

History

793 The beginning of Viking invasion of Britain.

AD 43 Roman invasion of Britain.

871 Alfred, King of Wessex, ended the power of Danes in England.

1066 Normans conquered England. The Saxon King Harold II was defeated at Hastings by William Duke of Normandy, who became William I (the Conqueror).

1215 King John was forced by powerful English barons to sign the Magna Carta, which limited his power.

1338 The beginning of the Hundred Years War between England and France. The final defeat of English at the Battle of Castillon in 1453 was the end of this conflict.

1455 - 1485 The War of the Roses; the conflict between the Houses of Lancaster and York for the English throne. Edward IV became the first king of the House of York in 1461.

1534 Henry VIII of England broke with Rome; by the Act of Supremacy he gained control over the Church of England. In 1541 he declared himself King of Ireland.

1587 Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed on the orders of Elizabeth I.

1588 The invasion of Britain by Spain was stopped by the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

1660 Restoration of the monarchy under Charles II.

1688 The 'Glorious Revolution'; the removal of James II from the throne in favour of William of Orange (William III) and Mary of England.

1815 The Duke of Wellington's victory at the Battle of Waterloo ended the Napoleonic Wars.

1833 Slavery was abolished in the British Empire.

1851 The Great Exhibition in London celebrated Great Britain's prosperity.

1858 Elizabeth I succeeded to the English throne.

1603 Union of English and crowns.

1642 Outbreak of English Civil War.

1649 Charles I. was beheaded, and a republic was declared.

1707 Act of Union formally united England and Scotland as the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

1801 The Act of Union incorporated Ireland into Great Britain.

1851 The Great Exhibition in London celebrated Great Britain's prosperity.

1805 Admiral Horatio Nelson's victory over the French fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar saved Britain from the danger of invasion.

1851 The Great Exhibition in London celebrated Great Britain's prosperity.

1921 The Irish Free State was created. The British kingdom was renamed to United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

1936 Edward VIII abdicated in order to marry an American divorcee, Wallis Warfield Simpson.

1936 Edward VIII abdicated in order to marry an American divorcee, Wallis Warfield Simpson.

1940 Victory in the air during the Battle of Britain prevented a German invasion.

1945 After victory in World War II, the Labour party initiated reforms to make Great Britain a welfare state.

1947 The British colonies of India and Pakistan became independent nations. Many other British colonies became independent in the following years.

1953 The Coronation of the Queen Elizabeth II.

1972 Northern Ireland came under direct government rule to try to stop violence between Catholics and Protestants.

1973 Great Britain became a member of the European Community.

1979 Margaret Thatcher became the first woman prime minister.

1982 Great Britain defeated Argentina after Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands.

1991 Large numbers of the British armed forces took part in the Gulf War.

1992 A general election resulted in a narrow victory for the Conservative party.

1994 The Channel rail tunnel linking Great Britain and France was opened.

1997 Tony Blair, a Labour politician, became the prime minister with a very large majority of the Labour Party in the parliament.

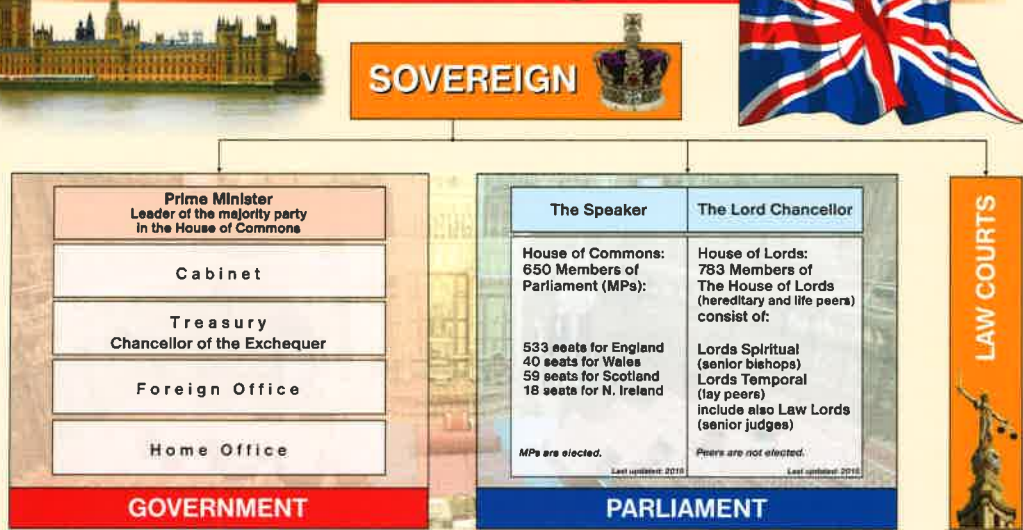
2007 Tony Blair resigned and was replaced by Gordon Brown.

2005 Four terrorists' attacks in London's subways.

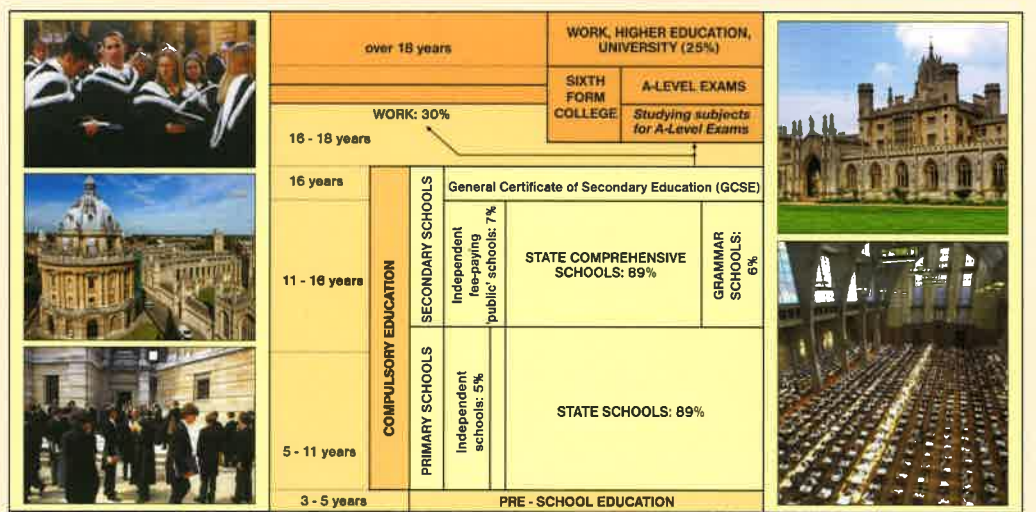
18 September 2014 The Scottish independence referendum said "No".

27 July 2012 London hosts the Summer Olympics.

Political System



The U.K. Education System



Food

BREAKFAST

English Breakfast (2): fried bacon, sausages, eggs, tea, tomatoes and mushrooms

Continental breakfast (1): cereal, toast with orange or ginger jam, tea

LUNCH

restaurants, fast food restaurants (4), packed lunch or picnic (3)

AFTERNOON TEA

a cup of tea with sandwiches and cakes (5)

DINNER

main meal of the day (6), often convenience food bought in a shop and heated at home

Typical British meals are fish and chips (8, 11), roast beef (9) and Yorkshire pudding (7), Christmas Pudding (10).

Housing

Nearly 80% of people live in houses. A typical family consists of 2 parents and 2 children.

COUNTRY

- detached
- small old house
- cottage

SUBURB

- semi-detached
- bungalows
- terraced
- terraced houses

CITY

- terraced
- apartment block
- block of flats

Sports

The most popular sports are: walking, swimming, cycling, football (11), polo (7), golf (9), cricket (1), rugby (8), tennis (6,10), fishing and horse racing (2).

CALENDAR OF SPORT EVENTS:

- March: The rowing race between the Cambridge and Oxford Universities on the Thames (3)
- April: The London Marathon (5) is one of the biggest marathons in the world.
- May: The Football Association (FA) Cup Final at Wembley Stadium in London (11)
- June: Royal Ascot (2) is one of the biggest horse racing events.
- July: Henley Regatta is the largest rowing competition on the Thames.
- Wimbledon tennis championship in London (6, 10)
- Grand Prix F1 - Silverstone (4)

Currency

The monetary unit is a **pound (£1)**. The smallest coin is a penny. 1 pound (£1) = 100 pence (100p)

COINS:

PAPER NOTES:

£1 is informally called a **quid**, £5 a **fiver** and £10 a **tenner**

What is different?

IMPERIAL UNITS:

LENGTH: 1 inch = 25,4 mm, 1 mile = 1,61 km, 1 foot = 30,5 cm, 1 yard = 0,914 m

VOLUME (LIQUID): 1 pint = 0,568 l, 1 gallon = 4,546 l

WEIGHT: 1 pound = 0,453 kg, 1 ounce = 28,35 g

Left side driving

Plugs

Travelling to Great Britain

Half of the people travelling to Britain, arrive by ferry (1) or hovercraft. The English Channel is very busy and Dover (2) with its white cliffs is the busiest terminal in Europe. The journey between Dover and Calais in France takes approximately 75 minutes.

In 1994 the Channel Tunnel called also "Chunnel" was opened. The entrance is near Folkestone (3). The journey through the tunnel takes about 15 to 20 minutes. It is possible to travel by car or lorry which are driven into special trains or as a foot passenger.

There are plane connections (4) to London and other big cities as Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Belfast, Aberdeen and Newcastle. London has four airports: Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and the City Airport. Heathrow is the busiest international airport in the world. The most popular way to get around London is the underground (5), taxis (cabs) and famous double-deckers (6).