

HOCHIMINH CITY UNIVERSITY OF INDUSTRY
AND TRADE

SUBJECT

BRITISH CULTURE

UNIT 1: COUNTRY AND PEOPLE

Aims:

- Develop reading skill
- Understand the differences between nations in Britain.
- Know the different names which are used when people talk about Britain.
- Identify symbols of four nations.
- Know other signs of national identity.

QUESTIONS

1. How many main areas are there in Vietnam?

-> 3 areas

2. Think of the most well – known symbols of nationality in your country.(plants, clothes...)

- > flag

- > traditional long dress (ao dai)

- > Lotus

3. Are there any distinct national loyalties in your country?

-> sport event

BRITAIN



GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

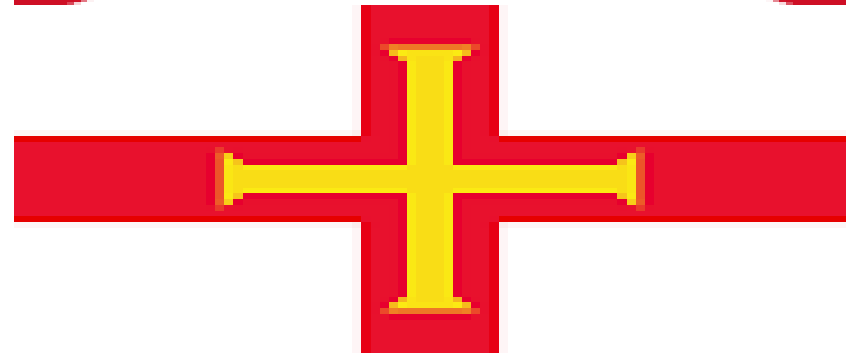
1. Where are the British Isles located?
2. How many islands are there in the British Isles?
3. Which two large islands do the British Isles geographically consist of?
4. Which one is called Great Britain?
5. Do the British Isles include Ireland?

6. What are the five countries that make up the British Isles?

7. Why is Ireland not part of the UK?

Dependency Islands

- - Jersey
- - Guernsey
- - Man
- - *The English Channel*





POLITICALLY SPEAKING

1. How many states are there in the British Isles?
2. Which two political states do the British Isles consist of?
3. What do they do?

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Britain

- Great Britain
- The United Kingdom
- Northern Ireland
- British Isles



England

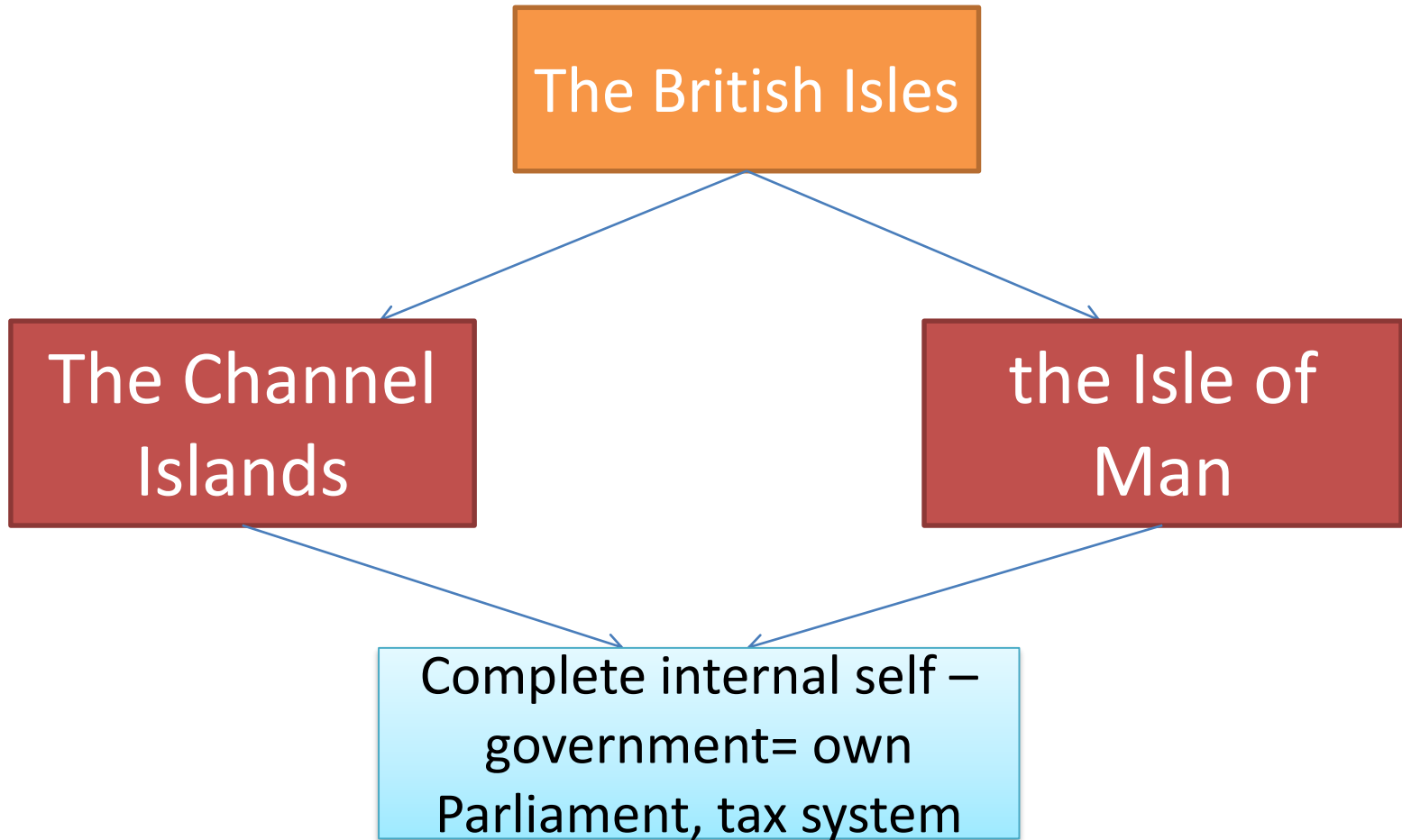


Britain



Great Britain

Crown dependencies



The BRITISH ISLES

The UNITED KINGDOM



GREAT BRITAIN (or just 'Britain')

Scotland



England



Wales



IRELAND
(the Island)

The Republic of
IRELAND



Northern
Ireland

Crown
Dependencies

The Isle
of Man

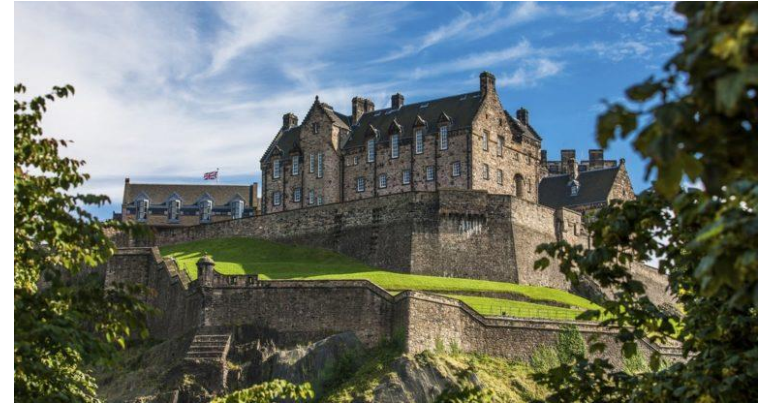


The
Channel Isles





The Tower of Big Ben (England)



Edinburgh Castle (Scotland)



Cathays Park (Wales)

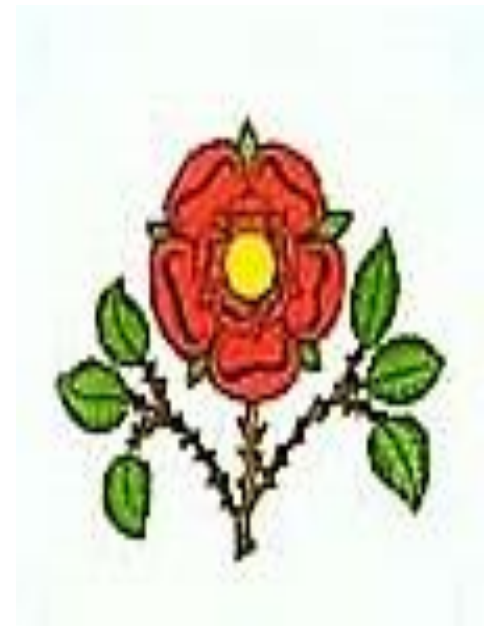
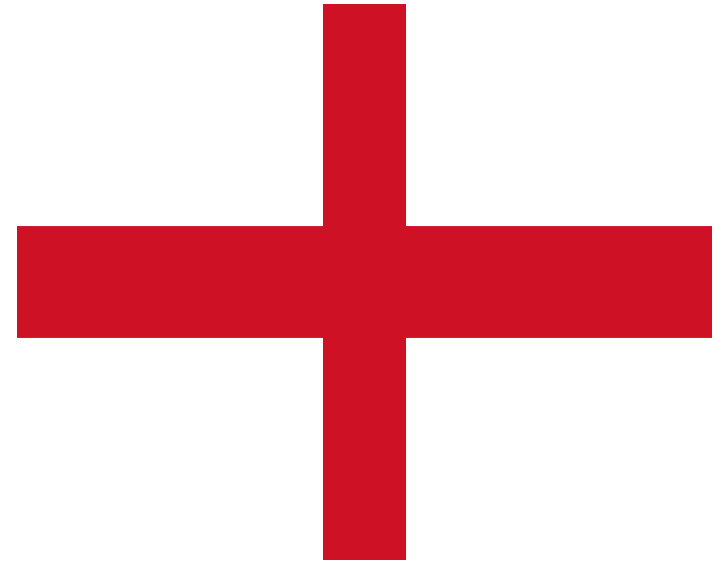


Belfast City Hall. (Northern Ireland)

Identifying
symbols

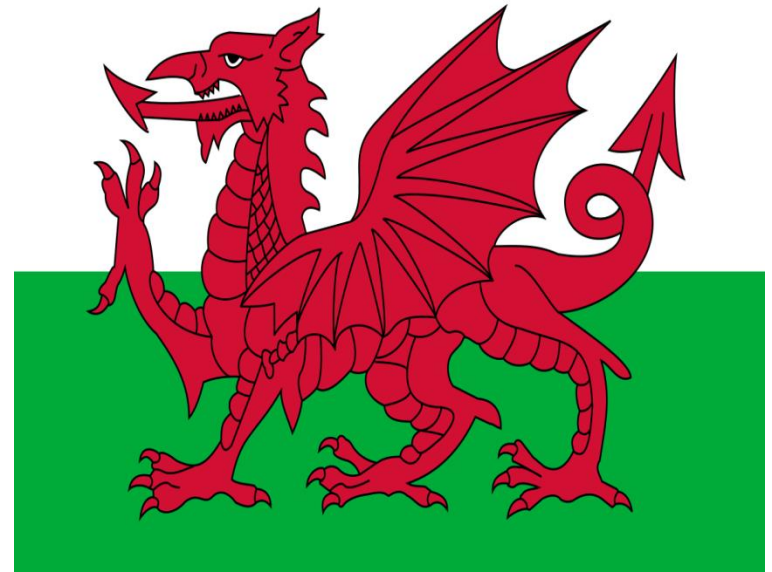
ENGLAND

- *Flag* : St George's Cross
- *Plant* : Rose
- *Color* : white
- *Patron saint* : St George
- *Saint's day* : 23 April
- (1995)



WALES

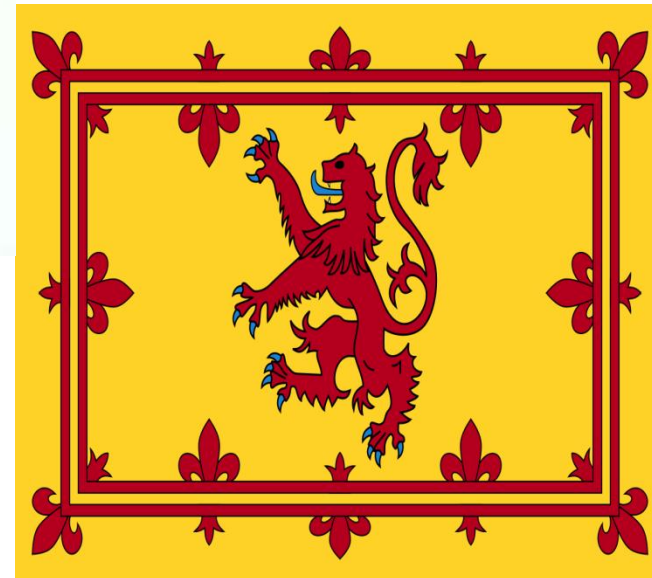
- *Flag*: Dragon of Cadwallader
- *Plant*: Leek or Daffodil
- *Color*: red
- *Patron saint*: St David
- *Saint's Day*: 1 March



Identifying
symbols

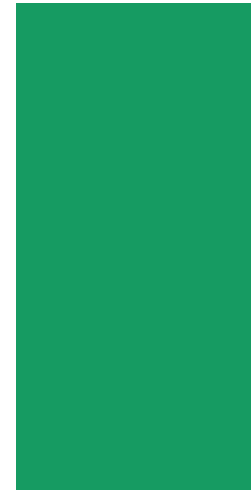
SCOTLAND:

- *Flag* : St Andrew's Cross and Lion rampant
- *Plant* : Thistle
- *Color* : blue
- *Patron saint* : St Andrew
- *Saint's day* : 30 November



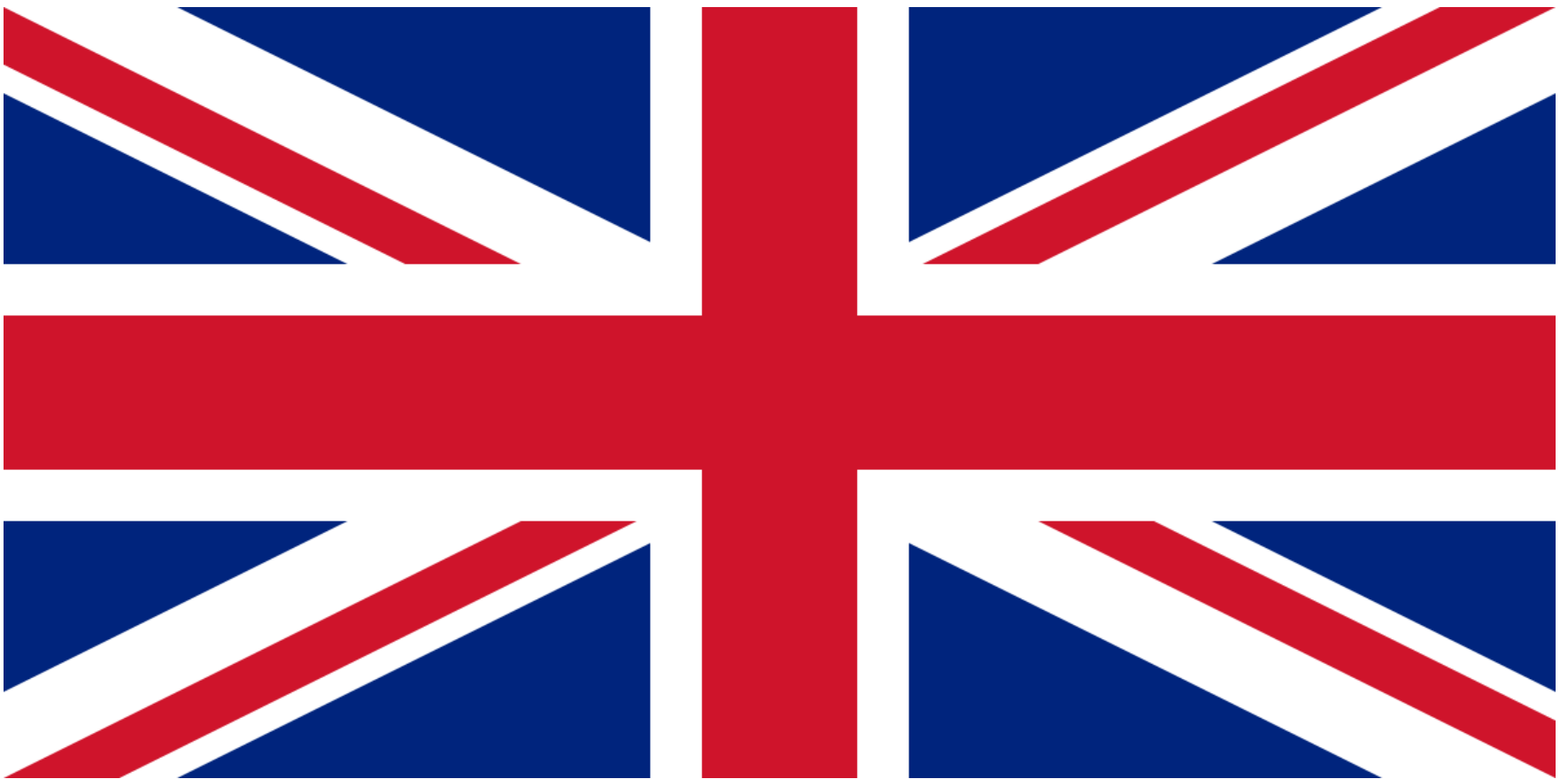
IRELAND

- *Flag* : Patrick's Cross and Republic of Ireland
- *Plant* : Shamrock
- *Color* : green
- *Patron saint* : Patrick
- *Saint's day* : 17 March





Combination of the cross of St George, the cross of St Andrew and the Cross of St Patrick



Names (other signs of national identity)

	England/English	Wales/Welsh	Scotland/Scottish	Ireland/Irish
surname	Smith or Brown (The Smiths)	Evans Jones Morgan Price Williams	Mac (Mc) Smith or Brown (The Smiths)	Mac (Mc) O (O'Brien)
First name for men (given name)	John		Ian	Sean
Nickname men		Dai/Taffy	Jock	Paddy/Mick

Musical instruments

- The **harp** is an emblem of Ireland.
- Bagpipes** are woodwind instruments using enclosed reeds fed from a constant reservoir of air in the form of a bag.



Characteristics

- The Irish are supposed to be a great talker.
- The Scots have a reputation for being careful with money.
- The Welsh are renowned for their singing ability

The dominance of England



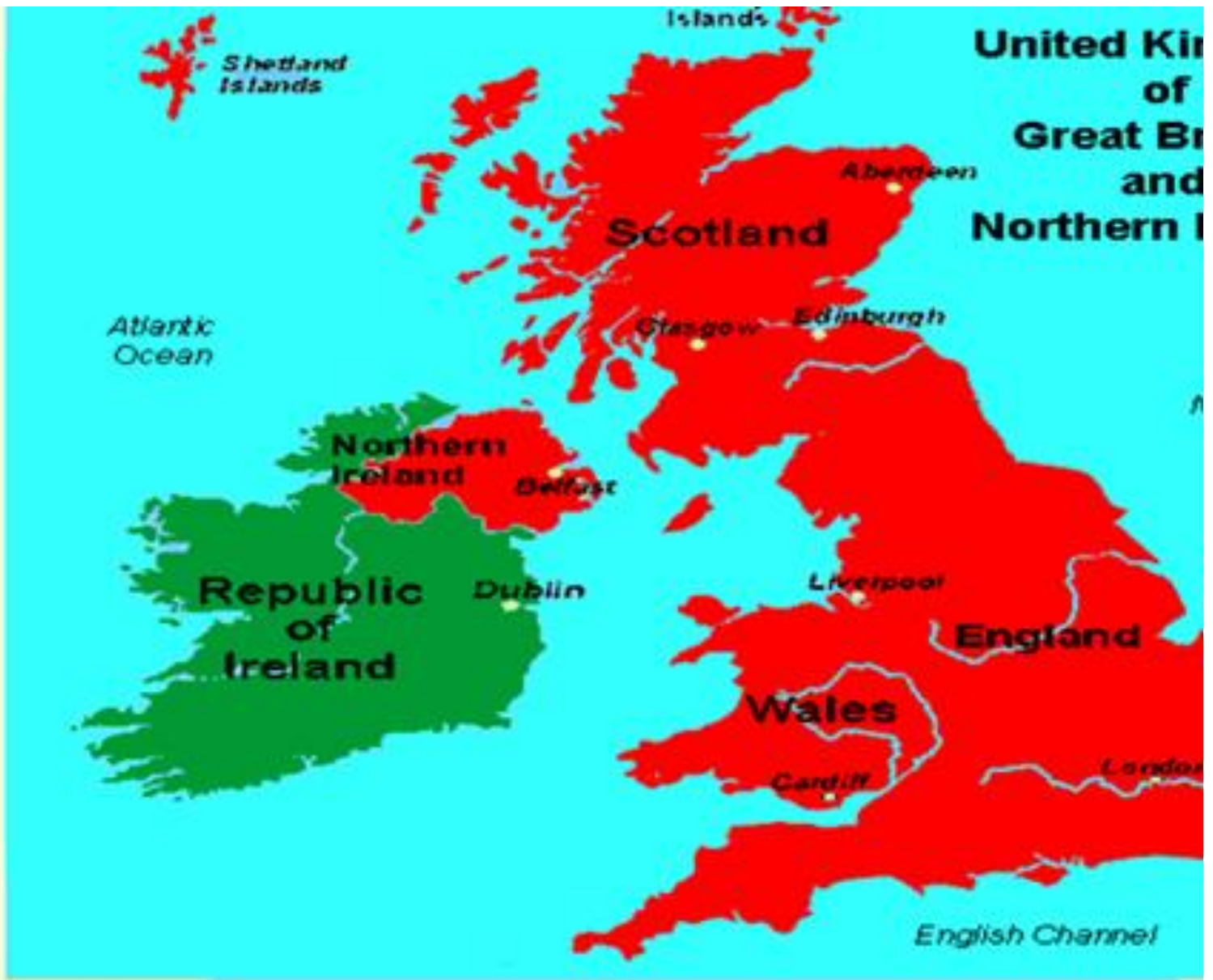
UNIT 3: GEOGRAPHY

- Aims:
 - > Develop reading skill
 - > Understand Britain's climate, land and settlement.-
 - > Understand why does it have pollution?
 - > Understand the geography, people, economy of London, Southern England, The Midlands, Northern England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland.

?

QUESTIONS

- Which part of your country would you choose to live in? why?
- What are television news channels in your country?



GEOGRAPHY

1. How wet is it in Britain?
2. What about mountains in Britain?
3. Why has Britain's climate got such a bad reputation?
4. How hot is it in Britain?
5. What is the climate in Britain?

THE ENVIRONMENT & POLLUTION



THE ENVIRONMENT

- “smog” : a mixture of **smoke and fog**->
- “ pea – soupers” : thick smogs.
- End of 1952 , a thick smog fog made many **people die** (about 4.000 and 8.000 people)



SOUTHERN ENGLAND



THE MIDLANDS



- Birmingham is Britain's second largest city.
- There are other **industrial areas** in the Midlands
- Not a lot of **heavy industries**
- Iron and steel factories with a vast variety of goods.

THE MIDLANDS



- **Famous** for producing China such as Wedgwood, Spode and Minton.
- **Noisy and dirty** factory
- Favorite **destination for walking holiday**
- One of Britain's most **important fishing ports**
- Tourism has flourished in Shakespeare country

NORTHERN ENGLAND

* Include: North East England, North West England, Yorkshire and Humber

* Many **steep slopes**, a highland chain, lakes, iron mines and coal mines

=> **develop sheep farming** and industry.

* A cool, wet ocean (humid climate)

* Thriving of industrial textile and ship building.

Ex: Industrial Revolution in the 18 century, shipbuilding around the New Castle



NORTHERN ENGLAND



- The large **deposit of coal** to provide power.
- Iron ore to **make machine**.
- The Manchester area **connected to the port** of Liverpool by canal.
- The world's leading producer of **cotton goods and woolen goods**.
- Center for the production of **steel goods** in Sheffield



- Sparsely populated
- **Walking holiday** and the whole area is classified as a National Park

SCOTLAND



- **Edinburgh** is the capital of Scotland.
- Scotland has three fairly **clearly – marked regions**.
- Sheep farming
- **Central plain** in the further north
- Many small towns , **central plain, highlands**



- Edinburgh is **half a size** of Glasgow,
- Many fine **historic buildings** => called “the Athens of the north”

WALES



- It is in the **south- west** of the country
- Heavy population in south -east
- **Coal mine** in south Wales
- No really large cities
- Cardiff is the capital
- Only part of Britain with a **high proportion of industrial villages**
- Employment has been **slow and painful**

NORTHERN IRELAND



- Famous for the manufacture of linen
- A shipbuilding city
- Agricultural area
- Several areas of spectacular natural beauty such as Giant's Causeway on its north coast

UNIT 6: POLITICAL LIFE

- Aims:
 - > Understand the public attitude to politics
 - > Know the style of democracy
 - > Understand the constitution, the style of politics
 - > Explain the two-party system in Britain.

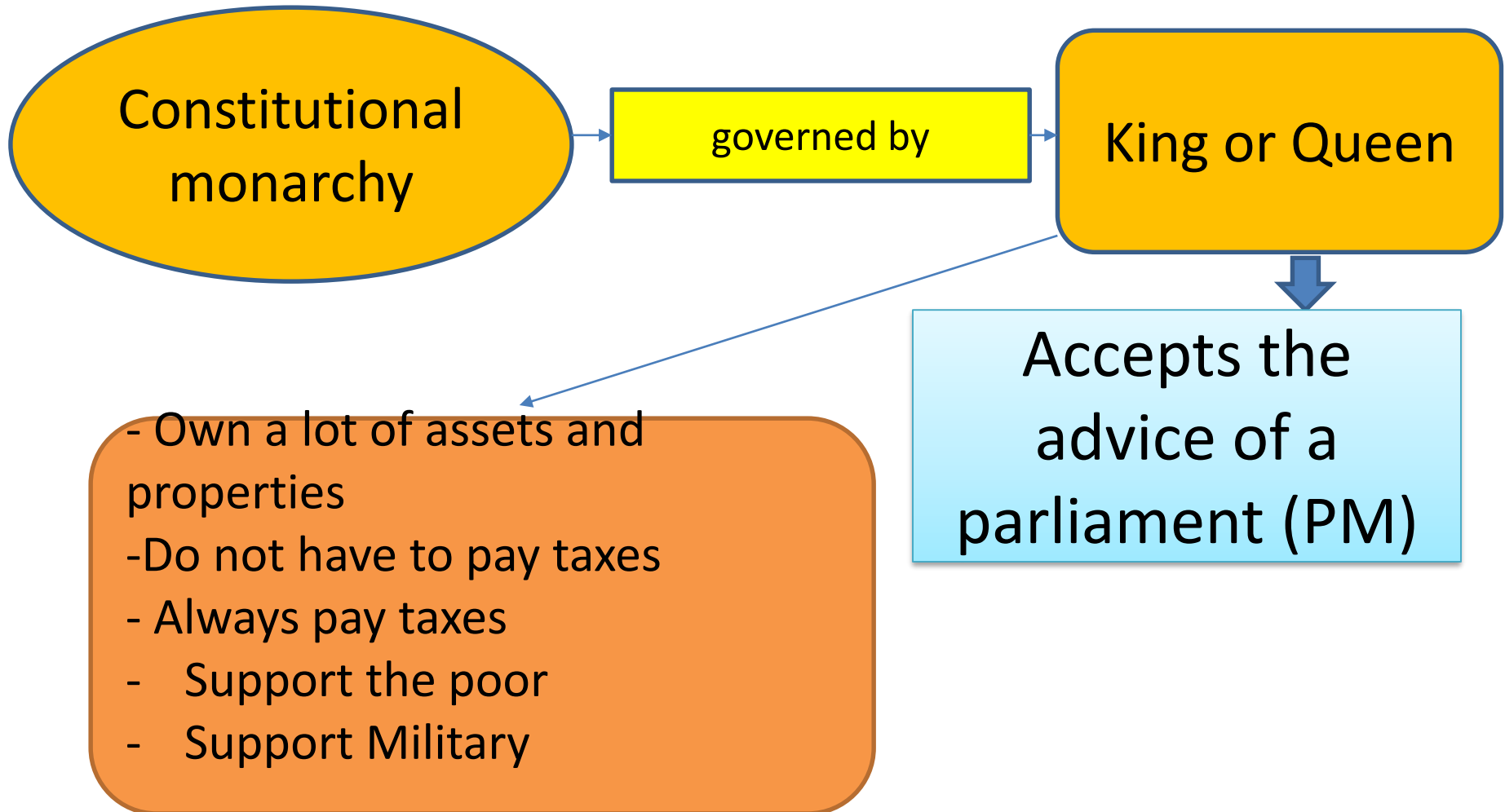
1. How many parties are there in our country?
2. In what sense could the Vietnamese attitude to politics be described as “happily cynical”?
3. How does the role of the political party in our country?

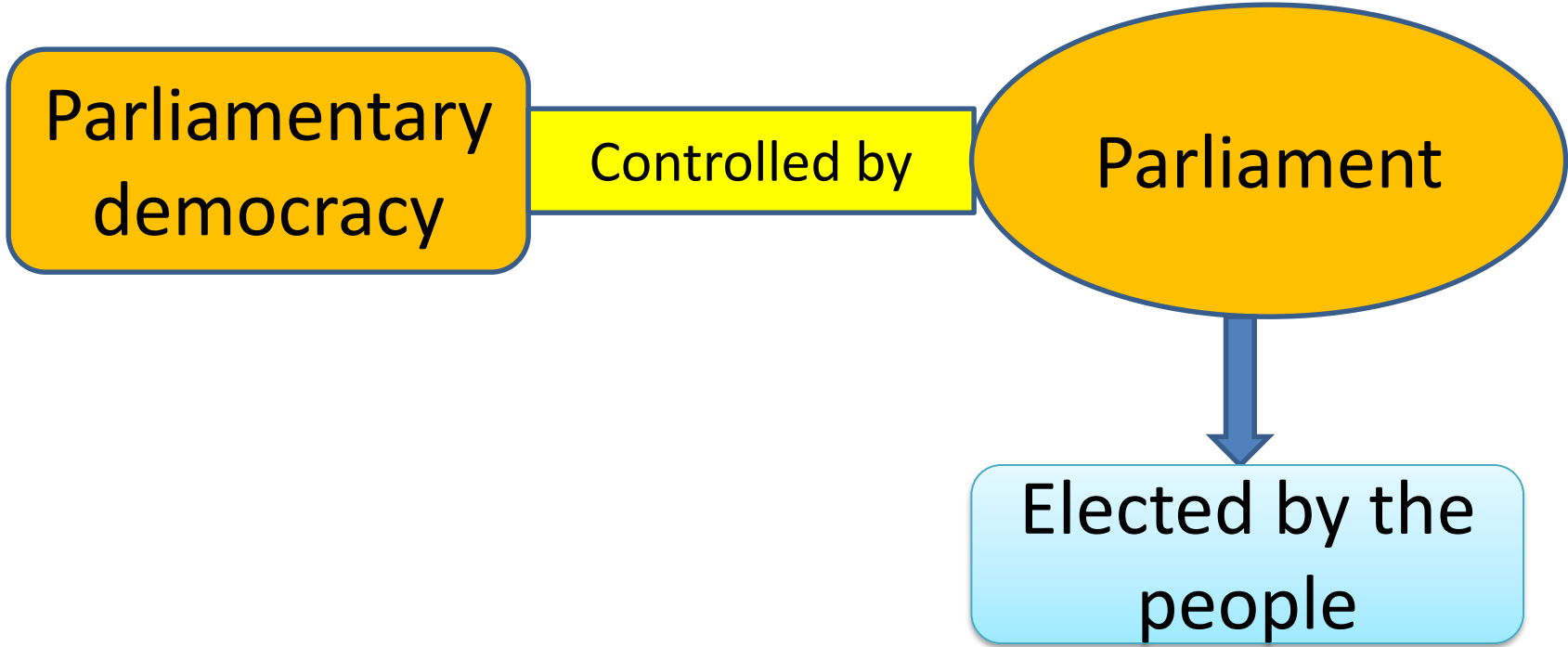
THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TO POLITICS

1. What do the British think about politics?
2. What do the British expect from politicians?
3. Why is it dangerous if people mention politics?



THE CONSTITUTION





THE STYLE OF POLITICS

1. Although there are more than two parties in the country, Britain is normally described as having a “two-party system”.
2. How does the origin of Britain political parties partly explain the “two -party system”?
3. Illustrate the fact that political life in Britain is comparatively informal.

THERESA MAY: STRONG, STABLE LEADERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST



THE STYLE OF POLITICS

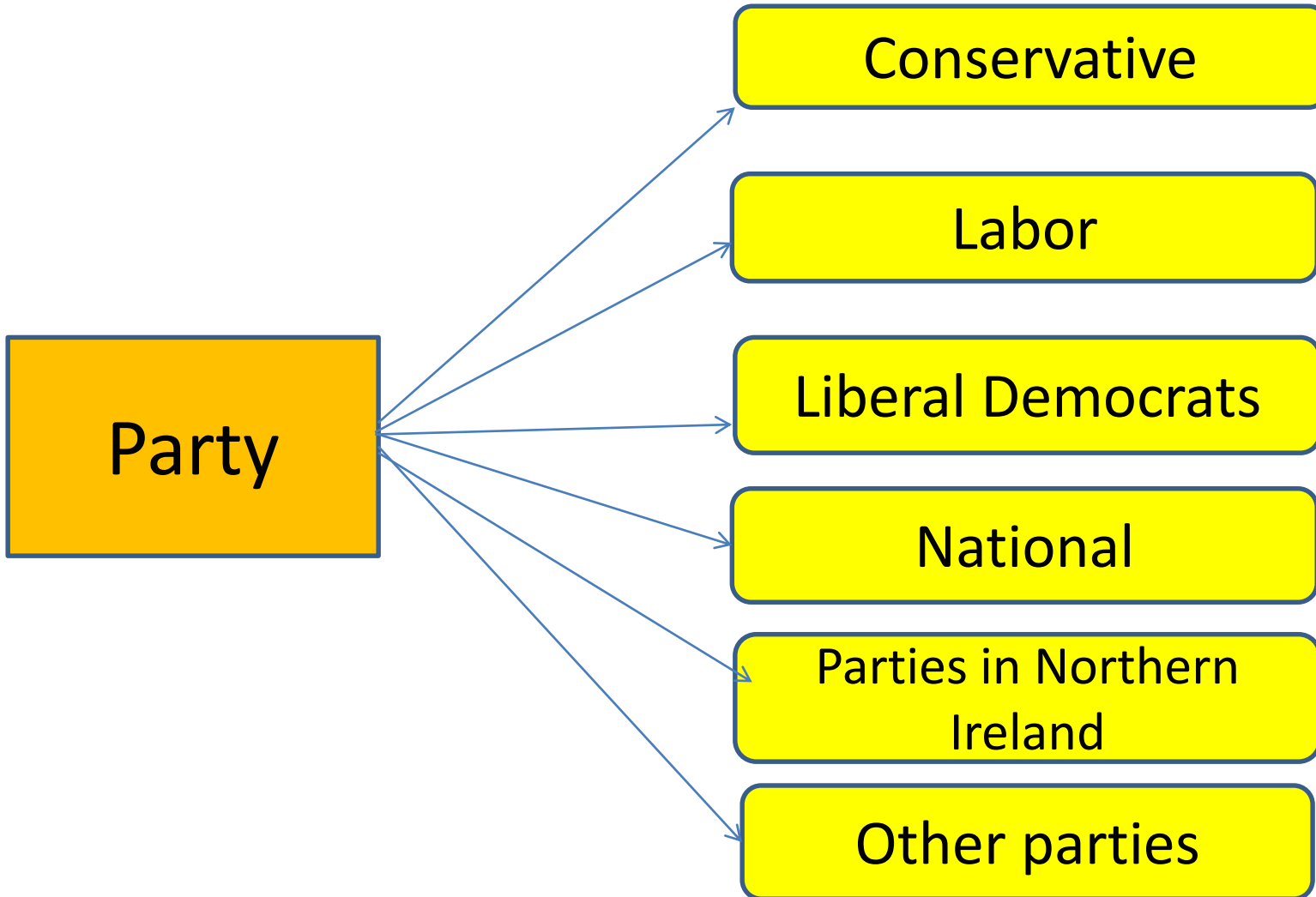
- **Influenced** by the traditional **British respect** for privacy and love of secrecy.
- Comparatively informal
- **Important decisions** to be taken, not at official public meetings, or even at prearranged private meetings, but at lunch, or over drinks, or in chance encounters in the corridors of power.

- The House of Commons was the most **exclusive club** in London.
- Constitutional theory says that Parliament has absolute **control over its own affairs** and is, in fact, the highest power in the land.

- There are **ancient traditions** of the procedure.
 - Politicians **arguing** in the House of Commons or in a television studio.
- ⇒ You might think that they **hate each other**.
- ⇒ They **are good friends**.

- The advantage is that **very little time is wasted** fighting about how political business is to be conducted fairly.

THE PARTY SYSTEM



CONSERVATIVE SYSTEM

THE MODERN SITUATION

1. What is Britain rated?
2. What do British think about the future?
3. What is increasing in the country?

EDUCATION

QUESTIONS

- 1. What can you say about the trends in our educational system?
- 2. Would you say that people in your country are more or less enthusiastic about education system?

QUESTIONS

1. What are the basic features of the European educational system?
2. What is the difference between state school and public school?
3. What did the public school focus on?
4. What was the reason why the British government was one of the last to organize education for everybody?

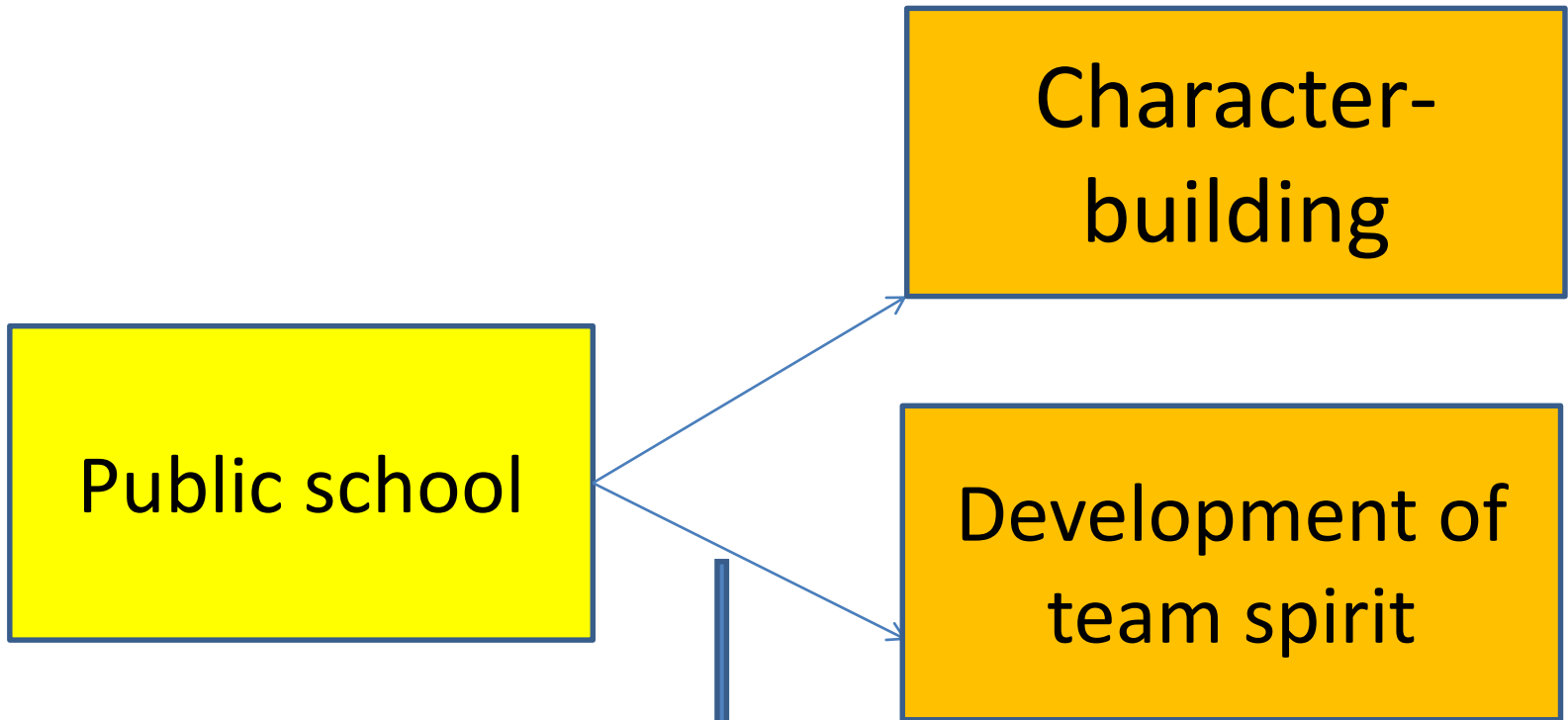
Three recognized stages

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graph TD; A[Three recognized stages] --> B[primary]; A --> C[secondary]; A --> D[tertiary]
```

primary

secondary

tertiary



The development of distinctive customs and attitudes, the wearing of distinctive clothes and the use of specialized items of vocabulary

- 1. Give some different ways that public schools gave currently and traditionally?
- 2. What do boarding schools aim at?
- 3. How do you explain that the pupils from these schools formed a "close group" within society after finishing their education?

1. How many days do children attend the school a week?

->

2. What time do the children finish?

->

3. How long do they break at noon?

->

4. What age do the children take a national test?

->

5. What is the function of the Local Education Authority (LEA)

- **Primary students** do not normally have formal homework to do
- University students have **fewer hours** of programmed attendance **than students** on the continent do.

Dominated by 2 universities: Oxford and Cambridge.

Oxford University



Cambridge University

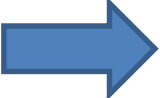







THE CAMPUS UNIVERSITIES

- Locate in** the countryside but close to towns.
- They have **accommodation** for their students on site and from their beginning.
- Tend **to emphasize** relatively “new” academic.

SCHOOL YEAR

Starts at the beginning of September

-  Autumn term
-  Christmas holiday: (about 2 weeks)
-  Spring term
-  Easter holiday (about 2 weeks)
-  Summer term
-  Summer holiday (about 6 weeks)

PUBLIC EXAM

- Exams **are not set by the government**, but rather by independent examining board.
- A separate syllabus is **published by the boards**.
- Some boards offer a vast range of subjects.



- The government policy has been changed

1. The boards **publish** a separate syllabus for each subject
2. The exams **have nothing** to do with school years as such



1. When do people have a right to leave school?

->

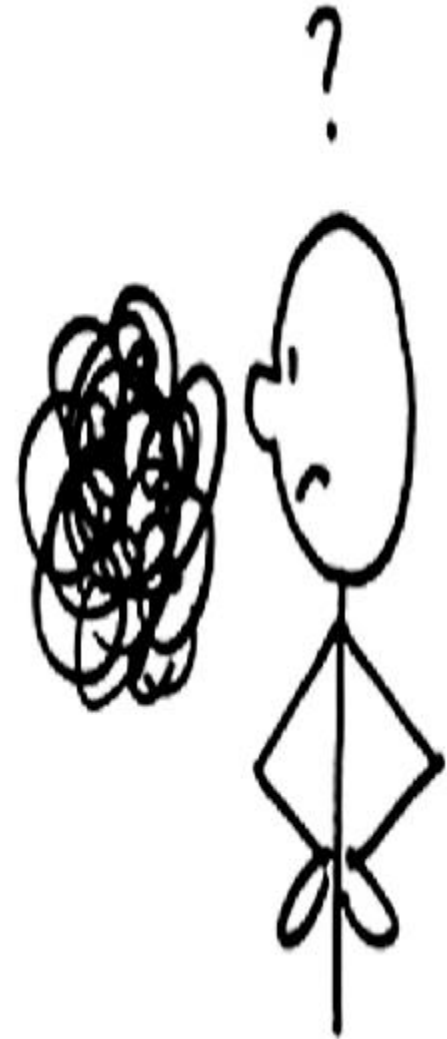
2. What kind of course does it increase?

->

3. What results do universities select their students?

4. What does moonlight mean?

THE PROBLEM IS.....



The **expansion** of higher education.

State.

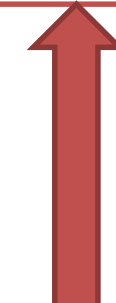
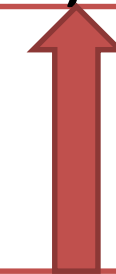
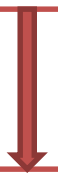
Abolishing the student grant.

Most students have to **pay fees**.

Reducing traditional high **quality** of British university **education**.

Not spend much time in **studying**.

Doing **part-time** job.



UNIT 17: TRANSPORT



Aims:

- Know some kinds of transport that Britain has used.
- Understand the regulations in Britain.
- Understand the story of Chunnel

1. List some kinds of public transport in your country.

2. Which vehicle is used by most people in your country when going to work, school, on holiday? Why?

1. How long do people take from the countryside to get to London every day?

->

2. Do people live near the city?

->

3. Which vehicle is dominant in London?

->

4. What is the traffic problem in Britain?

->

5. Why does the value of houses along or near the proposed route go down?

1. How many households were using cars in Britain?

->

2. When was the registration licensed?

->

3. What is compulsory when using cars in Britain?

->

4. Why don't people use their horns very little?

->

5. What is the speed limit in Britain?

->

- Road safety record.
- Speed limit 70mph = 112kph.



- The British are not very keen on mopeds or motorcycles



- In 1953 most children walked to school.
- School crossing patrol were introduced.
- A “patrol” consists of an adult wearing waterproof coat and carrying a red and white stick with a circular sign at the top which reads STOP, CHILDREN
- Armed with this “lollipop”, the adult walks out into the middle of the road, stops the traffic and allows children to cross
- 80% of them are women
- Since 1980s, they have become a species in decline
- Many children are now driven to school by car.
- Local authorities are less willing to spend money on them



**Public transport in
towns and cities.**

1. What time did the cars stop?

->

2. Why did they have to stop early?

->

3. Why is the underground convenient?

->

4. What did people's attitude toward the super highway?

->

5. Why did British motorists fear and dislike the traffic warden?

6. What did the British government do to relieve congestion?

1. What kinds of public transport should people use between large towns or cities?

->

2. Can you compare the coach and the train?

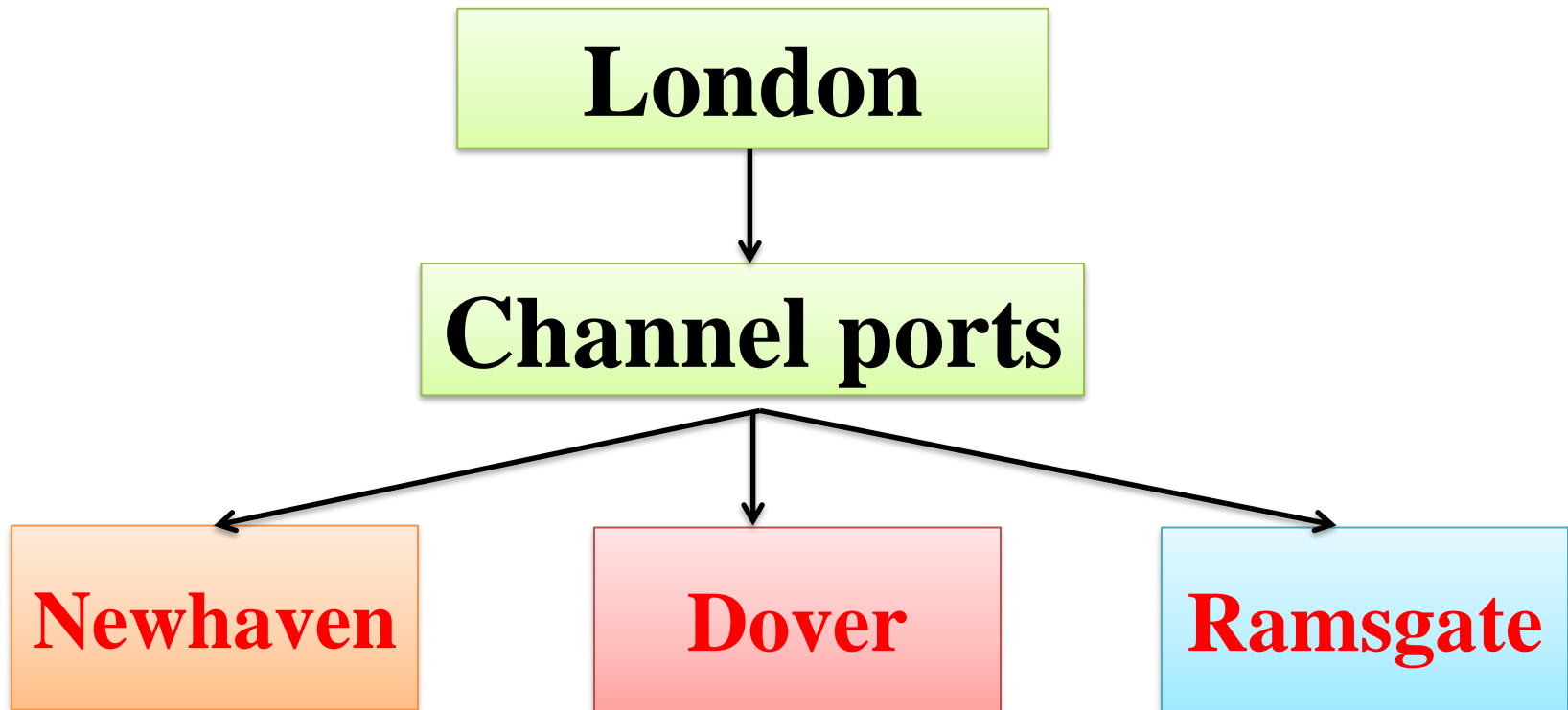
-> 3. What is the most successful transport vehicle?

->

- The people of Lincoln in eastern England were worried about their **tourist trade**.
- The government wanted very much to **privatize the railway**.

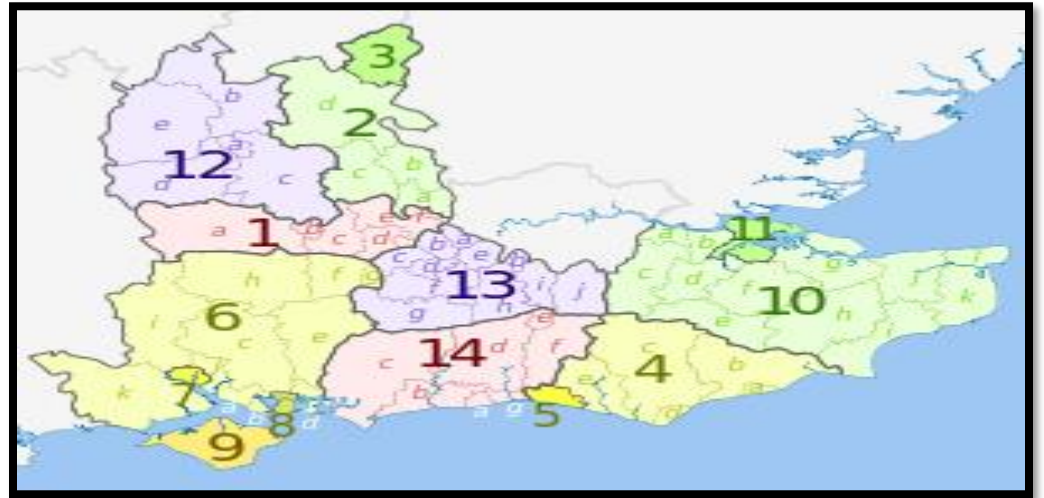


Europe: The International trains.
Britain: The Inter-City trains.



→ Uncomfortable commuter trains stopping at several different stations.

South-east of England



Rail network



The story of the Chunnel.

1. When was the Chunnel opened?

->

2. What happened to the Chunnel?

->

3. Why didn't people use the Chunnel?

• ->

- On **Friday 6 May 1994**, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and President Mitterand of France traveled **ceremonially** under the sea
- Separated their **two countries** and opened the **Channel tunnel** between Calais and Folkestone.



- Several workers were killed during construction.
- The price of construction turned out to be more than double the 4.5 billion pounds first estimated.
- Only 138 were sold in Britain and in France, only 12.

- At first the chunnel was open only to those with **private transport**.
- Some people felt it was unnatural and frightening to travel under all that water.
- There was also fear of terrorist attacks.

- There has been **some argument about** which language would be used to talk about the Chunnel and things **connected with** it. English or French?
- The company that **built the Chunnel** is called Trans- Manche Link (la Manche is the French name for the Channel).

Air and water.

- 1. List some airports in Britain.

->

2. What was the aim by the year 2015

->

3. Why don't people like to live near the airports?

->

WELFARE

Aims:

- Understand the welfare state in Britain.
- Know the benefits system.
- Understand social services and charities.

1. What percentage of basic salary do people get in our country when retiring?
2. Do we get a lot of benefits from social security? Give example.
3. Does our welfare state give help to everybody who needs it?
4. What kind of people do you think of care?

1. What is the purpose of the workhouse?

->

2. What were welfare benefits introduced?

->

Welfare benefits were introduced



Old-age pension scheme (1908)



Partial sickness & unemployment insurance (1912)



Unemployment benefits (1934)

BENEFITS SYSTEM

1. Who got benefits from the government?
2. What did people receive when they got income support?

child benefit



sickness benefit



OTHER
BENEFITS

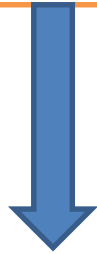
death grants



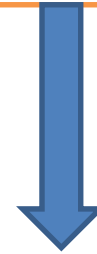
maternity
benefit



The system has its
imperfection



-People **may not understand** the system.



- Do not **know what they are entitled to.**
- cannot receive them

Claiming income support



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graph LR; A[Claiming income support] --> B[- An official investigation into a person's financial circumstances]; A --> C[- feel too much of an invasion of their privacy.]
```

- An official investigation into a person's financial circumstances

- feel too much of an invasion of their privacy.

- **Rising numbers** of both unemployed people and pensioners.
- The whole social security system is coming under **increasing pressure**.

➡ **don't have to be poor** in order to receive your pension or your dole money or your child benefits.

➡ Only those people who **really get them** should get them.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND CHARITIES

1. What does the government do?

->

2. What is a professional social worker's duty?

->

3. Who got social services and charities?

->

- Take a more **active role** in looking after people's welfare.
- Services are run either directly or indirectly.

The old

The mentally
handicapped

Children

- suffering from neglect.
- maltreatment.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

1. Which ones weren't accepted to be free in European countries?

->

2. List some well-known charities?

->

3. What is their function?

->

SOME WELL- KNOWN CHARITIES

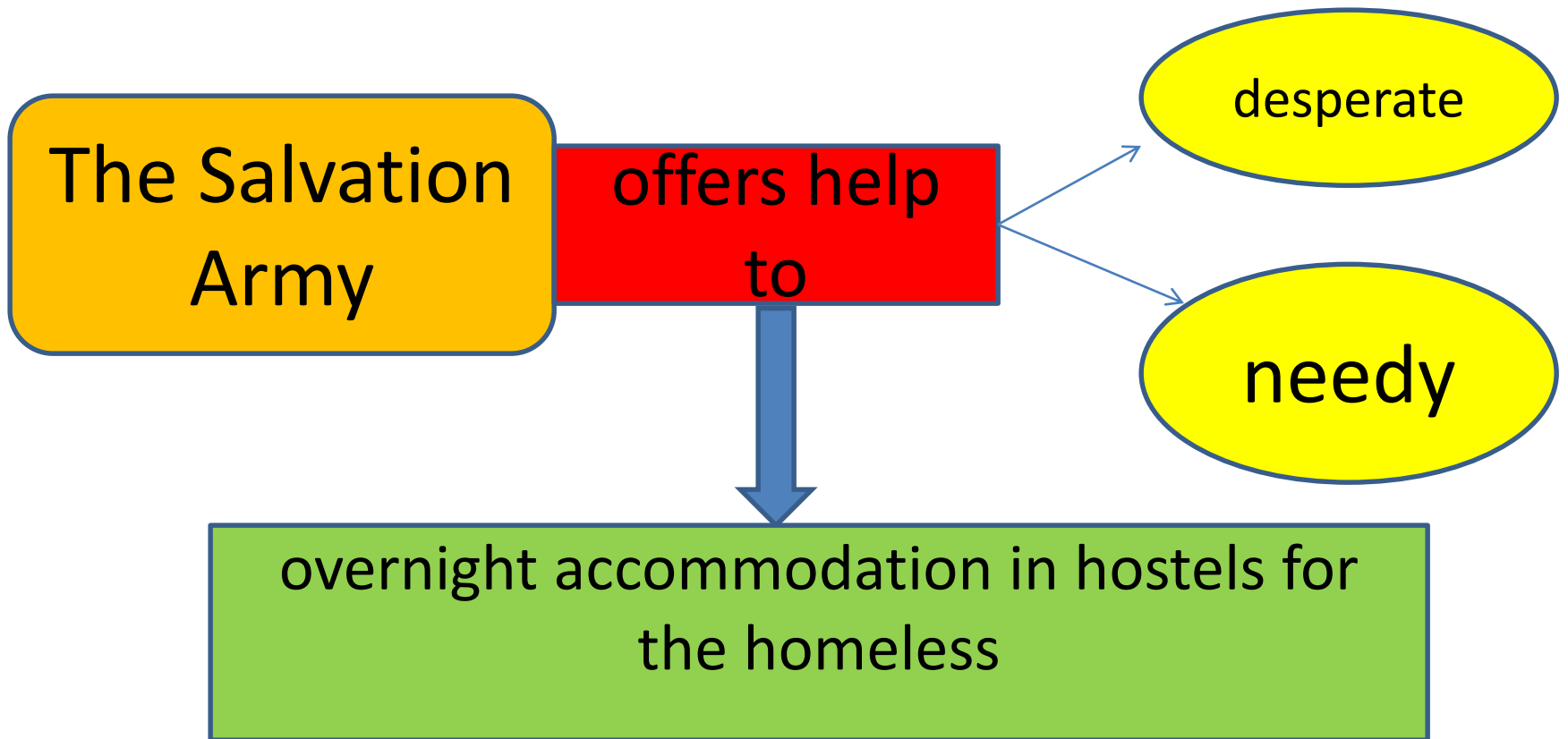
The Samaritans organization

offer free counseling

by phone

with anonymity guaranteed

to anybody who is in despair and thinking of committing suicide.



Banado's

provide homes

orphaned children

helps children in need



Royal National
Institute of Blind
People

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS)



- one of the **best healthcare systems** in the world with safe and modern medical support
- **provide various/free** health care services.

International students studying in the UK **for 6 months or more** can enjoy medical services:

- Emergencies
- Family Planning services
- Diagnosis and treatment of certain infectious diseases

- When medicine is needed, the **doctor writes out a prescription** which the patient then takes to a chemist
- There is **a charge** for each prescription
- Many **categories** of people are **exempt**

- Take a long time

=> NHS patients who **need a non-urgent operation** often have to **wait more than a year.**

=> Those who need a **relatively urgent operation** sometimes have to wait more than a month



Private
scheme

- Solve quickly
- People can choose to have **their operation** whenever they want.

- A number of private medical insurance schemes in the country.
- The biggest is BUDA
- People believe that private treatment is any better than NHS treatment.

- Private patients sometimes use “pay beds” in NHS hospitals, which are usually in a separate room.
- There are also some hospitals and clinics which are completely private => called nursing homes

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

- Doctors generally have the same **very high status in Britain** that they have throughout the world.
- Specialist doctors have **greater prestige than** ordinary GPs.
- Ranking highest.





Work part-time for NHS, earing big fees from private patients



Some patients
have a surgery in
Harley Street in
London

1. What number should people call in an emergency?

->

2. What kinds of medicine are dangerous?

->

3. What did people use Bach flower remedies?

->

FOOD AND DRINK

Aims:

- Know some kinds of food in Britain.
- Understand the British's attitude to food
- Understand the laws in using alcohol

- 1. Give some cooking methods in Vietnam?
 - To boil
 - To grill
 - To steam
 - To stew= to over cook
 - To fry
 - To stir – fry
 - roast

2. What kinds of food are popular in our country?
3. What do people and tourists think about food in VN?
4. What are the differences between laws relating to the consumption of alcohol in Britain and those in your country?
5. In what ways are British pubs different from typical café and bars in your country?

1. What do people think about food in Britain?

->

2. How can people cook vegetables?

->

3. What kind of food do people eat a lot?

->

4. Where did people often eat?

->

1. What is the quality of fast food?

->

2. What kind of coffee do people drink in Britain?

->

3. Why do people have a diet?

->

1. What do people have for snacks?

->

2. How much sugar do people consume a year?

->

3. What are common meals?

->

1. What time do people have lunch?

->

2. What does “tea” mean?

->

3. What time do people have dinner?

->

1. Why didn't chefs and restaurateurs give details of ingredients in dishes?

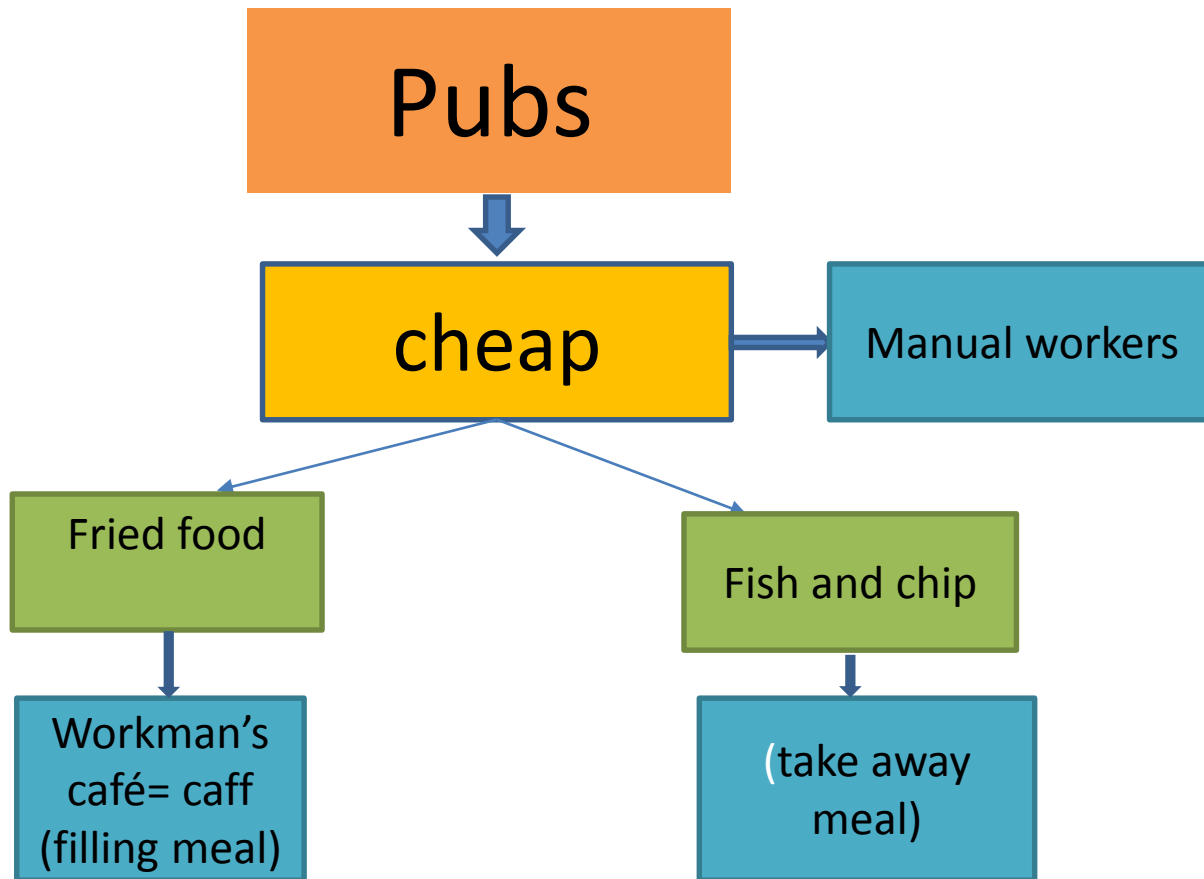
->

2. What kinds of food were cheap?

->

3. What are common in Britain?

->



1. What kinds of drink did people drink?

->

2. Why were beer and spirits restricted?

->

3. Who can't be served alcohol in pubs?

->

WHAT PEOPLE DRINK



- Before 1960s, wine was drunk only by the higher social classes in expensive restaurants
- Nowadays, it has increased enormously

PUB



How to shut the pub?

The traditions of 'closing time' have remained in place:

- ✓ 'Last orders, please before the official closing time
- ✓ 'Time, ladies and gentlemen, please accompany with the ringing of a bell
- ✓ 'Drinking-up time' for 10 mins



HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS

1. List some types of holiday do you have? Why do you have them?
2. What kind of accommodation is the most popular in our country?

Feature of holidays in Britain

- Britain is a country **governed** by routine
- Fewer **public holidays** than in Europe and North America.
- Holiday is a “holy day” known as a “**bank holiday**”.
- New Year’s Day was not an **official public holiday** in England and Wales until quite recently.



How many public holidays are there in the UK?

TRADITIONAL SEASIDE HOLIDAYS



**Punch and Judy
show**



**Donkey rides along the
beach**

**Food
and
drinks**

**candy
floss**



**a stick of rock
sweet**

Caravan holidays

Caravan

a term for a **group of travelers.**

means tourists traveling by car.

They were allowed to travel by means **of their vehicles to or from the country border by road.**



“Working” holidays

- An *increasing* number of people now go on “working” holidays.
 - Working holidays are a type of holiday - *fruit picking*. It used to be the *habit of poor people* from the east end of London.
- 👉 **For example**: go to Kent at the end of the summer to help farmers.

St VALENTINE'S DAY and GRETNA GREEN



- 14th February
- Send cards, gifts and text messages to somebody they love.
- Thousand of people travel to Gretna Green village.

GRETNA GREEN VILLAGE

Marriage and wedding
ceremony.

Wedding on St Valentine
Day

👉 book 3 months in
advance.



BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The “commercialization” of Christmas has itself become part of tradition.

“Between that time and the middle of January, most shops do nearly **half of their total business** for the year.

People **buy Christmas tree.**

Decorate around the house.



- Put **wrapped presents** around or on the Christmas tree.
- Crowded stores or shops.
- Put up a lot of **decorations** on the tree.

GUY FAWKES'S DAY (BONFIRE NIGHT)

- 5th November
- Mark the **failed attempt to blow up** the House of Parliament by Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirator.
- Use the money to **buy fireworks.**
- They eat traditionally on Guy Fawkes.
- ❖ Food: apple and potato.



- In Scotland only, **2 January is a public holiday** (so that people have 2 days to recover from their New Year's Eve parties instead of just one)