

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ
НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ АВІАЦІЙНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
Навчально-науковий Гуманітарний інститут
Кафедра англійської філології і перекладу

КОНСПЕКТ ЛЕКЦІЙ

з дисципліни «Лінгвокраїнознавство»
за напрямом 6.020303 «Філологія»

Укладач:

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Матеріали до тем курсу розглянуті та схвалені
на засіданні кафедри англійської філології і
перекладу

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|  | Система менеджменту якості НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНИЙ КОМПЛЕКС навчальної дисципліни «Лінгвокраїнознавство» | Шифр документа | СМЯ НАУ НМК 12.01.03-01-2016 |
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Lecture 1

INTRODUCTION. GEOGRAPHIC POSITION OF THE UK

1. Introduction. Where is the UK?
2. Basic facts of the UK.
3. Seas surrounding the UK
4. The Land
5. Geographical Extremes

Recommended literature

O'Driscoll James. Britain. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. – 224 p.

1. Where is the UK?

The UK is an island nation in Western Europe just off the coast of France. The mainland areas lie between latitudes 49°N and 59°N and longitudes 8°W to 2°E.

The UK lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, and comes within 35 km (22 miles) of the northwest coast of France, from which it is separated by the English Channel. Northern Ireland shares a 360 km international land boundary with the Republic of Ireland. The Channel Tunnel bored beneath the English Channel, now links the UK with France.

The UK has a total area of approximately 245,000 km², almost a quarter-of-a-million square kilometres.

Interesting Fact: No one in the UK lives more than 120 km (75 miles) from the sea.

2. Basic facts of the UK

Official name: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Form of government: constitutional monarchy with two legislative houses (House of Lords; House of Commons).

Chief of state: Sovereign.

Head of government: Prime Minister.

Land use (1994): forest 10.4%; pasture 45.9%; agriculture 24.8%; other 18.9%.

Gross national product (1996): U.S.\$1,152,136,000,000 (U.S.\$19,600 per capita).

3. Seas surrounding the UK

The UK is made up of several islands. The only land border connecting the UK to another country is between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The UK is bordered by four seas:

- to the south by the English Channel, which separates it from continental Europe
- to the east by the North Sea
- to the west by the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean

4. The Land

The UK is made up of:

- Great Britain (the formerly separate realms of England and Scotland, and the principality of Wales.)
- Northern Ireland (also known as Ulster)
- Numerous smaller islands including the Isle of Wight, Anglesey, and the Scilly, Orkney,

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Shetland, and Hebridean archipelagos.

The UK Landscape is very varied, ranging from the Grampian Mountains of Scotland to the lowland fens of England which are at or below sea level in places.

Facts

- The capital of England is London. Sometimes referred to the capital of Britain. London is built along the River Thames
- Three quarters of the land in Britain is used for farming
- Nine out of ten people live in towns and cities
- The highest mountains are in Scotland and Wales
- More than two-thirds of people own their own homes

The overall climate in England is called temperate maritime. This means that it is mild with temperatures not much lower than 0°C in winter and not much higher than 32°C in summer. It also means that it is damp and is subject to frequent changes.

- Interesting Fact Autumn 2000 was the wettest since records began in 1766, with a total of 503 millimetres of rainfall for September, October and November.
- The highest monthly total of sunshine on record is 384 hours in Eastbourne and Hastings, Sussex, in July 1911.
- Contrary to popular belief, it DOES NOT rain every day in England or in the rest of the UK! However, it is always advisable to bring some type of waterproof clothing and keep yourself psychologically prepared
- Annual precipitation over Great Britain

5. Geographical Extremes

Largest lake: Lough Neagh 396sq.km (153 sq miles), Northern Ireland

Deepest Lake: Loch Morar in the Highlands of Scotland, 310 m (1,017 ft) deep

Highest waterfall: Eas a'Chual Aluinn, from Glas Bheinn, also in the Highlands of Scotland, with a drop of 200 m (660 ft)

Deepest cave: Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, Powys, Wales, 308 m (1,010 ft) deep

Most northerly point on the British mainland: Dunnet Head, north-east Scotland

Most southerly point on the British mainland: Lizard Point, Cornwall

Most easterly town in England: Lowestoft, Suffolk

Land

Total land area (sq.km) 244,110 sq km (94,251 sq mi)

Area - comparative: Slightly smaller than the US state of Oregon

Just under half the size of France

30 times smaller than Australia

Coast Line: 12,429 km

Length: Just under 1,000 km (600 miles) from North to South

Width: About 480 Km from east to west

Agricultural land: 76%

Forests: 11%

Other land use: 13%

Natural Resources: coal, petroleum, natural gas, tin, limestone, iron ore, salt, clay, chalk,

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gypsum, lead, silica, arable land .

Lakes

Northern Ireland is also home to the UK's largest lake, Lough Neagh, which covers an area of 396sq.km (153 sq miles). Other major lakes include Windermere in the English Lake District and Loch Lomond in Scotland. Another of Scotland's lakes, Loch Ness is famous for sightings of 'Nessie', a mythical monster!

UK Rivers

Being a relatively small Island, the UK's rivers are not very long. The longest river in the UK is the river Severn, just 220 miles in length. It begins in Wales and enters the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol in England.

Other major rivers include the Thames, which flows through Oxford and London, and the Trent and Mersey rivers, which drain rainfall from large areas of central England.

Among the most important rivers in the UK is the Thames, which flows into the North Sea. Its length is 346 km and it is the deepest river in Britain. It is navigable as far as the capital of Great Britain – London.

The Thames flows through London, the capital city, and has played a central role in British history for some 2000 years. From the Roman invasions of 43 BC to the turn of the millennium in AD 2000, some of the most famous events in British history have taken place on or near the Thames. These include the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215, the plot to blow up the houses of Parliament in 1605 and the Great Fire of London in 1666.

The importance of the Thames can be seen in the settlements that line its banks. Royal palaces, government buildings, great trading houses, market squares and river crossings all provide links with the past. Many of these settlements have changed little in hundreds of years.

Facts about the Thames

Length 346 km (215 miles)

The Thames has been frozen over at various times, the earliest recorded occasion being AD 1150.

There is a 23-ft (7-m) difference between low and high tide at London Bridge.

The Thames is navigable by barges for 306 km (191 miles) from Lechlade.

75 bridges cross over the non-tidal Thames.

29 bridges cross over the tidal Thames

From its source to the sea, it is estimated that the Thames carries some 300,000 tonnes of sediment a year.

More than 100 fish species have been recorded in the Thames estuary over the past 30 years, many of these in the river within London.

The Thames has been featured in many books including 'Three Men in a Boat', 'Alice in Wonderland', 'The Wind in the Willows', and Dickens, in whose novels the Thames is a dank, stinking sludge, the scene of murders and crime.

The River Thames is the cleanest river in the world that flows through a major city. This is a major feat considering that fifty years ago the river was so polluted that it was declared biologically dead.

From 1830 to 1860 tens of thousands of people died of cholera as a result of the pollution in the Thames. Sewage was being discharged directly into the Thames. Despite the foul smell, people continued to wash and bathe and drink from the river.

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In 1855, a letter from Michael Faraday in *The Times* newspaper, London, described the polluted state of the River Thames he had observed on a boat trip:

"The whole of the river was an opaque pale brown fluid. surely the river which flows for so many miles through London ought not to be allowed to become a fermenting sewer."

In 1878 the pleasure steamship *Princess Alice* sunk in a river collision. Most of the 600 or so passengers who died did not die from drowning, they died because of the pollution in the river.

The Longest River

The Severn, 322 km long, which rises in central Wales and flows through Shrewsbury, Worcester and Gloucester in England to the Bristol Channel

At 4406ft or 1344m, Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in the country. That's the good news. The bad news is that it's probably also the most popular. And simply in terms of people lifted or carried off, it is also probably the most dangerous.

Lecture 2 History of the UK

1. Introduction.
2. Pre-historic time
3. Raids and invasions.
4. Modern time.

Recommended literature

O'Driscoll James. Britain. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. – 224 p.

3500BC Early Man

The British Isles were inhabited by Neolithic Man.

800BC Celtic invasions

The Celts mixed with the original inhabitants.

54BC Roman invasions The Romans conquered England and Wales and stayed for 400 years. Hadrian's Wall was built between England and Scotland, which remained independent.

450AD Anglo-Saxon invasions

Angles, Saxons and Jutes started to colonise Britain when the Romans left. By 600AD, they were well established in most of Britain.

800AD Viking raids

The Vikings raided the east coast of Britain and some settled. In 885 the Danes were given a large part of northern England, which was known as the Danelaw, and Danish kings ruled England from 1016-42.

1066 The Norman Conquest

The Normans under William the Conqueror defeated the Anglo-Saxons at the Battle of Hastings. Normans replaced Saxons in most positions of authority and, for a while, French was the more important language. Eventually the two races and the two languages merged to become English.

1215 A treaty called the *Magna Carta* was signed by King John and his lords. It is an important document on the long road to democracy in that it limits the king's rights and establishes the rights of his subjects.

1282 Wales was conquered by the English king.

1564 William Shakespeare was born: the greatest writer of English that has ever lived. He died in 1616.

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1588 *The Spanish Armada was defeated*, which prevented Spain from invading England.

1603 *Scotland and England were united under King James I.*

1605 *The Gunpowder Plot*: Guy Fawkes and other Catholic conspirators tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament when the king was there.

1642-49 *The English Civil War took place*, in which the king was defeated and later executed by the Parliamentarians. This was followed by ten years when England did not have a monarch, but was ruled by Parliament under Oliver Cromwell.

1750 The start of the *Industrial Revolution*.

1800 *Ireland was joined with Great Britain.*

1815 *England under Wellington defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.*

1912 The south of Ireland became independent when the *Republic of Ireland* (or Eire) was established.

1914-18 *The First World War*

1939-45 *The Second World War*

1973 *Great Britain joined the European Economic Community (EEC)* which became the European Union (EU).

Prehistoric Period

55 BC

Roman general Julius Caesar lands in Britain with an expeditionary force, wins a battle and leaves. The first “date” in popular British history

AD 43

The Romans come to stay

61

Queen Boudicca of the Iceni tribe leads a bloody revolt against the Roman occupation. It is supposed. There is a statue of Boudicca, made in the 19th century, outside the Houses of Parliament. This has helped to keep the memory of her alive.

- Hadrian’s Wall is the most important monument built by the Romans in Britain. It is the best known frontier in the entire Roman Empire and stands as a reminder of the past glories of one of the world's greatest civilisations. Its origins lie in a visit by the Emperor Hadrian to Britain in AD 122 when he ordered the wall to be built to mark the northern boundary of his Empire and 'to separate the Romans from the Barbarians'. This title details the design, development and construction of the wall and covers the everyday lives of those who manned it as well as the assaults it withstood.

410 The Romans leave Britain

- Arthur, it seems, is claimed as the King of nearly every Celtic Kingdom known. The 6th century certainly saw many men named Arthur born into the Celtic Royal families of Britain but, despite attempts to identify the great man himself amongst them, there can be little doubt that most of these people were only named in his honour. Princes with other names are also sometimes identified with "Arthwyr" which is thought by some to be a title similar to "Vortigern".

432 St Patrick converts Ireland to Christianity

597 St Augustine arrives to England

793

- The great monastery on the island of Lindisfarne in the northeast England is destroyed by Vikings and its monks killed.

878

- The Peace of Edington partitions England between the Saxons, led by King Alfred, and the Danes

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973

- Edgar, grandson of Alfred, becomes King of England

1014

- Brian Boru's Irish army defeats the Vikings at Clontarf (near modern Dublin). As a result, Viking settlement in Ireland remains limited and Ireland retains its Celtic identity, never becoming the part of the Scandinavian empire.

1066 The Battle of Hastings

1086

- King William's officials complete the Domesday book, a very detailed, village-by village record of the people and their possessions throughout his kingdom.

Robin Hood

1171

- The Norman barons known as Strongbow and his followers settled in Ireland.
- 1215
- An Alliance of aristocracy, Church and merchants force King John to agree to Magna Carta (Great Charter), a document in which the king agrees to follow certain rules of government. In fact, neither John, nor his successors entirely followed them, but Magna Carta is remembered as the first time a monarch agreed in writing to abide by formal procedures.
- 1538
- An English language version of the Bible replaced Latin Bibles in every church in land.