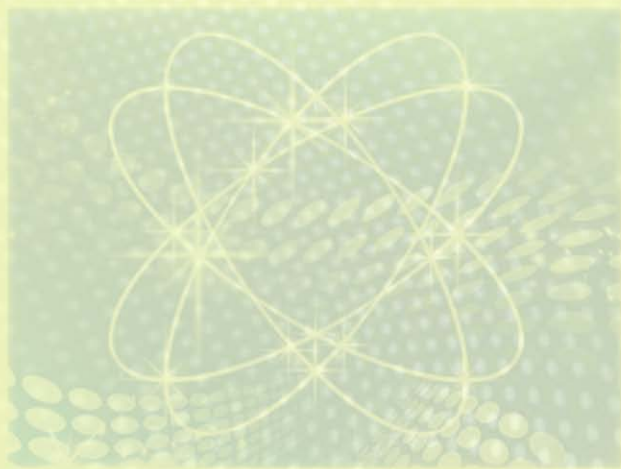


英美文化实用教程

主编 耿广利 龚国久



郑州大学出版社

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前 言

语言与文化是相辅相成的有机统一体。语言是文化的载体,是文化的一部分;文化是语言赖以生存的基础,是语言新陈代谢的源泉。目前,英语学习者只注重英语语言知识的学习居多,对文化知识了解很多者甚少;有些学习者也只是把英语语言和文化分离进行学习,从而忽视了英语语言的综合运用和英语语言技能的提高。

英语专业学生应具备的核心能力是英语听说能力,而英语听说能力的提高则取决于学生的词汇量、语言知识和文化知识。本书以英美文化为切入点,采用项目驱动和任务导向方式安排学习内容,系统介绍广泛意义上的英美文化知识和技能。其内容涉及英国和美国的地理、历史、政治、经济、文学、节日、饮食、音乐等文化知识与信息领域。知识与信息新颖、准确、通俗、实用、地道而时尚,既包括了英美国家的传统文化,又反映了英美文化的最新发展动态。作为英语专业的学生,学习和了解这些相关知识,有助于开阔视野,拓宽思路,掌握丰富的人文知识。同时本书还旨在培养学生对文化认知和文化感悟的敏感性。另外还增加了英美文化所反映的英语语言的综合运用,有利于提高学生的跨文化交流能力。

本书既可供高职高专英语专业的学生作为教材使用,也可供自学者选用。书中配有适量的插图,有助于增加学习者的直观感觉;书中还配有英文练习题,有助于进行自主式学习。

本书由开封大学外国语学院和开封市商务局、开封特耐股份有限公司密切合作,共同开发。本书主编为耿广利和龚国久,负责教材的编写思路、参编人员的组织分工和全文内容的审阅,副主编为程欣、张毓和毛少华,其中耿广利编写了项目 11,龚国久编写了项目 1 和项目 9,程欣编写了项目 5、12、13、张毓编写了项目 2 和项目 10,毛少华编写了项目 6 和项目 14,另外参编人员秦新峰编写了项目 3 和项目 4,丁欣编写了项目 7 和项目 15,李艳编写了项目 8,司海舸编写了项目 16。

另外,开封市商务局副局长杨森、开封特耐股份有限公司董事长张长喜、美籍专家 Federico Felipe Cubillos 和 Gary E. Swanson 对本书进行了审阅,提出了部分修改意见,在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

本书在编写过程中参考了许多专家学者的专著、教材和国内外知名网站,在此一并表示衷心的感谢!

鉴于编者水平有限,加之时间紧迫,书中如有错误和疏漏之处,敬请同行专家和读者批评指正。

编者

2010 年 3 月

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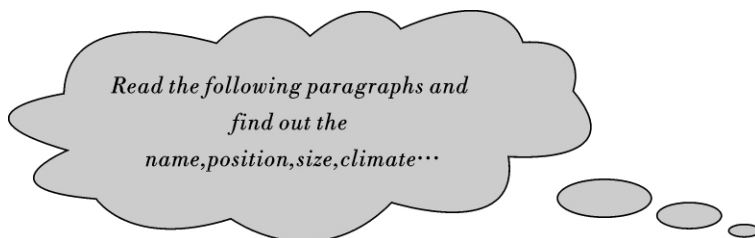
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Project 1 British Geographical Culture

Task 1 General Introduction



The United Kingdom lies in the western Europe. It is separated from European Continent by the English Channel and the North Sea. It is an insular country. Apart from the land border with Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom is surrounded by sea. To the south of England, and between the United Kingdom and France, is the English Channel. The North Sea lies to the east. Across the North Sea, Britain faces Holland, Germany, Denmark and Norway. To the west of Wales and northern England is the Irish Sea, while western Scotland and the northwestern coast of Northern Ireland face the Atlantic Ocean. America and Canada lie on the West Side of the Atlantic Ocean.

The United Kingdom is very small compared with many other countries in the world. The total area of Great Britain is 244,820 square kilometers. The population of Great Britain is 60,776,238 (2007 estimate).

The flag of The United Kingdom of Great Britain is called the Union Jack. The main areas of high land are in Scotland, Wales and Cambria. In the centre of England is a range of hills called the Pennines, which are also known as the "backbone of England". The highest mountains are in Scotland and Wales: Ben Nevis is 4,406 feet (1,343 m.) and Snowdon is 3,560 feet (1,085 m.). Two of the longest rivers are the Severn (220 miles, 354 km.) and the River Thames (215 miles, 346 km.).

Despite its size, there is a great deal of variety within the islands of the United Kingdom. The British Isles lie off the northwest coast of continental Europe. Great Britain is the largest island consisting of England, Scotland, and Wales. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, often abbreviated to the U. K., is the political name of the country which is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (also known as Ulster). Some small islands off the coast of Great Britain are part of the U. K. (e. g. the Isle of Wight, the

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Orkneys, Shetlands, Hebrides), whereas others are not even part of the Commonwealth although they have very close political, economic, and cultural relations with Britain, and recognize the Queen as Head of State (e.g. the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, and the Isle of Man). These latter have their own legislatures and administration. The number of islands and islets of the British Archipelago amounts to 750.

In prehistoric times most of Britain was covered by oak, ash, birch and beech trees. As the population began to grow, forests were cut down to clear the land for farming, for use as fuel, and for the building of homes and building of ships. By the time of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, vast areas of forests had been cleared. Modern agricultural methods have caused serious transformation of the natural environment in Britain. Moorland and heaths have been ploughed up in many regions, land has been drained, and many hedgerows have been removed by farmers in order to increase the size of fields.

The U. K. is warmed by the North Atlantic Drift. The climate is temperate, generally mild, and frequently wet. The temperature seldom reaches extremes of heat or cold. An average temperature in winter is 40 F (5°C) and in summer 60F (15°C). Britain is famous for its unpredictable and changeable weather. The U. K. used to receive a plentiful supply of rain, but rainfall is not evenly distributed, and the eastern

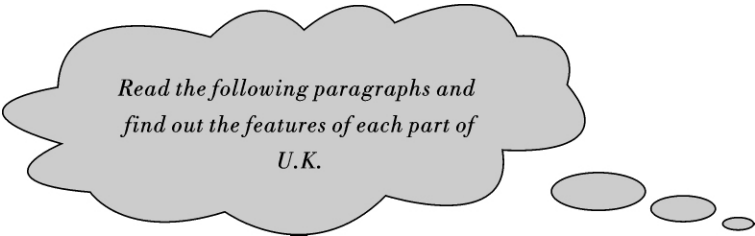
side of the country gets less rain than the west, due to the prevailing wind. Drought is now a serious threat to British rivers and reservoirs. Contrary to popular legend, fog is not a common occurrence. The old London ‘smog’, a combination of fog and smoke from chimneys, is now a thing of the past, as a result of the Clean Air Act (1968) which banned the burning of untreated coal in city areas. Britain lies in the Greenwich Mean Time zone. Greenwich, in southeast London, is the place, at longitude 0° 0′, from which all other time zones are calculated. Zones to west of Greenwich have earlier and zones to the east have later times. The time in Poland, for example, is one hour later than in Britain. When it is midnight in Britain, it



is 1 a. m. in Poland.

The climate of Britain is more or less the same as that of the northwestern part of the European mainland. The popular belief that it rains all the time in Britain is simply not true. The image of a wet, foggy land was created two thousand years ago by the invading Romans and has been perpetuated in modern times by Hollywood. In fact, London gets no more rain in a year than most other major European cities, and less than some. The amount of rain that falls on a town in Britain depends on where it is. Generally speaking, the further west you go, the more rain you get. The mild winters mean that snow is a regular feature of the higher areas only. Occasionally, a whole winter goes by in lower-lying parts without any snow at all. The winters are in general a bit colder in the east of the country than they are in the west, while in summer, the south is slightly warmer and sunnier than the north. Why has Britain's climate got such a bad reputation? Perhaps it is for the same reason that British people always seem to be talking about the weather. This is its changeability. There is a saying that Britain doesn't have a climate, it only has weather. It may not rain very much altogether, but you can never be sure of a dry day; there can be cool (even cold) days in July and some quite warm days in January. The lack of extremes is the reason why on the few occasions when it gets genuinely hot or freezing cold, the country seems to be totally unprepared for it. A bit of snow and a few days of frost and the trains stop working and the roads are blocked; if the thermometer goes above 27°C (80°F), people behave as if they were in the Sahara and the temperature makes front-page headlines. These things happen so rarely that it is not worth organizing life to be ready for them.

Task 2 England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland



*Read the following paragraphs and
find out the features of each part of
U.K.*

England

England is the largest of the three political divisions within the island of Great Britain. Bound by Scotland to the north and Wales to the west, England is no more than 29 km from France across the narrowest part of the English Channel. Much of England is flat or low-lying. In the north is a range of limestone hills, known as the Pennines and it is called "the backbone of England". To the west are the Cumbrian Mountains and the Lake District. South of the Pennines is the heavily-populated Midlands, and in the southwest peninsula, known as the West

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country, is a plateau with granite outcrops, good dairy farming and a rugged coastline. The rest of the country is known as the English Lowlands, a mixture of farmland, low hills, an industrial belt and the massive city of London.

England was once almost entirely covered with woodland, but tree cover is now the second lowest in Europe (after Ireland). Since early this century the government has been planting conifers to reverse this situation, but the pines have turned the soils around them acid and destroyed large areas of ancient peat land. Other common trees include oak, elm, chestnut, lime (not the citrus variety), ash and beech. Although there isn't much tall flora around, you'll see plenty of lovely wildflowers in spring — snowdrops, daffodils, bluebells, primroses, buttercups and cowslips all lend a touch of color to the English countryside. On the moors there are several varieties of flowering heathers. The red deer is the largest mammal in England, and there are plenty of them around. Foxes prosper, and if you are lucky, you may see a badger or hedgehog. Introduced American grey squirrels are forcing out the smaller local red variety. Rabbits are everywhere, while smaller rodents such as the shrew, harvest mouse and water vole are less common. England's only poisonous snake, the adder, is rare and protected. Bird watching is a popular pastime in Britain, but while the numbers and diversity of coastal bird species do not appear to be in danger, the same cannot be said for other British birds — a number of species that were quite common only 25 years ago are rapidly dwindling because of habitat destruction.

England's national parks cover about 7% of the country and include Dartmoor, Exmoor, the Lake District, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors, the New Forest, the Broads and Northumberland. English national parks are not wilderness areas, but they do include areas of outstanding national beauty — they also tend to be privately owned and provide an antidote to the hectic pace of many cities.

England's climate is mild and damp, with temperatures moderated by the light winds that blow in off its relatively warm seas. Temperatures inland do not get much below freezing in winter (December to February), or much above 30°C (86°F) in summer (June to August). The north is the coldest area; London, the southeast and the West Country are the warmest. Rainfall is greatest in hilly areas and in the West Country. You can expect cloudy weather and light drizzle in any part of England at any time.

Scotland

Scotland is a separate country within the United Kingdom. The name Scotland is derived from that of the Celtic people who came across from Ireland during the 6th century. The Romans called these northern lands Caledonia. The country is separated from England chiefly by moorlands. It may be divided into three geographical areas: the Highlands, the Lowlands, and the Islands. Scotland is a country of great variety and a rich heritage. Its attraction lies mostly in the great diversity of its landscapes. The climate has produced uniquely open landscapes which

provide spectacular views. Since the time of Sir Walter Scott, Scotland has often been regarded as a picturesque land of high romance, full of fierce but noble chieftains and tartan-clad clansmen. However, Scotland is much more than a scenic attraction for tourists. It is a country with a growing economy as well as rich culture.

The best weather in Scotland is in May and June. This is also the period when residents can enjoy the benefit of daylight until 11 p. m. Scotland is distinguished from the rest part of the U. K. by its abundant lochs (lakes) , spectacular mountains and hills, and glens (valleys) . The hill country and moorland are covered in short heather and mountain grasses.

Scotland has some unique species of birds. Upland birds include the golden eagle, falcon, curlew and green-shank. On its sea-stacks and islands, Scotland supports some of the greatest concentrations of seabirds in the world. Seals are to be seen in large numbers on rocky coasts and islands. Although Scotland has no national parks, 70 nature reserves administered by Scottish National Heritage are open to the public.

The wildlife includes red deer, wildcats, red squirrels, and pine martens. Scottish rivers still have plenty of wild salmon and trout as well as the otter which feeds on them. The longest river is the Tay, but the most important river is the Clyde, once famous for its shipbuilding. Scotland has the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis, and 279 mountains over 914 metres high. The rocks in Scotland are mainly granite, and are the oldest rocks on land in the world. In many deep valleys between the mountains and hills are found picturesque lakes called lochs in the Gaelic language. Loch Lomond and Loch Ness are probably Scotland's most famous lakes. The other major geographical area of Scotland is the Lowlands. Most of the large Scottish towns and cities are in the Lowlands, and it is the cradle of the Scottish nation. In the Middle Ages the frontier between Scotland and England was the scene of bloody conflicts, immortalized in Border Ballads. Most of Scotland was covered by forest about 200 years ago, but English landowners cut the forests down to provide land for hunting. This has resulted in erosion, which has made many parts of Scotland into what is technically desert land which cannot be used for anything productive. The 'clearances' of such land are still remembered as a time when enormous numbers of Scots were driven out of their traditional homes to find a new life in countries such as America and Australia; many who could not afford this starved to death, and entire ruined villages can still be seen in many places.

Scotland's main industries are fishing, electronics, textiles, whisky and tourism. Shipbuilding, once the best-known industry, is now in decline. The Clyde valley, in the west of the Central Lowlands, was world-famous for shipbuilding for more than 100 years, but this industry has declined due to competition from other countries with lower labor costs. Scotland has always had a great reserve of coal. The industry extended greatly during the Industrial Revolution. Now, though much reduced in size, coal mining still employs workers in pits in Midlothian, Ayrshire and Fife. Oil and gas are extracted from the North Sea, but as this belongs to the whole of the United Kingdom, the benefit to Scotland itself is small, and only from

specialist jobs created by the industry.

Farm produce includes cereals, wool, beef and lamb. Wool is woven into soft wool for sweaters, and into hard wool to make the cloth called tweed, used mainly for men's jackets. Harris Tweed, from the island of Harris in the Hebrides, has become world-famous. Today the South of Scotland lives largely by light and 'high-tech' industry. The Lowlands contain three quarters of the whole population of Scotland.

Edinburgh is the cultural heart of the nation. In the past the city was called the Athens of the North and it was the centre of the Scottish cultural Renaissance. Since World War II, Edinburgh has staged an annual Festival of Music and Drama called Edinburgh International Festival. The city is dominated by an imposing 12th-century castle, where Mary, Queen of Scots gave birth to the future king of England, James I. The Palace of Holy Roodhouse, at the bottom of the Royal Mile, is the official residence of the Queen in Scotland. The Royal Mile ascends a gentle slope to Castle Rock, the Law Courts, the National Library, and the Royal Scottish Museum.

Glasgow, the chief industrial city of Scotland, has some of the finest museums and galleries in Europe, including the magnificent Burrell Collection and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Glasgow hosts an international jazz festival and now, challenging Edinburgh, its traditional rival, as a centre of culture. Scots are very proud of their nationality, culture, and traditions. One of the most characteristic elements of their tradition is the national dress. Men wear the kilt which is a garment like a skirt. To call it a 'skirt', however, is a serious insult to a Scot. The kilt is made of woollen cloth of a chequered pattern, called tartan. Under the kilt are a pair of short trousers, called trews, made of thick cloth, and similar to schoolboys' short trousers.

Some military regiments, many Scottish farmers and shepherds wear kilts every day. Many other Scots wear it on Sundays, on holidays, and at celebrations, such as a wedding. The kilt as the normal dress of the Highland Scots is known to have existed for over 1,400 years, so as a national dress it has a long and proud tradition.

Wales

Wales is a small country to the west of England. Geographically, it is an irregular-shaped peninsula which juts into the Irish Sea. To the east it has a land boundary with England which stretches from the Bristol Channel in the south to Chester in the north. Most of the lines of communication run on an east-west, rather than north-south axis. Thus North Wales and South Wales have developed independently of each other.

North Wales is a land of mountains and lakes, a wild and picturesque region which has long been popular with mountain-climbers, artists and tourists. Here sheep outnumber people: altogether Wales has a sheep population of some 11 million (15 per cent of the EU total). The highest mountain is Snowdon (1,085 metres), situated in a breathtakingly beautiful National

Park. South Wales is a much more industrialized and thickly populated area. About 70 per cent of the population of Wales lives in the south, and the capital city, Cardiff, is located here.

Wales is approximately 242 kilometers (150 miles) from north to south. About two-thirds of the total population live in the South Wales coastal area, where the three biggest towns are located: Swansea, Cardiff and Newport.

The Welsh are very proud of their language and culture. These are best preserved in the north and west of the country, for in the south and east they have been more challenged by industrialization. The west coast, mid Wales and North Wales are wild and beautiful! The two symbols of Wales are a leek and a daffodil. Dragon of Cadwallader is the national flag of Wales. Wales is united politically, legally, and administratively with England and occupying a broad peninsula on the western side of the island of Great Britain. The total area of Wales is 20,760 square kilometers. Cardiff is the capital, principal seaport, and shipbuilding centre. The population of Wales is 2,958,600 (2005 estimate). The population density was approximately 141 persons per square kilometer. Although visitors don't need passports to cross the border from England into Wales they soon realize that they are entering a country with its own distinct geography, culture, traditions and, of course, language.

Wales is divided into thirteen counties. However, about 70 per cent of the population lives in the three industrial southern counties: Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Carmarthen. In South Wales most people used to work in industry or in the coalmines. The decline of the coal industry and the widespread closing of pits in South Wales, following the collapse of the miners' strike in 1985 caused a major social upheaval in South Wales, where the situation was made even more serious by the contraction of the steel industry. At present the main industries are mining, steel, electronics, engineering, and tourism. Farm produce includes beef, lamb, milk, butter, cheese and cereals.

The Welsh are best known outside the country for their bardic and choral traditions exemplified in the Eisteddfod, and in the male-voice choirs which have their roots in the chapel. The Eisteddfod is a celebration of Welsh music, poetry, and culture. Eisteddfod are held throughout the country each year, culminating in the annual Royal National Eisteddfod, attended by Welsh natives and those of Welsh descent from all over the world. The International Musical Eisteddfod is also held annually in Llangollen, in Denbighshire, north Wales. The Welsh literary tradition is one of the oldest and richest in Europe, dating back more than 1,000 years to the bardic poets. The most notable of the early Welsh bardic poets were Taliesin and Aneirin; the latter wrote the long poem *Y Gododdin* in about 600, describing the ill-fated efforts of a group of British warriors to recapture a fortress from the Saxons. The *Mabinogion*, composed between the mid-11th and late 13th centuries, is a collection of 11 prose stories and one of the most important works of early medieval European literature. Dylan Thomas is the best known of 20th-century Welsh-born poets, though he wrote in English.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland, which roughly corresponds with the ancient province of Ulster, consists of six counties: Antrim, Down, Armagh, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Londonderry (or Derry) . The capital city is Belfast, which has a population of almost half a million, nearly a third of the entire population of the province. The distinctive Ulster accent, markedly different from that of the southern Irish, bears traces of English and Scottish influence.

Belfast is the chief port and industrial centre of the province. The city boasts of many fine buildings such as the Royal Courts of Justice, Queens University and the Royal Parliament Buildings at Stormont. Its prosperity was originally based on its linen industry, but in the 19th century it became a major shipbuilding centre. Shipbuilding is now in sharp decline and unemployment is high. The southern part of Northern Ireland is made up of lowlands. The attractive Mourne Mountains are in the southeast. A characteristic feature of Northern Ireland is the greenness of the countryside and the cloudy skies above. The overall weather pattern in Ulster features a high rainfall. Lough Neagh, in the centre of the province, is the largest lake in the British Isles. Most of the beautiful small lakes and rivers in the southwest of the province drain into Lough Erne, a 50-mile-long waterway which is popular for fishing and boating holidays. Northern Ireland is a fisherman's paradise, and the soft green landscape and rugged, picturesque coastline make it one of the most attractive regions in the island, but tourism has been badly affected by political troubles.

The inhabitants of Ireland are mainly Celtic in origin and the majority never accepted the Reformation. After the Reformation in England and Scotland, however, many English and Scottish Protestants were settled in Ireland by English monarchs and became the most powerful element in the country. Northern Ireland, which consists of six counties, became mainly Protestant, while the rest of Ireland remained chiefly Roman Catholic. By the terms of an Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921, Northern Ireland was granted its own parliament in which a protestant government was formed. Roman Catholics, who were excluded from political office, came increasingly to resent the continuing Protestant domination, as a result, a vigorous civil rights movement emerged in the late 1960s. Consequently, British troops were sent to Northern Ireland in 1969 to help to keep the order and in 1972 the British government imposed direct rule of Northern Ireland from Westminster. Since then, in spite of the efforts of the British government, the police force in Northern Ireland and the British Army units there, violence and terrorism have continued, with the Irish Republican Army also taking its campaign of violence to mainland Britain. Terrorism continues in Northern Ireland, but the level of violence is now lower than in the 1970s.

Task 3 London

*Read the following paragraphs, talk
and tell what is London...*

London is the capital city of the United Kingdom. It is also the industrial, commercial and political centre of the country. London lies on either side of the River Thames and only 60 km from the North Sea. The population of Greater London, i. e. including the suburbs, is about 8 million. Greater London covers an area of some 1,600 sq km. The history of London goes back to the Roman period or even earlier. In 1665, London was hit by a terrible plague, and a year later, in 1666 a small fire which began in a baker's shop burnt down nearly all buildings in the City of London. Today London is a conglomerate of many towns and villages which have been incorporated into Greater London over the centuries.

London does not have one centre. The two main cities are the City of London(the banking and commercial centre) and the City of Westminster, which contains the seat of government, shopping and entertainment areas, museums and residential districts. Both cities have their own Lord Mayor. The City of London is one of the most important financial and banking centers in the world. It includes such institutions as the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange, the foreign exchange, the commodities market and Lloyds, the famous insurance company. The Old Bailey in the western part of the City is the heart of the British judicial system. Fleet Street was until recently the traditional centre of major London newspaper.

St. Paul's Cathedral, one of the finest churches in London, designed after the Great Fire of London by the famous architect Sir Christopher Wren, is a blend of Italian baroque and Classical styles. At the southeast corner of the City is The Tower of London which



houses the Crown Jewels, guarded by men who wear the 16th century costumes. The Tower has been both a palace and a prison for kings, queens and other important people, many of whom