

INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH CULTURE 1

BRITISH CULTURE 1

General information:

- ❖ **Course name: BRITISH CULTURE 1**
- ❖ **Code: ANH3 022**
- ❖ **Compulsory course**
- ❖ **Prerequisite:**
- ❖ **Objectives:**

This course aims to help students:

- Absorb fundamental knowledge about British culture.
- Express and gain a clearer understanding of Vietnamese culture through comparing and contrasting the British and Vietnamese cultures.
- Develop intercultural communication skills while enhancing students' English language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to improve their English communication skills.

OUTCOME STANDARDS

➤ Knowledge:

Students will be able to

- Recall and understand basic issues and information about important aspects of life in the United Kingdom.
- Understand the similarities and differences between British and Vietnamese cultures.

➤ Skills:

Students will be able to

- Describe, explain, and analyze issues about British culture clearly and logically.
- Evaluate fundamental values and traditions in British culture.
- Relate these issues to Vietnamese culture.
- Express opinions and viewpoints about culture fluently in both spoken and written English.

OUTCOME STANDARDS

➤ Attitude and Attendance:

Students will be able to

- Recognize the importance of British cultural knowledge in understanding and using the English language.
- Show interest in and desire to develop this knowledge.
- Be aware of the similarities and differences between British and Vietnamese cultures.

CONTENT SUMMARY

Language is an integral part of culture. Therefore, learning a foreign language must be closely linked to understanding the country and people who use that language. Understanding culture not only helps learners minimize misunderstandings in communication (due to differences between cultures) but also develops language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing). These are also the objectives that this course aims to achieve. In addition, the course focuses on fostering the independence, proactiveness, and creativity of learners throughout the learning process and various learning activities. Students are encouraged to engage with and explore topics related to English culture through various forms such as presentations, discussions, dramas, film screenings, etc.

BRIEF INFO



Educational background:

- **Bachelor of Arts: Hue University**
- **Master of Arts: University of Languages and International Studies, Hanoi National University**
- **Doctor of Philosophy (NZ Aid Scholarship): Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand**

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UNIT 1: COUNTRY + PEOPLE

Country and People of UK



The Union Jack



Head Of Government: Prime Minister: Rishi Sunak

Capital: London

Population: (2024 est.) 68,278,000

Currency Exchange Rate:

1 USD equals 0.797 British pound

Head Of State:

Sovereign: King Charles III

GEOGRAPHY SPEAKING

Geography of the UK (is short for The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The UK includes 4 countries: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

Great Britain is made up of 3 countries: England, Scotland, and Wales.

Northern Ireland is part of the UK but not part of England.

The British Isles is made up of the UK. The Republic of Ireland and others.

The British Isles, a group of islands off the northwestern coast of Europe. The group consists of two main islands, Great Britain and Ireland, and numerous smaller islands and island groups, including the Hebrides, the Shetland Islands, the Orkney Islands, the Isles of Scilly, and the Isle of Man.

The British Isles

0 50 100 km



POLITICAL SPEAKING

In the British Isles there are two states. One of these governs most of the island of Ireland. This state is usually called *The Republic of Ireland*. It is also called 'Eire' (its Irish language name). Informally it is referred to as just 'Ireland' or 'the Republic'.

The other state has authority over the rest of the British Isles (the whole of Great Britain, the northeastern area of Ireland and most of the smaller islands). This is the country that is the main subject of this book. Its official name is *The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern*

► National teams from the British Isles in selected sports

		England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Irish Republic
olympics		United Kingdom				Irish Republic
cricket		England		Scotland	Ireland	
rugby union		England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	
football		England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Irish Republic

Note: The Channel Islands and Isle of Man are not part of the UK, but are Crown dependencies.

There are two small parts of the British Isles which have special political arrangements. These 'Crown dependencies' are the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Each has complete internal self-government, including its own Parliament and its own tax system. Both are 'ruled' by a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the British government.










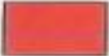


THE FOUR NATIONS

- At one time the four nations were distinct from each other in almost every aspect of life. In the first place, they were different racially.
- The people in Ireland, Wales and highland Scotland belonged to the Celtic race; Those in England and lowland Scotland were mainly of Germanic origin.
- This difference was reflected in the languages they spoke. People in the Celtic areas spoke Celtic languages: Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh.
- People in the Germanic areas spoke Germanic dialects (including the one which has developed into modern English).
- Today these differences have become blurred.
- Although there is only one government for the whole of Britain, and people have the same passport regardless of where in Britain they live, some aspects of government are organized separately (and sometimes differently) in the four parts of the United Kingdom. Moreover, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people feel their identity very strongly.
- The nationality of people from UK is the British.

Note: England is only one of the four nations of the British Isles (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland)

IDENTIFYING SYMBOLS

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
				
Location	Southern part	Western side	Northern part	Northeast part of Ireland
Capital city	London	Cardiff	Edinburgh	Belfast
The patron Saint	St George	St. David	St. Andrew	St. Patrick
National flag	St. George cross	Dragon of Caduallader	St. Andrew cross	St. Patrick cross
National plant	Red rose	Daffodil	Thistle	Shamrock

	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
Flag	 St George's Cross	 Dragon of Cadwallader	 St Andrew's Cross	 St Patrick's Cross
Plant	 Rose	 Leek/Daffodil ¹	 Thistle	 Shamrock
Colour²				
Patron saint	St George	St David	St Andrew	St Patrick
Saint's day	23 April	1 March	30 November	17 March

SOME HISTORICAL AND POETIC NAMES

Albion is a word used by poets and songwriters to refer, in different contexts, to England or to Scotland or to Great Britain as a whole. It comes from a Celtic word and was an early Greek and Roman name for Great Britain. The Romans associated Great Britain with the Latin word ‘albus’, meaning white. The white chalk cliffs around Dover on the English south coast are the first land formations one sights when crossing the sea from the European mainland.

Britannia is the name that the Romans gave to their southern British province (which covered, approximately, the area of present-day England and Wales). It is also the name given to the female embodiment of Britain, always shown wearing a helmet and holding a trident (the symbol of power over the sea), hence the patriotic song which begins ‘Rule Britannia, Britannia rule the waves’. The figure of Britannia has been on the reverse side of many British coins for more than 300 years.

THE DOMINANCE OF ENGLAND

- England is the biggest country in the UK. England contains about 84% of the UK population. The British royal family lives in England.**
- The system of politics that is used in all four nations today is of English origin.**
- English is the main language of all four nations.**
- The supply of money in Britain is controlled by the Bank of England**

NATIONAL LOYALTIES - DOUBLE IDENTITY

Because of migration of people from Scotland, Wales and Ireland to England, there are millions of people who live in England but who would never describe themselves as English. They may have lived in England all their lives, but as far as they are concerned they are Scottish or Welsh or Irish.

SUMMARY:

United Kingdom, island country located off **the northwestern coast** of mainland Europe. The United Kingdom comprises the whole of the island of Great Britain—which contains **England, Wales, and Scotland**—as well as the **northern** portion of the island of **Ireland**. The name Britain is sometimes used to refer to the United Kingdom as a whole.

The capital is London, which is among the world's leading commercial, financial, and cultural centres. Other major cities include Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester in England.

The capital of Scotland is **Edinburgh**. The capital city of Northern Ireland is **Belfast**. The capital city of Wales is **Cardiff**.

PRACTICE

Read the text about UK: England

England is the biggest of the four countries in the United Kingdom. Together with Scotland and Wales, these three countries are the island of Great Britain. The English Channel is in the south between England and France. People travel to France by ferry across the English Channel or by train through the Channel Tunnel which goes under the sea.

Over 50 million people live in England and that's around 80 per cent of the total UK population. It is a multicultural country where more than 250 languages are spoken in the capital city, London. The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, which means that there is a queen or king but they don't make the laws of the country. Laws and political decisions in England are made by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The Houses of Parliament are in central London next to the River Thames and the most famous part is the clock tower, Big Ben.

Other large cities in England are Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Bristol. Outside cities, England is a very green country and has many rural areas of natural beauty such as the Lake District, an area with lots of lakes in the north, and the New Forest, a big area of forest in the south of the country.

MUSIC

English people love music. In the summer you can go to music festivals all over the country like those at Glastonbury, Leeds or Reading. Glastonbury is a five-day festival of music, dance, comedy, theatre and circus and around 175,000 people go. Many people stay at the festivals for a few days and camp in tents. People listen to all types of music, especially pop and rock. England has produced many international groups and singers like the Beatles, Amy Winehouse, Coldplay, Ed Sheeran and Adele.

SPORT

The most popular sports in England are football, rugby and cricket and most towns have a sports ground where teams can play. English football teams like Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool are world-famous and English football players include David Beckham, Wayne Rooney and Harry Kane. Women's football is also popular and teams play in leagues and competitions all over the country. Every year, the English rugby union team play in the Six Nations Championship against Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France and Italy. Cricket is a traditional sport played with a bat and ball which began in England and is now played all over the world. People like to watch all these sports on television, as well as other sports like horse racing, tennis, snooker (a type of billiards) and motor racing.

FOOD

England is a very multicultural country and this has a big influence on the food people eat. Indian, Chinese and Italian cuisines are popular alternatives to traditional English food like fish and chips, roast beef or sausage and mash (mashed potatoes). Many English people drink several cups of tea every day, usually with milk. However, coffee and herbal teas are also popular.

SYMBOLS

The national flag of England is white with a red cross. It is called the St George's Cross and Saint George is the patron saint of England. St George's Day is on 23 April, but it's not a public holiday. The rose is the national flower of England and the lion is the national animal. The lion is a symbol of many English sports teams.

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

1..... rural

2..... an accent

3..... a parliament

4..... a law

5..... traditional

6..... multicultural

a. a government building where politicians meet and discuss things

b. a rule that everyone in a country must follow

c. about the countryside

d. the way that people speak in a particular city or area

e. having many different cultures

f. typical of a country and its culture

Match the names with what they are and write a–j next to the numbers 1–10

1..... English Channel

2..... Big Ben

3..... Bristol

4..... The New Forest

5..... Glastonbury

6..... Ed Sheeran

7..... Harry Kane

8..... Six Nations

9..... snooker

10..... sausage and mash

a. clock

b. city

c. sport

d. rugby competition

e. traditional food

f. sea

g. singer

h. rural area

i. footballer

j. music festival

DISCUSSION:

1. How and why do you think each country in the United Kingdom is different?
2. Are there any differences between the people, the history of the region or the geography in your country? If so, how and why do you think this is?

UNIT 2: HISTORY



- **Prehistory of the UK:** This period dates back to before written records and encompasses the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. It includes the construction of notable landmarks like Stonehenge and the development of early societies in the British Isles.
- **The Roman Period (43-410):** The Roman conquest of Britain began in 43 AD under Emperor Claudius. This period saw significant Roman influence on British culture, infrastructure, and governance. The Romans built roads, cities (like Londinium, modern-day London), and introduced Christianity.
- **The Germanic Invasion (410-1066):** After the collapse of Roman rule, various Germanic tribes, such as the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, migrated to Britain, leading to the Anglo-Saxon period. This era witnessed the establishment of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and the gradual conversion to Christianity.

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- **The Medieval Period (1066-1485):** This period began with the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, led by William the Conqueror. It saw the consolidation of Norman rule, the construction of castles and cathedrals, and the emergence of feudalism. The later medieval period witnessed the Hundred Years' War, the Black Death, and the rise of the Tudor dynasty.

- **The Sixteenth Century:** The sixteenth century in Britain was marked by the Tudor dynasty, including monarchs like **Henry VIII** and **Elizabeth I**. It saw religious turmoil, with the English Reformation, the establishment of the Church of England, and exploration, including voyages to the New World.
- **The Seventeenth Century:** This century saw significant political upheaval, including the English Civil War (1642-1651), which resulted in the execution of **King Charles I** and the establishment of the Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell. It also witnessed the Glorious Revolution of 1688, leading to constitutional changes and the supremacy of Parliament.

- **The Eighteenth Century:** The eighteenth century in Britain was marked by the Georgian era, characterized by economic growth, the Industrial Revolution, and the expansion of the British Empire. It saw significant developments in science, literature, and politics, including the Acts of Union with Scotland in 1707 and with Ireland in 1801.
- **The Nineteenth Century:** The nineteenth century saw further industrialization, urbanization, and social reforms in Britain. It was marked by the Victorian era, named after Queen Victoria, and witnessed imperial expansion, the abolition of slavery, and the rise of the British Empire as a global superpower.
- **The Twentieth Century:** The twentieth century in Britain was marked by two world wars, significant social and political changes, and the decline of the British Empire. It witnessed periods of economic hardship, social reforms, the welfare state, and cultural shifts, including the rise of popular culture and the decline of traditional industries.

Prehistory is the time before written records. It's the period of human history we know the least about, but it's also the longest by far. The earliest known humans arrived in these lands around 900,000 years ago. Prehistory stretches from then until the Roman invasion in AD 43. Over this time, these lands underwent huge climactic, societal, political, technological and geological changes. Along with artefacts discovered by archaeologists, the henges, hillforts and burial sites still visible in the landscape today give us fascinating glimpses into the lives of the people of prehistoric England.

The history of the United Kingdom and its countries is a complicated one. Throughout the history of the British Isles, the people there have squabbled over borders and faced outside invasion, including being conquered on more than one occasion. Early Britons and the Celts originally inhabited the British Islands. The isles were invaded by the Roman Empire, which conquered the area of modern England. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Germanic Angles and Saxon tribes invaded in the fifth century, and the later, the Nordic Vikings conquered large areas of the isles in the 9th century. The term 'United Kingdom' first came into official use in 1801 after the **1801 Act of Union** created the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In the 1920s, most of Ireland gained its independence. Thus the title was amended to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Before 1801, various other titles were used for the countries and kingdoms of the British isles.

Following abbreviated timeline.

- 834 CE: the Kingdom of Scotland is founded
- 927 CE: the Kingdom of England is founded
- 1066 CE: Duke William of Normandy conquered England from the Anglo-Saxons
- 1284 CE: Statute of Rhuddlan puts Wales under English Control.
- 1603 CE: King James VI of Scotland inherits the English crown. A single monarch ruled over first time Scotland, England, and Wales
- 1707 CE: 1707 Act of Union was passed by the English and Scottish parliaments, officially merging the Kingdom of England and Wales with the Kingdom of Scotland to become the Kingdom of Great Britain
- 1801 CE: 1801 Act of Union was passed, merging the Kingdom of Great Britain with Ireland to become the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1922 CE: The majority of Ireland gains independence. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland becomes the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Circle the best answer to these questions.

1. Great Britain is England, ...

a. Scotland and Northern Ireland.

b. Scotland and Wales.

c. Wales and Northern Ireland.

2. The sea to the south of England is the ...

a. Irish Sea.

b. Celtic Sea.

c. English Channel.

3. There are ...

a. 50 million people living in England.

b. 80 million people living in England.

c. 250 million people living in England.

4. Political decisions in England are made by ...

a. the queen or king.

b. the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

c. the Government of England.

5. The Lake District is ...

a. near London.

b. in the south of England.

c. in the north of England.

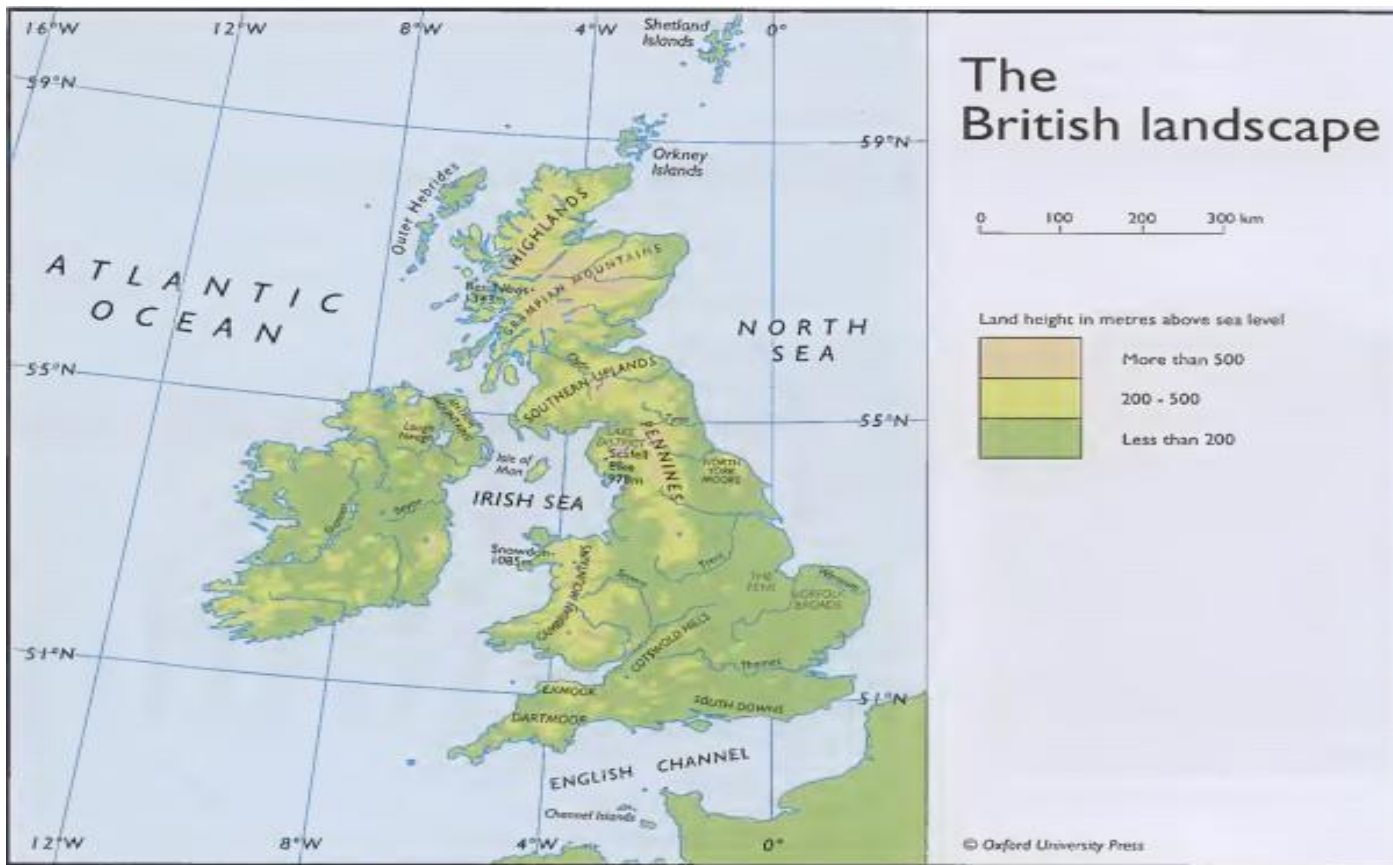
6. There are lots of words and expressions in English that are ...
- a. French.
 - b. Welsh.
 - c. Chinese.
7. Reading is the name of ...
- a. a music festival.
 - b. an English music group.
 - c. a type of music.
8. Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool ...
- a. are all from London..
 - b. play against the national teams of Wales, Scotland and Ireland every year.
 - c. are known all over the world.
9. In the Six Nations Championship, England doesn't play against ...
- a. France.
 - b. Spain.
 - c. Italy.
10. People in England ...
- a. prefer traditional food.
 - b. enjoy the variety of different cuisines.
 - c. don't drink much tea.

Fill in each gap: To export/ A symbol/ An assembly/ A choir/ A legend/ To debate

1. _____ is a group of people who sing together.
2. _____ is a place where people gather for a common reason.
3. _____ is a very old story.
4. _____ is a picture or sign that holds special meaning.
5. _____ is to transport to different countries
6. _____ is to discuss different views on a subject.

UNIT 3: GEOGRAPHY





The British Isles: where people live

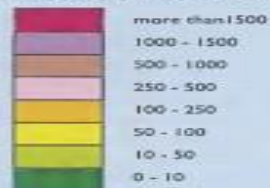
0 50 100 km

----- International boundary
—— National boundary
—— County boundary

Selected cities and towns

- over 500 000 inhabitants
- 200 000 to 500 000 inhabitants
- under 200 000 inhabitants

Persons per square kilometre



- A group of about 5,000 islands off the north-coast of mainland Europe
- Between the latitude 50°N and 61°N
- UK consists of four countries;
 - * England,
 - * Wales,
 - * Scotland, and
 - * Northern Ireland.

Weather/Climate

- Changeable though not necessarily unpredictable
- Few extremes in temperature, rarely above 32°C or below -10°C.

Land and settlement

- Much of the land is used for human habitation. This is not just because Britain is densely populated. Partly because of their desire for privacy and their love of the countryside,
- There are areas of completely open countryside everywhere and some of the mountainous areas remain virtually untouched.

England - London

London (the largest city in Europe) dominates Britain.
It is about seven times larger than any other city in the country.

It is home for the headquarters of all government departments, Parliament, the major legal institutions and the monarch.

It is the country's business and banking centre and the centre of its transport network.
It contains the headquarters of the national television networks and of all the national newspapers.

About a fifth of the total population of the UK lives in the Greater London area.

The original walled city of London was quite small. (It is known colloquially today as 'the square mile'.)

The square mile is home to the country's main financial organizations, the territory of the stereotypical English 'city gent'.

Two other well-known areas of London are and the West End: known for its many theatres, cinemas and expensive shops.

The East End: known as the poorer residential area of central London. It is the home of the Cockney and in the twentieth century large numbers of immigrants settled there.

London is in some ways untypical of the rest of the country.

The cultural and racial variety is by far the greatest in London.

A survey carried out in the 1980s found that 137 different languages were spoken in the homes of just one district.

Southern England

- Known as 'commuter land'.
- This is the most densely populated area in the UK which does not include a large city, and millions of its inhabitants travel into London to work every day.
- The county of Kent is known as 'the garden of England' because of the many kinds of fruit and vegetables grown there.
- The Downs, a series of hills in a horseshoe shape to the south of London, are used for sheep farming (though not as intensively as they used to be).

The Midlands

- Birmingham is Britain's second largest city.
- Factories in this area still convert iron and steel into a vast variety of goods.
- There are other industrial areas in the Midlands: The Potteries (famous for producing china such as that made at the factories of Wedgwood, Spode and Minton), Derby, Leicester and Nottingham (several towns in the East Midlands).
- On the east coast, Grimsby, although a comparatively small town, is one of Britain's most important fishing ports.
- Tourism has flourished in 'Shakespeare country' (centred on Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace), and Nottingham has successfully capitalized on the legend of Robin Hood.

Scotland

- Scotland has three fairly clearly-marked regions.
- Just north of the border with England are the southern uplands, an area of small towns, quite far apart from each other, whose economy depends to a large extent on sheep farming.
- Further north, there is the central plain.
- Finally the highlands consist of mountains and deep valleys and including numerous small islands off the west coast. This area of spectacular natural beauty occupies the same land area as southern England but fewer than a million people live there. Tourism is important in the local economy, and so is the production of whisky.
- Glasgow is the third largest city in Britain.
- It is associated with heavy industry and some of the worst housing conditions in Britain (the district called the Gorbals, although now rebuilt, was famous in this respect). However, this image is one-sided. Glasgow has a strong artistic heritage.
- Over the centuries, Glasgow has received many immigrants from Ireland and in some ways it reflects the divisions in the community that exist in Northern Ireland. For example, of its two rival football teams, one is Catholic (Celtic) and the other is Protestant (Rangers).
- Edinburgh, which is half the size of Glasgow, has a comparatively middle-class image.
- It is the capital of Scotland and is associated with scholarship, the law and administration.
- This reputation, together with its many fine historic buildings, and also perhaps its topography (there is a rock in the middle of the city on which stands the castle) has led to its being called 'the Athens of the north'.

Wales

- The south-east of the country is most heavily populated.
- Coal has been mined in many parts of Britain, but just as British people would locate the prototype factory of the industrial revolution in the north of England, so they would locate its prototype coalmine in south Wales.
- Cardiff, the capital of Wales, has a population of about a quarter of a million.
- Most of the rest of Wales is mountainous. It makes the communication between south and north difficult. As a result, each part of Wales has closer contact with its neighbouring part of England than it does with other parts of Wales: the north with Liverpool, and mid-Wales with the English west midlands.
- The area around Mount Snowdon in the north-west of the country is very beautiful and is the largest National Park in Britain.

Northern Ireland

- Belfast, which is famous for the manufacture of linen (and which is still a shipbuilding city),
- This region is, like the rest of Ireland, largely agricultural.
- It has several areas of spectacular natural beauty. The Giant's Causeway on its north coast, is an example with the rocks in the area that form what look like enormous stepping stones.

UNIT 4: IDENTITY



UNIT 4: IDENTITY

What's Britishness?

The fact of being British, or qualities that are considered typical of British people.

- ❑ **GEOGRAPHY:** Britishness was associated with the British Isles, and with typical topographic features, such as the Scottish Highlands, lochs, Welsh valleys, and rolling hills.
- ❑ **NATIONAL SYMBOLS:** Britishness was symbolised by the Union Jack and the royal family.
- ❑ **PEOPLE:** Three different ways of thinking about the British people emerged: for some participants, the British included all British citizens (that is, those who hold UK passports), regardless of region or ethnicity; for others, the British were exclusively associated with white English people; and for others still, the British included people of very diverse ethnic origins.
- ❑ **VALUES AND ATTITUDES:** These included upholding human rights and freedoms, respect for the rule of law, fairness, tolerance and respect for others, reserve and pride (generally valued by white English participants and criticised by white Scottish and white Welsh participants, as well as those from ethnic minority backgrounds), a strong work ethic, community spirit, mutual help, stoicism and compassion, and drunkenness, hooliganism and yobbishness.

- ❑ **CULTURAL HABITS AND BEHAVIOUR:** These included **queuing; watching** and supporting football, cricket and rugby; and consuming food and drink such as 'fish and chips', 'English breakfast', 'Yorkshire pudding', 'cream teas', 'cucumber sandwiches', 'roast beef', 'Sunday lunch', 'curries' and 'beer'.
- ❑ **CITIZENSHIP:** For **Scottish and Welsh participants, and for most** participants from ethnic minority backgrounds, Britishness was very much associated with holding a UK passport. This was not salient among white English participants.
- ❑ **LANGUAGE:** **English was seen as a common language that unites** the British people. The array of British accents (in terms of regional and class differences) was also seen as typically British.
- ❑ **ACHIEVEMENTS:** **Britishness was associated with political and** historical achievements (the establishment of parliamentary democracy, empire and colonialism); technological and scientific achievements (the industrial revolution, medical discoveries); sporting achievements (the invention of many sports); and 'pop' cultural achievements.



Ethnic Identity: The UK is home to a diverse range of ethnic groups, including White British, Black British, Asian British, and others. Ethnic identity plays a significant role in shaping individuals' cultural practices, languages spoken, and sense of belonging.

Native British: Native British refers to individuals born in the UK with ancestral ties to the region. They often identify strongly with British culture, traditions, and history.

Non-native British: Non-native British individuals are those who have acquired British citizenship or have lived in the UK for an extended period but were not born there. They bring diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences, contributing to the multicultural landscape of Britain.

Family: Family plays a central role in shaping identity, providing individuals with a sense of belonging, heritage, and shared values.

Geographical Identity: Geographical factors, such as region or city of residence, can influence identity formation. People often identify strongly with their hometowns or regions, which may have distinct cultural, linguistic, or historical characteristics.

Class: Social class has historically been a significant factor in British identity, influencing access to opportunities, education, and social networks. Class distinctions continue to shape perceptions and experiences in contemporary UK society.

Men and Women: Gender identities and roles play a crucial role in shaping individual experiences and societal expectations. While progress has been made towards gender equality, gender norms and stereotypes still influence identity formation.

Religious and Political Identity: Religion and political beliefs can be core components of identity for many individuals. The UK is home to various religious and political affiliations, which can intersect with other aspects of identity.

Social and Everyday Contacts: Interactions with friends, colleagues, and communities shape how individuals perceive themselves and others. Social networks and everyday experiences contribute to the construction of identity.

Identity in Northern Ireland: Identity in Northern Ireland is deeply influenced by historical and political factors, including the divide between Unionist (pro-British) and Nationalist (pro-Irish) communities. Religion, history, and cultural traditions play significant roles in shaping identities in this region.

Being British: Being British encompasses a range of identities, reflecting the diversity and complexity of modern Britain. It can include a sense of patriotism, shared values, and allegiance to British institutions, but it can also be influenced by individual backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

The Native British

Ethnic identity refers to a person's social identity within a larger context based on membership in a cultural or social group.

Ethnic identity is strong among people whose ancestors were not English. To people living in England who call themselves Scottish, Welsh, or Irish, their loyalty is little more than a matter of emotional attachment. Some people join some sporting and social clubs, which promote national folk music, organizes parties on special national days.

People in Scotland has constant reminders of their distinctiveness. Several important aspects of public life are organized separately and different from the rest of Britain- especially education, law and religion. Besides, the Scottish way of speaking English is very distinctive. There are many symbols of Scottishness which are well-known throughout Britain.

The people of Wales do not have many reminders of their Welshness in everyday life, and the organization of public life is similar to that in England. Besides, they don't even have many symbols of Welshness. In addition, a large minority of the people in Wales probably do not consider themselves to be especially Welsh at all.

However, there is one highly important symbol of Welsh identity, the Welsh language. Through every Welsh can speak English it's not their first language. In fact, about 20% of their population consider Welsh as mother tongue. Moreover, Welsh shows signs of continued vitality in comparison with any other small minority language in Europe. Nowadays, all children in Wales have the opportunity to learn Welsh at school and through many other kinds of media.

- **In Northern Ireland**, the question of identity is much more complex. In this part of the UK, the pattern of identity and loyalty outlines above does not apply. Ethnicity, family, politics and religion are all inter-related while social class has a minor role in establishing identity. That's why Northern Ireland is popularized society where most people are born into and stay in one of the two communities for the whole of their lives.
- On one of side of the people whose ancestor came from lowland Scotland and England are self-consciously protestant and want Northern Ireland to remain in the UK. The other side are people whose ancestors were native Irish. They are Catholic and would like Northern Ireland to become part of the Irish republic.
- As for English identity, most people who describe themselves as English usually make no distinction in their minds between “English” and “British”

Non-native British refers to individuals who were not born in the United Kingdom but have acquired British citizenship or have lived in the UK for an extended period. They come from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and nationalities, contributing to the multicultural fabric of Britain. Many non-native Britons bring unique perspectives, skills, and experiences to British society, enriching it in various ways. They may face challenges related to integration, language barriers, or cultural adaptation, but they also contribute significantly to the country's economy, social dynamics, and cultural diversity.

UNIT 5: FILM



UK FILM represents the UK Film industry national and regional agencies at key international festivals and markets including Berlin, Cannes, Toronto and AFM. Our aim is to help make international connections and provide clear information about our great locations, services, talent and films.

Film industry in the United Kingdom - statistics & facts

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the robustness of the UK cinema industry is expected to defy the odds throughout the 2020s. The United Kingdom indeed remains one of the most dynamic cinema markets and filmmaking player worldwide. In 2022, the UK/Ireland region was the leading European market in terms of box office revenue, garnering a total of 1.2 billion dollars. On a regional level, the UK maintained a solid second place in movie ticket sales.

An international filmmaking player

From regional productions such as Harry Potter and Doctor Who, to international hits belonging to the Marvel Cinematic Universe and Star Wars franchises, many international studios opt to shoot in the UK. Pinewood Studios, one of the oldest and biggest studios, is known for housing the productions of many large-scale projects such as the upcoming “Deadpool 3”. Several of the highest-grossing movies of 2023 in the UK were shot there, such as “Barbie”, which was mostly shot in Warner Bros.’s studio in Leavesden, or “Wonka” in London. In 2021, domestic and co-production spending amounted to around 220 thousand and 58 thousand pounds respectively.

A brighter future ahead

While the industry has yet to fully bounce back, it already shows signs of recovery. Viewers are indeed eager to go back to the theater as cinemas across the United Kingdom sold approximately 117 million tickets throughout 2022, up from less than 75 million movie tickets a year earlier. Forecasts indicate that the UK will rank third overall in terms of filmed entertainment revenue by 2026, with an estimated turnover of about 4.7 billion dollars. Moreover, the market is expected to grow by almost 50 percent overall between 2021 and 2026.

UNIT 6: THE MONARCHY



Appearance: The monarchy is often associated with grandeur, tradition, and ceremony. Members of the royal family, including the reigning monarch, participate in various public events, state occasions, and official engagements, projecting an image of continuity and stability.

Reality: Behind the ceremonial facade, the monarchy plays a more limited role in the day-to-day governance of the UK. While the monarch retains certain constitutional powers, such as the ability to appoint the Prime Minister and give royal assent to legislation, these powers are largely symbolic and exercised on the advice of elected officials.

Role of the Monarch: The primary role of the monarch is to serve as the head of state, representing the nation both domestically and internationally. The monarch performs ceremonial duties, such as state visits, receiving foreign dignitaries, and presiding over national events. Additionally, the monarch acts as a unifying figure, providing continuity and stability across political transitions.

Value of the Monarchy: The monarchy holds significant cultural, historical, and symbolic value for many people in the UK and around the world. It is seen as a symbol of national identity, heritage, and tradition. Additionally, the monarchy contributes to tourism and the economy through royal events, attractions, and memorabilia.

Future of the Monarchy: The future of the monarchy is subject to speculation and debate. While the institution remains popular and enjoys widespread support, challenges such as changing societal attitudes, calls for modernization, and questions about the cost of maintaining the monarchy may influence its long-term sustainability. The monarchy has adapted over time to meet changing circumstances, and its future will likely depend on its ability to continue evolving while preserving its core values and relevance to society.

UNIT 7: THE GOVERNMENT



The Cabinet: The Cabinet is a group of senior government ministers chosen by the Prime Minister. It typically includes around 20 members who are heads of various government departments or hold key positions. The Cabinet is responsible for making important decisions on government policy and the overall direction of the country. It meets regularly to discuss and decide on issues ranging from domestic matters to foreign policy.



The Prime Minister: The Prime Minister is the head of the UK government and is responsible for leading the Cabinet and setting government policy. The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the political party that has the most seats in the House of Commons after a general election. They represent the UK both domestically and internationally, and they have significant powers, including the ability to appoint government ministers and make key decisions on behalf of the country.

**UK Prime Minister
Rishi Sunak**



The Civil Service: The Civil Service is a body of professional, non-political staff who work for the government and help implement its policies and decisions. Civil servants work across various government departments and agencies, providing support and expertise to ministers and helping to deliver public services. They are expected to be impartial and to serve the government of the day regardless of its political affiliation.



The Central and Local Government: The UK has a system of central government based in Westminster, London, which is responsible for making decisions on national issues such as defense, foreign affairs, and economic policy. Local government, on the other hand, is responsible for delivering services at the community level, such as education, social care, and waste management. Local government is divided into various administrative areas, including counties, cities, and districts, each with its own council and elected representatives.



Local Government Services: Local government provides a wide range of services to the public, including education, social care, housing, transportation, and waste management. Local councils are responsible for managing and funding these services, often through council tax and government grants. They work closely with central government and other local agencies to ensure that services are delivered effectively and meet the needs of the local community.



Summary:

Overall, the government of the UK operates through a combination of central and local structures, with the Prime Minister and Cabinet setting national policy and direction, supported by the Civil Service, while local government delivers services and represents the interests of communities at the grassroots level.

UNIT 8: PARLIAMENT



Atmosphere of Parliament: The atmosphere of the UK Parliament can be described as both formal and lively. Debates can be passionate, with Members of Parliament (MPs) often engaging in spirited discussions on a wide range of issues. The historic surroundings of the Palace of Westminster add to the grandeur and sense of tradition within Parliament. However, the atmosphere can also be tense, particularly during contentious debates or when important decisions are being made.

An MP's Life: Being a Member of Parliament is demanding and varied. MPs split their time between their constituency, where they represent the interests of their constituents and address local issues, and Parliament in London, where they participate in debates, scrutinize legislation, and attend committee meetings. An MP's workload can be intense, involving long hours and frequent travel between their constituency and Westminster.

Parliamentary Business: Parliamentary business encompasses a wide range of activities, including debates, voting on legislation, and committee work. The main functions of Parliament include scrutinizing proposed laws (bills), holding the government to account through questioning and debate, and representing the interests of the public. Parliament operates on a structured schedule, with specific days and times allocated for different types of business, such as Prime Minister's Questions, debates on government policies, and private members' bills.

The Party System in Parliament: The UK Parliament is dominated by political parties, with MPs usually belonging to one of the major parties: the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Scottish National Party (SNP), the Liberal Democrats, and others. MPs often align themselves with their party's policies and priorities, and party discipline plays a significant role in shaping parliamentary debates and voting patterns. The party system influences the composition of Parliament, the formation of the government, and the dynamics of decision-making within Parliament.

The House of Lords: The House of Lords is the second chamber of the UK Parliament, and it plays a complementary role to the House of Commons in scrutinizing legislation and holding the government to account. Unlike the Commons, the Lords is not elected; its members include appointed life peers, hereditary peers, and bishops of the Church of England. The House of Lords reviews and revises legislation passed by the Commons, offering expertise and alternative perspectives on proposed laws. While it does not have the same legislative powers as the Commons, the Lords plays a vital role in the legislative process and acts as a check on government power.

Summary:

These elements collectively contribute to the functioning and dynamics of the UK Parliament, shaping the legislative process and the democratic governance of the country.

Note: Parliament is separate from government. Made up of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, its role is to: look at what the government is doing. debate issues and pass new laws.

UNIT 9: FILM THE QUEEN



UNIT 9: FILM THE QUEEN

"The Queen" (2006) shows how the Monarch struggles to represent tradition, stability and unity in a time of crisis and within a modern society in constant change.

UNIT 9: FILM THE QUEEN

"The Queen" (2006)

Directed by Stephen Frears
Written by Peter Morgan
Produced by Andy Harries
Christine Langan
Tracey Seaward
Starring Helen Mirren
Michael Sheen
James Cromwell
Helen McCrory
Alex Jennings
Roger Allam
Sylvia Syms
Cinematography Affonso Beato
Edited by Lucia Zucchetti
Music by Alexandre Desplat
Production companies Pathé Renn Production
Granada Productions
BIM Distribuzione
France 3 Cinéma
Canal+

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Edited by Lucia Zucchetti
Music by Alexandre Desplat
Production companies Pathé Renn Production
Granada Productions
BIM Distribuzione
France 3 Cinéma
Canal+

UNIT 10: EDUCATION



Historical Background:

Education in the UK has a rich history dating back centuries. One pivotal moment was the Education Act of 1870, which marked the beginning of state-funded education for all children. This Act laid the foundation for the development of the modern education system in the UK. Subsequent Acts, such as the Education Act of 1944, established the framework for compulsory education up to the age of 14.

Organization:

Education in the UK is divided into several stages: early years education, primary education, secondary education, further education, and higher education. Early years education typically begins at age three and continues until the child reaches compulsory school age, which is five years old in England. Primary education covers ages five to eleven, while secondary education covers ages eleven to sixteen. Further education includes post-16 education and training, offering a variety of academic and vocational courses. Higher education consists of universities and colleges offering degree-level qualifications.

Recent Developments:

Recent developments in education in the UK have focused on improving standards, increasing access to education, and adapting to technological advancements. Initiatives such as the introduction of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in secondary schools aim to raise academic standards by emphasizing core subjects. There has also been a focus on promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects to meet the demands of the modern workforce.

School Life:

School life in the UK varies depending on the type of school and the age of the students. Primary and secondary schools typically follow a structured curriculum covering core subjects such as English, mathematics, science, and humanities. Students may also have opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, music, and drama. School days typically run from around 9 am to 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Public Exams:

Public exams play a significant role in the UK education system, particularly at the secondary level. The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is taken by students at around age sixteen and assesses their knowledge in a range of subjects. Following GCSEs, students may choose to continue their education by pursuing A-levels (Advanced Level) or vocational qualifications. A-levels are typically taken over two years and are a common requirement for entry into higher education.

Education Beyond Sixteen:

Education beyond sixteen in the UK is diverse and includes a range of options to suit different interests and career paths. Some students choose to continue their academic studies by pursuing A-levels at school or college, while others may opt for vocational qualifications such as BTECs (Business and Technology Education Council) or apprenticeships. Further education colleges and sixth form colleges offer a variety of courses catering to different skill levels and career aspirations. Additionally, initiatives such as the National Apprenticeship Programme provide opportunities for practical, on-the-job training combined with academic study.

SUMMARY:

Overall, education in the UK has a long history of evolution and adaptation, with a focus on providing quality education for all students and preparing them for success in an increasingly globalized world.

UNIT 11: HOUSING



Houses, not Flats:

In the UK, houses are a predominant form of housing, particularly in suburban and rural areas. Houses offer more space and privacy compared to flats (apartments), making them desirable for families and individuals seeking a standalone dwelling with a garden or yard. However, flats are more common in urban areas, especially in densely populated cities like London, due to limited space and higher property prices.

Private Property and Public Property:

Housing in the UK includes both private and public property. Private property refers to homes owned by individuals or families, either outright or through mortgages. Public property includes social housing provided by local authorities or housing associations, which offer affordable rented accommodation to those in need. The distinction between private and public housing plays a crucial role in addressing housing inequality and providing housing options for different income levels.

The Importance of "Home"

The concept of "home" holds significant cultural and emotional value in the UK. A home is not just a physical shelter but a place of belonging, comfort, and security. It is where individuals and families create memories, form relationships, and express their identities. The sense of home is deeply rooted in British culture, with traditions such as afternoon tea, Sunday roasts, and cozy interiors contributing to a feeling of warmth and hospitality.

Individuality and Conformity:

While there is a strong emphasis on individuality in the UK, particularly in terms of personal expression and lifestyle choices, there are also societal norms and expectations regarding housing and home design. Homeowners often strive to create spaces that reflect their unique tastes and preferences, whether through interior décor, architectural style, or landscaping. However, there can also be pressure to conform to certain standards of homeownership, such as maintaining a well-kept exterior or adhering to neighborhood regulations.

Interiors: The Importance of Coziness:

Coziness is highly valued in British homes. It refers to creating a warm, inviting atmosphere that promotes relaxation and contentment. This is often achieved through soft furnishings like blankets and cushions, warm lighting, and features such as fireplaces or wood-burning stoves. Creating a cozy interior is not just about aesthetics but also about fostering a sense of comfort and well-being within the home.

Owning and Renting

Homeownership is a significant aspiration for many in the UK, seen as a symbol of stability and financial security. However, rising property prices and stagnant wages have made it increasingly challenging for young people and low-income earners to get onto the property ladder. As a result, renting has become more common, particularly among younger generations and those living in urban areas where property prices are prohibitively high.

Homelessness remains a pressing issue in the UK, despite efforts by government and charitable organizations to address it. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of affordable housing contribute to homelessness, with vulnerable groups such as rough sleepers, refugees, and young people disproportionately affected. Initiatives such as homeless shelters, outreach programs, and social housing projects aim to provide support and assistance to those in need, but more comprehensive solutions are needed to tackle the root causes of homelessness and ensure everyone has access to safe and stable housing.

UNIT 12: FOOD AND DRINK



Yorkshire
pudding



Sunday
roast



Fish and
chips



Crumpets



Full English
breakfast



Bacon
sandwich



Bangers
and mash



Cottage
pie



Shepherd's
pie



Toad in
the hole



Cauliflower
cheese



Cornish
pasty



Pie and
mash



Chicken
tikka masala



Ploughman's
lunch



Welsh
rarebit

Attitudes to Food

In the UK, attitudes towards food have evolved significantly over the years, reflecting changes in culture, society, and lifestyle. Traditional British cuisine is known for hearty and comforting dishes such as fish and chips, roast dinners, and pies. However, with increasing globalization and multiculturalism, British diets have become more diverse, incorporating influences from around the world. There's a growing emphasis on health and sustainability, leading to a rise in vegetarian, vegan, and organic food options. Food quality and provenance are also important considerations for many consumers, with a preference for locally sourced, seasonal ingredients.

Eating Out:

Eating out is a popular pastime in the UK, with a wide range of dining options available, from casual cafes and fast-food chains to upscale restaurants and fine dining establishments. Urban areas, in particular, offer a diverse culinary scene, with cuisines from all over the world represented. British pub culture also plays a significant role in socializing and dining out, with many pubs serving traditional pub grub alongside a selection of drinks. Additionally, street food markets and food festivals are increasingly popular, providing opportunities to sample a variety of dishes in a vibrant atmosphere.

Alcohol:

Alcohol consumption is deeply ingrained in British culture, with a long history of brewing and distilling dating back centuries. Beer, ale, and cider are traditional British drinks, enjoyed in pubs and at social gatherings. Wine and spirits such as gin and whisky are also popular choices. The UK has a thriving craft beer scene, with a growing number of microbreweries producing innovative and flavorful brews. While alcohol is enjoyed responsibly by many, there are concerns about binge drinking and its associated health and social consequences, leading to campaigns promoting moderation and responsible drinking habits.

Pubs

Pubs hold a special place in British culture as community hubs where people gather to socialize, relax, and enjoy food and drink. Traditional pubs often have cozy interiors, roaring fires, and a welcoming atmosphere. They serve as meeting places for friends, families, and colleagues, offering a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as pub meals and snacks. Pubs also play a role in celebrating cultural events and traditions, such as beer festivals, pub quizzes, and live music nights. Despite facing challenges such as rising costs and changing consumer preferences, pubs remain an integral part of British life, cherished for their sense of history, camaraderie, and hospitality.

UNIT 13: HOLIDAYS



Traditional Seaside Holidays

In the UK, traditional seaside holidays have been popular for generations, offering a classic getaway experience for families and individuals seeking sun, sea, and sand. Coastal towns and resorts such as Blackpool, Brighton, and Skegness have long been favorite destinations, known for their beaches, amusement arcades, piers, and promenades. Visitors can enjoy traditional activities like donkey rides, beach volleyball, and fish and chips by the sea. While the popularity of overseas travel has increased in recent decades, seaside holidays remain a nostalgic and cherished tradition for many Britons.

Modern Holidays

Modern holidays in the UK encompass a wide range of experiences, from city breaks and cultural tours to outdoor adventures and wellness retreats. Urban centers like London, Edinburgh, and Manchester attract visitors with their world-class museums, galleries, theaters, and shopping districts. Rural areas such as the Lake District, Cornwall, and the Scottish Highlands offer opportunities for hiking, cycling, wildlife spotting, and eco-tourism. Additionally, themed holidays such as spa breaks, food and wine tours, and music festivals cater to diverse interests and preferences, reflecting the changing tastes of contemporary travelers.

Christmas and New Year

Christmas and New Year are celebrated with great enthusiasm and tradition in the UK, marking the festive season with joyous gatherings, decorations, and festivities. Christmas is a time for family reunions, gift-giving, and feasting, with traditions like decorating Christmas trees, hanging stockings, and pulling Christmas crackers. Christmas markets spring up in towns and cities, offering seasonal treats, crafts, and entertainment. On New Year's Eve, cities host fireworks displays, parties, and concerts to ring in the new year with style and excitement. Many people make resolutions for the year ahead, focusing on self-improvement and personal goals.

Other Notable Annual Occasions

The UK celebrates a variety of other annual occasions, including:

- Easter: Marked by religious observances, Easter also includes secular traditions such as egg hunts, Easter bonnet parades, and chocolate consumption.
- Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes Night): Held on November 5th, Bonfire Night commemorates the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605 with bonfires, fireworks, and the burning of effigies.
- Remembrance Day: Observed on November 11th, Remembrance Day honors the sacrifices of armed forces personnel who have died in the line of duty, with ceremonies, parades, and the wearing of poppies.
- Notting Hill Carnival: Held in London annually on the last weekend of August, the Notting Hill Carnival is Europe's largest street festival, featuring colorful parades, music, and Caribbean food.

UNIT 14: PRESENTATION

STUDENTS WORK IN GROUPS TO MAKE A PRESENTATION

Thank You for your attention !
