

Topic 4: Political Life - instructions and questions

Please, study the following resources to answer the questions below:

O'Driscoll, J.: Britain for Learners of English, Oxford University Press 2013 (pp. 43 - Encyclopedia Britannica (online))

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph (p. 69) of the political satire: Yes, Prime Minister?
2. what is the common attitude of the public to politics
3. Compare the current attitude to politics with the one in the past. What was different?
4. What is the aim of the satire Yes, Prime Minister?
5. What is the common attitude of the British towards creating and passing new laws?
6. How is Britain different from the other countries with respect to identity cards? Give a brief insight into the history.
7. Explain the "Freedom of Information Act." Give a brief insight into the history.
8. What are the two aspects characteristic of the relationship between the individual and the state in Great Britain?
9. In what way is Britain different from other countries concerning the "big" / constitutional changes in the country?
10. What are the two referendums concerning joining / leaving European institutions in the British history? When were they held?
11. Explain the notion of Britain being the constitutional monarchy.
12. Give at least three examples of countries with the political system of monarchy (Except Great Britain).
13. Explain the quote "political life in Britain is still influenced by the traditional respect for privacy and love of secrecy"
14. Explain the notion of "two-party system" in Britain.
15. In what way is the history of forming new political parties in Britain different from forming political parties in other countries?
16. describe / give details of forming political parties in 18th cent. Britain.
17. What is the history of the Conservative party in Great Britain?
18. What is the history of the Labour Party in Great Britain?

19. What is the history of the Liberal Democratic Party in Great Britain?
20. What the four main parties in Northern Ireland?
21. What are some of the other parties in Great Britain (except for the three dominant parties)?
22. What are the possible consequences of the fact that the party system originated in inside Parliament?
23. What is the main idea of the “Private Eyes” magazine? / what does it cover?
24. Explain / describe the Rushdie affair.
25. Explain the pairing system in British government.