基础教程
学 习 手 册
A Handbook
To
Essentials of British and
American Cultures

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前 言

本书为《英美文化基础教程》的学习手册,供教师教学和学生
学习参考之用。每章的重点内容也是考查的要点。问答部分比较
详细,主要帮助学生掌握每章的内容。解题部分就每章涉及的主
要人物、事件、概念等作简要的解释,进一步帮助学生理解课文。
为了帮助学生灵活应用所学知识,每章设有一份试卷,并附答案。

不妥之处,敬请指正。

朱永涛

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Part One

British Culture

Chapter 1

Who Are the British?

I . Focal Points

geographical position of Britain
the history of human habitation and settlement in Britain
the arrival and settlement of the Celts and the Romans
the characteristics of the Scots
the characteristics of the Welsh
the characteristics of the Irish
the relations between Ireland and England
the problems in Northern Ireland
the IRA
the Peace People
the English character
the formation of the English nation
the English king Charles I
Oliver Cromwell
William the Conqueror

II . Questions and Answers on the Text

1. What is the full name of the United Kingdom?

The full name of the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland.

2. Who are the Britons?

The word “Britons” is used to refer to the British people in general.

3. When did people begin to settle in Britain? Who were the earliest inhabitants?

People began to settle in Britain around 10,000 years ago. The earliest inhabitants were the Stone Age hunters and gatherers who arrived from the European Continent.

4. What were the characteristics of the Neolithic peoples in Britain?
They were settled agriculturalists who kept domestic animals and knew how to make simple pottery.

5. What is Stonehenge?

Stonehenge is a group of huge monuments of giant rock slabs on Salisbury Plain in Southwest England built by the Stone Age peoples. It is generally believed that Stonehenge served some sort of religious purposes.

6. Who brought the skill of iron-working to Britain?

The Celtic peoples who had come from north-western Europe around 700 BC brought the skill of iron-working to Britain.

7. Where did the earliest written records of Britain’s inhabitants come from?

The earliest written records of Britain’s inhabitants came from the Romans.

8. Why do the Scots, Welsh or Irish object to being called “English”?

Because they are peoples of different origins and cultures. They all have their own characteristics, and want to maintain their own identity.

9. Who were the earliest known ancestors of the Scots? What was their language?

The earliest known ancestors of the Scots were the Picts and Celts. Their language was Gaelic.

10. Who considers himself the “true” Scot? What is his national dress?

The Scottish Highlander considers himself the “true” Scot. His national dress is the kilt.

11. What are the national characteristics of the Scots supposed to be?

The Scots have a reputation for being inventive, hard-working, serious-minded and cautious with money.

12. What are the characteristics of the Scottish Highlanders?

The Scottish Highlanders are known for being proud, independent and hardy.

13. How are the Scots classified?

The Scots are classified into Highlanders and Lowlanders. The Highlanders mainly live by farming sheep in the mountain areas or fishing on the coasts and islands. But most Scots are Lowlanders who live in the industrialized urban areas of southern Scotland.

14. What is meant by “devils in skirts” or “ladies from hell”?

They are nicknames of the Scottish soldiers in the British Army. Scottish soldiers are famous for their bravery. Over the centuries, enemy troops have often been terrified at the sight and sound of Highlanders in kilts marching into battle accompanied by the bloodcurdling music of the bagpipes. Hence they got the nicknames of “devils in skirts” and “ladies from hell”.

15. What is the nationalist tendency in Scotland since the 1960s?

Since the 1960s there has been considerable Scottish nationalist agitation for a separate parliament or assembly which would give

the Scots a greater say in the planning and running of their own affairs. But the referendum held in Scotland by the British government in 1979 showed that only less than 40 percent of the vote was in favour of a separate Scottish assembly, so no further action was taken.

16. How can you recognize the Scots?

The Scots can be recognized by their distinctive national dress and their particular style of speech and accent.

17. When were the Welsh united with England?

The Welsh were united with England in 1535 by the 1535 Act of Union.

18. what are considered to be the national characteristics of the Welsh?

The Welsh are very conscious of their separate Celtic heritage. The cultural pride in Wales is very strong. The Welsh are also famous for their love of music and poetry. They also have a great feeling for the music of words.

19. What is the nationalist tendency in Wales?

The Welsh National Party, which has members in the Westminster Parliament, together with various pressure groups want more Welsh language and culture in schools, the media and in public life generally.

20. How are the Welsh classified?

The Welsh fall into two groups: those—mostly sheep farmers—from the mountainous regions of the centre and north; and those (two-thirds of the population) who live and work in the highly industrialized south.

21. What are the two very different passions that have emerged from the hard-working lives of the Welsh people?

The two very different passions that have emerged from the hard-working lives of the Welsh people are rugby football and choral singing.

22. What is the most famous festival of music and verse in Wales?

The most famous festival of music and verse in Wales is the National Eisteddfod which takes place each August and lasts for about a week.

23. How can a Welshman be recognized?

A Welshman can often be recognized by his name: it might be Jones, Williams, Thomas, Evans, Lloyd, Llewellyn, or begin with "P" like Pritchard, Probert or Pryse (these are contractions of Ap Richard, Ap Robert and Ap Rys; "ap" is Welsh for "son of"). The Welsh are also easily identified by the soft lilting, almost singing, way in which they speak English.

24. What are considered to be the characteristics of the Irish people in the literary works of Irish writers?

In the literary works of Irish writers, the Irish are portrayed as introspective dreamers and poets, as well as argumentative and aggressive.

25. When was the whole of Ireland colonized by England?

The whole of Ireland was colonized by England in 1169.

26. When was Ireland partitioned? How was it partitioned?

Ireland was partitioned in 1922. The 26 counties of Southern Ireland became the Irish Free State, later renamed the Republic of Eire. The six counties of Ulster in the north remained part of the United Kingdom with their own parliament, Stormont, responsible for internal affairs.

27. What was the event that worsened the situation in Ireland in the sixteenth century?

The event was the Protestant Reformation. The Irish refused to accept the Protestant Reformation: they remained stubbornly true to their Catholic faith despite many cruel persecutions by the English.

28. What measures did Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of Britain, take to solve the situation in Ireland?

He crushed various rebellions in Ireland, and settled English and Scottish Protestants there by giving them land. The duty of the new immigrants was to put down any anti-British revolt by the native Irish.

29. What is meant by "home rule"? What was the consequence of the demand for "home rule"?

Between 1840 and 1900, some Irish nationalists, such as Charles Stewart Parnell, demanded some kind of autonomy and Irish members of the Westminster Parliament. They called persistently for the control of internal affairs by an assembly in Dublin. This is what they called "home rule". The home rule question led to even more disturbance and riots as the Ulster Protestants feared that an autonomous Ireland would be dominated by Catholics.

30. After the Second World War, how did the Protestants maintain an exclusive hold on all areas of life in Northern Ireland?

The Ulster Unionists, the ruling Protestant party, had complete control of Stormont, local councils, the police force and all public services. They did this by making sure that no Catholic could obtain a job in any public service; on all application forms, candidates were required to state their religion. Also, it is easy to distinguish the Catholic Irish by their names.

31. How can you distinguish the Catholic Irish by their names?

The names of the Catholic Irish usually begin with “Mac” or “Mc”, or with “Mul”, “Mil” or “O” as in Muldoon, Milligan, O’Connor; some names are of Celtic origin like Flynn, Connolly, Kennedy, and Nolan.

32. Who caused the violence on the Catholic side in Ireland?

On the Catholic side, the violence was caused by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) with its terrorist wing, the Provisional IRA.

33. Who caused the violence on the Protestant side in Ireland?

On the Protestant side, the violence was caused by the Ulster Unionists, or Loyalists.

34. What increases the difficulties of the moderate people who want to work out a solution to the situation in Ireland?

Their difficulties are increased by the fact that the actions and words of the extremists get wider coverage in the media than those of the moderate.

35. Who organized the Women’s Peace Movement? When were they awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace?

The Women’s Peace Movement (later called the Peace People) was organized by Betty Williams, a Protestant housewife, and her Catholic partner, Mairead Corrigan. At the end of 1976, these two leaders of the Women’s Peace Movement were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

36. What is a traditionally typical Englishman thought to be like?

A traditionally typical Englishman is thought to be reserved, unemotional, courteous; shy of strangers; suspicious of change and slow to accept new ideas; solid and dependable with a high sense of honesty, duty and justice; physically and morally courageous; conscious of his place in the social order; disliking

any show of emotion and lack of control; and fervently believing that the British are superior to any other race on earth.

37. Why is it not easy to talk about a typical Englishman?

It is not easy to talk about a typical Englishman because the English are as individual as the inhabitants of any other nation. More important, they are descended from so many different peoples who came and settled in England at some time or other.

38. What great influence did the Romans have on the English culture?

The Romans invaded England in 55 BC, and brought with them their laws, taxes, engineering skills, architecture and social system as well as their language, Latin, and their system of writing and numbering. They introduced Christianity. They also left behind the first written description of the land and its peoples as well as records of their administration.

39. What were the three Germanic tribes that invaded England?

The three Germanic tribes that invaded England were Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

40. How is the name "England" derived?

The name "England" is derived from *Aengla-land*. Because at the time of the Germans' invasion, the Angles were so numerous that the country was called "Aengla-land".

41. When did the Norman Conquest take place?

The Norman Conquest took place in AD 1066.

42. What are the main consequences of the Norman Conquest?

William of Normandy and his French-speaking followers set up a strong central government which brought a new unified discipline and control to England; the conquerors intermarried with the ruling Saxon families; they made French the official lan-

guage; they firmly established the feudal system. Contacts between England and France were greatly increased. All in all, the French influence grew so strong that many aspects of England's social and cultural life became totally French.

43. When did England become a Protestant country?

England became a Protestant country in the sixteenth century.

III. Explanations

1. the British Isles

(1) The British Isles lie northwest of Europe in the Atlantic Ocean. (2) They consist of two large islands-Britain and Ireland-and several small islands.

2. Celtic people

(1) They were peoples from north-western Europe who invaded Britain around 700 BC. (2) By the time the Romans first landed in 55 BC, the Celtic culture was well established. (3) They are the ancestors of the Scots, Welsh and Irish today.

3. the Roman Occupation

(1) The Romans first invaded Britain in 55 BC. (2) They eventually conquered the various Celtic kingdoms then flourishing in England, Wales and the Scottish Lowlands. (3) The Roman occupation lasted for about 350 years.

4. the Highlanders

(1) They are the Scots who live in the mountainous regions of the Highlands in Northern Scotland. (2) They are a proud, independent and hardy people who maintain their strong cultural identity. (3) They mainly live by farming sheep in mountain areas or fishing on the coasts and islands.

5. the Westminster Parliament