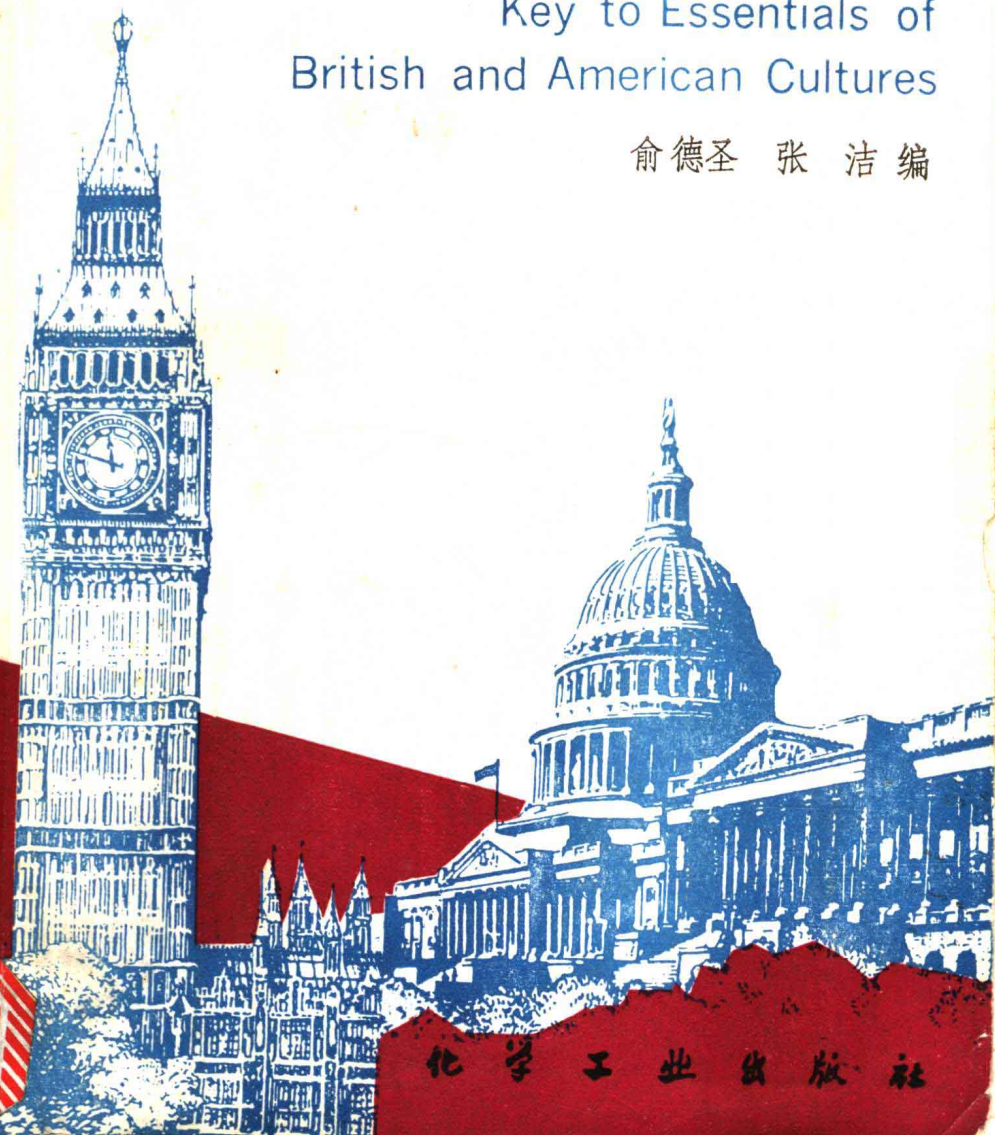


# 英美文化基础教程 习题详解

Key to Essentials of  
British and American Cultures

俞德圣 张洁编



化学工业出版社

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Key to Excerpts of  
English and American Cultures

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中国海洋大学出版社

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## 内 容 提 要

《英美文化基础教程》是英语专业自学高考的必修课。原书摘编自英美学者的原著,有相当难度。每章正文后的练习是掌握该章重点的钥匙,也是自学考试命题的依据和来源。因此,能正确回答练习中的问题,特别是其中的解释题和问答题,是学好全书,尤其是通过考试的决定性环节。

本书是为帮助广大应试者掌握重点,能顺利通过自学考试而编写的习题详解。解释题和问答题的答题形式,按《英语基础科自学指导》一书内的样题答案编写;抓住要点,综合论述;语言简易,结构明了;尽量引用原文。填空题和选择题都编写成意义完整的句子或段落,有利于复习和掌握完整的内容。每一章的四种题型的答案内容紧密相联,对有些重要事件和人物,往往在不同的题型都提问,回答则需有不同的侧重点。因此,对每一章的习题答案要全面阅读和理解,不能孤立和分割。

本书是根据原教科书编写的,谨向原作者表示谢意。对习题中有提问,而原书中没有的内容,编者查阅其它资料后,作了补充。

本书也是英美文化的节略读本,自成体系,可作为一般自学者的阅读参考用书。

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**Part One**

**British Culture**



## Unit One; Who Are the British?

### 1. Explanations of the terms:

#### 1. The Scottish Highlanders

(1) The Scottish Highlanders are from the mountainous north of Scotland. They particularly try to maintain their separate identity.

(2) The Scottish Highlanders consider themselves the 'true' Scots and they wear their national dress, the kilt, with pride. Kilts are pleated skirts made of material with a squared, coloured design, probably derived from the costume of the Roman conquerors. (3)

They are a proud, independent and hardy people. They mainly live by farming sheep in the mountain areas. Others are fishermen on the coasts and islands. (4) Highlanders are brave soldiers in the British Army. Over the centuries, enemy troops have often been terrified at the sight and sound of Highlanders. Some even nicknamed the Scottish soldiers 'devils in skirts' and 'ladies from hell'.

#### 2. The British Isles

The British Isles are a group of islands off Northwest Europe, including Great Britain, Ireland and a number of smaller islands.

#### 3. The National Eisteddfod

(1) Eisteddfod is a Welsh word for 'sitting'. (2) The National Eisteddfod is the most famous of festivals of music and verse in Wales. It takes place each August and lasts for about a week. (3)

The highlight of the Eisteddfod is a competition for the best epic poem about Wales written and read in Welsh. The winner is crowned Bard. It is considered the supreme honour in Wales.

#### **4. Bard**

(1) Bard originally was a chorus in Wales. It sang songs to praise the leaders or warriors of the Celts. (2) In modern Wales a bard is a poet respected by people. (3) A National Eisteddfod-crowned bard is the supreme honour in Wales.

#### **5. Northern Ireland (Ulster)**

(1) Northern Ireland consists of six counties of Ulster in the North of Ireland. (2) Lord Protector of Britain, Oliver Cromwell, after the execution of King Charles I in 1649, crushed various rebellions in Ireland, and settled English and Scottish Protestants there by giving them land. (3) These Protestant settlers became a powerful force in the country although numerically they were minority, except in the six counties of Ulster. (4) In 1922, Ireland was partitioned. The 26 counties of southern Ireland became the Irish Free State, later the Republic of Eire. (5) The Protestants in the six counties of Ulster feared that an autonomous Ireland would be dominated by Catholics. They remained part of the United Kingdom with their own parliament, Stormont, responsible for internal affairs.

#### **6. Oliver Cromwell**

(1) Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) was the leader of the British Bourgeois Revolution. He was also the leader of the Puritans. (2) He won the victory over the royalists in the Civil War, and executed Charles I in 1649. (3) The parliament declared the establishment of Republic on the British Isles. Cromwell became Lord Protector of Britain. (4)

He crushed Catholic rebellions in Ireland, and settled English and Scottish Protestants there by giving them land.

### **7. William III**

(1) William III, William of Orange, was a Protestant King. His wife Marry was also a Protestant. He was stateholder of Netherlands. (2) In 1689, the British Parliament invited William and his wife back as joint sovereigns of Britain. It was known as Glorious Revolution, or Bloodless Revolution. (3) In the same year, the Parliament adopted Bill of Rights. This limited the power of Monarch, and marked the beginning of Constitutional Monarchy.

### **8. The Orange Day celebrations**

(1) In 1795, the Protestants in Ulster, Northern Ireland, formed 'Loyal to Orange (William III) Order' in opposition to the Catholics in Northern Ireland. (2) Since that time, on 12 June each year Protestants hold celebrations to commemorate the Battle of the Boyne, in which the Protestant King William III crushed a Catholic rebellion. (3) The Orange Day Celebrations were noisy marches. The drums were beating and flags waving and the Protestant marchers were wearing the colours of the 'Orange Order'. (4) The Celebrations were always aggressively provocative and in 1969 fighting broke out between Protestant marchers and Catholic bystanders. Acts of violence have continued on both sides ever since.

### **9. the Provisional IRA**

(1) The Provisional IRA is the terrorist wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). (2) The IRA is illegal in both Eire and Ulster. It is fanatically dedicated to the unification of all Ireland as one country under one government, including Ulster, the six counties in Northern

Ireland. (3) The Provisional IRA uses violence to achieve their aim. They launched shootings, murders and bombings in Northern Ireland. (4) From time to time IRA violence has spread to other parts of Britain, particularly London.

#### **10. the Peace People**

(1) The Peace People is the former Women's Peace Movement. (2) In the summer of 1976, Betty, a Protestant housewife was so horrified at the killing of two children by a runaway IRA car that she decided to organize the women of Ulster, both Protestant and Catholic, into a pressure group working for peace and reconciliation. (3) She and her Catholic partner, Mairead Corrigan, soon gathered thousands of followers despite threats and intimidation from both sides. (4) At the end of 1976, they were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

#### **11. William the Conqueror**

(1) William the Conqueror was William I. He was the Duke of Normandy of France. (2) In 1066, he led a large armed force and conquered England. He defeated and killed Saxon King Harold at Hastings. He was made king of England in the same year. (3) He set up a strong central government and brought a new unified discipline and control to the country. (4) He made French the official language and firmly established the feudal system. He granted land to the aristocracy. In return these lords supplied the king with fighting-men and their supplies.

### **II. Key to filling in the blanks:**

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

2. The Romans first landed in Britain in the year 55 BC.
3. The Scots are well-known for being inventive, hard-working, serious-minded and cautious with money.
4. Two of the Welsh characteristics are love of rugby football and choral singing.
5. People began to settle in Britain about 10,000 years ago.
6. Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson are famous Scottish writers; Dylan Thomas and Gwyn Thomas, famous Welsh writers; and Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw, famous Irish writers.
7. Angles, Saxons and Jutes were the three Germanic tribes that came to be the basis of modern English race.

### III. Key to ticking the correct answers :

1. It would be difficult to find anyone in modern Britain who could say with certainty that his ancestors had not come to the British Isles from somewhere else. This sentence means that almost everyone had his or her family origin from somewhere else. (D)
2. The Highlanders in Scotland are known for being proud, tough and independent, but not for being generous. (D)
3. The Irish people are argumentative, aggressive and introspective dreamers and poets, but not reserved. (B)

4. The Englishman is class-conscious, suspicious of change and racist, but not outspoken. (A)

5. The Romans introduced Christianity into Britain. (B)

#### IV. Answers to the questions :

**1. Who are the earliest inhabitants of Britain of whom the English people have written records, and where did these records come from?**

(1) Celtic peoples are the earliest inhabitants of whom the English people have written records. They arrived from north-western Europe bringing with them iron-working. (2) By the time the Romans first landed in 55 BC, the Celtic culture was well established. (3) The earliest written records of the Celts came from the Romans. The Romans conquered the various Celtic kingdoms in England, Wales and the Scottish lowlands. These kingdoms were already quite flourishing then.

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

(1) The Scots have a reputation for being inventive, hardworking, serious-minded and cautious with money. (2) The Scottish Highlanders are a proud, independent and hardy people. (3) They have also provided the British Army with some of its most famous regiments. Scottish soldiers were nicknamed 'devils in skirts' and 'ladies from hell'.

**3. What are considered to be the national characteristics of the Welsh, and how can you recognize Welsh people?**

(1) Their love of music and poetry on the one hand, and of rugby football on the other, are supposed to be their national characteristics.

tics. (2) They have developed choral singing to a national art. Every year there are many festivals of music and verse in Wales. The most Famous is the National Eisteddfod (the Welsh word for 'sitting').

(3) You can recognize Welsh people by their names. They might be Jones, Williams, Thomas, Evens, Lloyd. Some names begin with 'P' like Pritchard or Probert. These are short for Ap Richard, and Aprobert. Ap is Welsh for 'son of'.

**4. What is a traditionally typical Englishman thought to be like? Why is it not easy to talk about a typical Englishman?**

(1) Traditionally, an Englishman is thought to be reserved, unemotional, courteous; suspicious of change; with a high sense of honesty, duty and justice; conscious of his place in the social order; and fervently believing that the British are superior to any other race on earth. (2) It is not easy to talk about a typical Englishman, because the English are as individual as the inhabitants of any other nation. Even more so, they are descendants of many different peoples who all came and settled in England at sometime or other.

**5. Give three or four examples to show that the Romans had great influence on the English culture.**

(1) The Romans 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. (2) They introduced Christianity and left behind a well established Celtic-Roman culture. (3) They also left behind the first written description of the land and its peoples as well as records of their administration.

**6. What, according to the author, are the causes of the present situation in Northern Ireland (Ulster)?**

(1) According to the author, the present situation in Northern Ireland is caused by the extremists on both side, the Protestants and the Catholics. (2) The Irish Republican Army (IRA) with its terrorist wing, the Provisional IRA, is fanatically dedicated to the unification of all Ireland, including Ulster (Northern Ireland), as one country under one government. The IRA used violence to draw attention to their cause, to destroy existing social and political structures and to break down law and order. (3) The Ulster Unionists, or Loyalists, are the ruling Protestant party. They are equally fanatical. They insist they remain part of Britain and refuse to accept any reform that might make way for Catholic participation in political and public life in the province. Their extremists also carry out murders and other terrorist activities against the Catholics.

**7. Give the main points of view held by the important groups in Ulster.**

(1) The Ulster Unionists, or Loyalists, are the ruling Protestant party. They insist they remain part of Britain and refuse to accept any reform that might made way for Catholic participation in political and public life in the province. (2) The Irish Republican Army (IRA) want the unification of all Ireland. They insist that Ulster (Northern Ireland) belong to the New Ireland and no longer be a part of the United Kingdom. (3) Many moderate, responsible people, both Protestant and Catholic, feel that they could jointly work out a solution if only the extremists on both sides would allow them to do so. (4) The Peace People (the Women's Peace Movement), organized by two housewives, a Protestant and a Catholic, are working for peace and reconciliation.



## Unit Two: English History

### I. Explanations of the terms:

#### 1. King Harold

(1) Harold was the last Saxon king of England. (2) He promised to support William of Normandy (William the Conqueror) to be king of England. But he went back on his promise, and became king of England in 1066. (3) The same year, William of Normandy invaded England from France. King Harold was defeated and killed at the Battle of Hastings in Sussex.

#### 2. Alfred the Great

(1) Alfred the Great (849-99) was king of Wessex. He drove the invading Danes out of England. (2) He made Wessex as the Anglo-Saxon centre of learning. He introduced teachers and scholars, founded new monasteries, promoted translations from Latin works, and inspired the compilation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles.

#### 3. King Arthur

King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table are legendary figures. The experts know almost nothing about them, except that he is the central figure of many legends.

#### 4. The Magna Carta

(1) The Magna Carta is also known as the Great Charter. The Magna Carta is generally considered to be a fundamental document of