1-Four Nations & Their Identities

A-Terminology

- Great Britain (3=England, Scotland and Wales)
- The United Kingdom (4= Northern Ireland, Wales, England, Scotland)
- adopted in 1922: The United Kingdom of Great Britain an Northern Ireland
- It does not include the Republic of Ireland (Eire), The channel Islands (Jersey, Guernsey,etc) or the Isle of Man;

B-Capitals, Flags & traditions
**Britain**

Capital: London  
Flag: cross of St George, patron saint of England.  
St George: Christian martyr who killed a dragon  
National day: 23 April.  
National Flower: rose (since the war of the roses, 1445-1485)  
Queen’s Birthday: 21 April, celebrate it in June 1st.  
It’s a very popular Pub name, but it’s not a national holiday.

**Wales**

Capital: Cardiff  
Flag: Baner Cymru (or: Y Ddraig Goch) made official 1959  
St David: Saint Patron of Wales, missionary and abbot  
National day: 1st March, flag of St David’s flown  
Emblems and flower: leeks and daffodils.

**Scotland**

Capital: Edinburgh  
Flag: The Saltire, cross of St Andrew, patron saint of Scotland  
St Andrew: one of Jesus 12 apostles, whose bones were taken to Scotland in the 4th century  
National day: 30th Andrew’s day is 30th November, but Scots prefer to celebrate Burns Night on 25th January. (after Robert Burns)

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Capital: Belfast  
Flag: cross of St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland  
St Patrick: missionary & bishop, Apostle of Ireland  
Legends about shamrock or driven snakes away.  
National day: 17th March, widely celebrated  
Flower: plant: Shamrock

**UNION JACK:**

1606: first version, used at sea, following the accession of James 1 to the throne 1603). The welsh flag was not included because Wales was already united with England  
1801: The Irish cross of Saint Patrick was added to make the Union Jack.  
The UJ serves as a base for the flag of former colonies... (Australia, New Zealand...).
C-Geography

2 main islands = smaller ones (ex: Orkney, Shetland & Hebrides Island off the coast of Scotland, Channel Islands, Isle of Wight, Isle of Man)
94,060 square miles = 243,610 km² less than half the size of metropolitan France (551,695) (1 mile = 1.6 km)

Plains, Hills & low mountains, highest point: Ben Nevis (4,409 ft or 1,344 m)

Indented coastline: no place is more than 78 miles (125 km) from tidal water

Main rivers: the Thames, the Severn, the Humber, the Tees, The Tyne, the Tweed, the Avon, the Exe and the Mersey.

Terrain/ Topography

England: Rather flat except for the Cambrian mountains (NW and the Pennines (Glens and Lochs)
Wales hills, mountains
Scotland: hilly mountain

Natural Resources

Coal: (North, South Wales) declining industry, the last deep coal mine closed in December 2015
Petroleum (North Sea) argument for Scottish independence
Tin, Iron Salt, Lead, Silica
Agricultural land: richest soils in the south (East Anglia)

Tacher was suspected to want the Scottish Oil (Vampire add)

Climate

Mild climate, extreme temperatures very rate, moderating influence of the sea, 1/3 days of rain, sunniest & warmest area: south west, driest area SE vs Wettest areas: Lake District & Scotland’s Western Highlands.

Demography

66,04 million mid 201 (12M from 1951), greater population density in England, lower population density in Scotland

The Baby Boom was just after the second world war &nd in the 1960’s, which is causing problems now: they’re now retire. (OADR: Old-age dependency ration: over 65). The turning point as in 2001, people over 60 > children under 16.
You could get Contraception, work & higher education for women which resulted in fewer births.

The population is rather urban, with the greater in London: (8,78 mid 2016), a great diversity, Suburbs vs inner city. The life expectancy in 2016: 82,9 for women, 79,2 for men. Rapid rise due to living standards.
Immigration

- Religious migrations
  - English & Scottish Protestants -> Northern Ireland 18th century)
  - Irish Catholics -> Scotland 19th century).
  - Eastern & central Europe -> UK (20th century -> mostly Jews)
- Former colonies
- Asylum seekers and political refugees
- Multiculturalism
  - 14% of the population (comparable to France)
  - half is Asian/ Asian British, often Indian or Pakistani descent
  - Lower-income households
  - younger age average
- Multiculturalism is a big fact in England and became popular with « New Labour’s election in 1997. With fears of extremism and radicalization after the July 205 terrorist attacks in London’s public transport.

We believe in respecting different faiths, but also expecting those faiths to support the British way of life.

DAVID CAMERON, JULY 2015

Religion

Elizabeth the first, started the tradition of tolerance, Elizabethan religious settlement 1558-1559. The British monarch is the « Supreme Governor of the Church of England ». Christians represents 59,3% of the English & Welsh population

Main churches:

- Church of England / Anglican (protestant)
- Church of Scotland (protestant)
- « Dissenters »/ » Non Conformist »
- Non-Christians (4,8% in England and Wales)
- Muslims 1,5
- Hindus
- Less than 1% Sikhs, Jews, Buddhists
- Atheists 25.1%(France: almost 40%)

Languages

- Official : English
- Wales = Welsh (25%, first language for 20%)
- Scotland = Gaelic spoken by 1.2%
- Minority languages : Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Urbu, Arabic, Chinese

Union & Devolution

- Wales : conquered 1232, full parliamentary union 1536
- Scotland : same sovereign 1603, Act of Union 1707
- Ireland : Act of Union 1801, Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921
Partition of Ireland, with 6 northern Irish counties remaining part of the UK

- Devolution for Scotland & Wales
- Nationalist parties : SNP, Plaid Cymru
- Since 1960’s, aspirations to « devolution »
- Devolution : Decentralization, transfer of power from to the region, more-self-government but no independence
- 1978 : The Wales Act : Separate Parliaments possible if 40% voters say yes in referendum
- 1 March 1979 : Welsh voters said « No », Scottish voters said « yes » but low turnout (51.5%) of votes but only 32.9% of the total registered electorate)
- 1997 : Landslide victory of Labour Party with devolution promises
- September 1997 : Referendum, yes =50.3% votes in Wales, 74.3 votes in Scotland
Devolution for Wales
- 1998: Government of Wales Act
- « National Assembly for Wales », 60 members, 1st elected in May 1999, budget and vote on major Welsh issues (education, health, economy, housing, transport, culture, tourism) but no votes on taxes
- Welsh Assembly members = AMs
- Still 40 MPs in the Westminster Parliament, London

Devolution for Scotland
- 1998: Scotland Act
- Members = MSPs
- Still 59 MPs in the Westminster Parliament, London

Independence for Scotland?
- SNP First Minister since 2007
- First Minister Alex Salmond obtained a referendum on Scottish independence in September 2014
- Promises of « Devo-Max »
- High turnout: 84.6%
- 55.3% « no » = A. Salmond resigned
- First Minister since 2014: Nicolas Sturgeon

The case of Ireland
- 1640’s: Colonization. English protestants settled in Northern Ireland. Confiscation of land from the Catholics
- Around 1900: Home Rule Bills
- 1916: Proclamation of the Irish Republic, Easter uprising
- 1922: Partition of Ireland and official creation of the Republic of Ireland
- 1970’s: Terrorism of the IRA (Irish Republican Army)

Devolution for Northern Ireland
- 1921-1972 existence of a « Parliament of Northern Ireland » which always had has an Uester Unionist Party (UUP) majority
- 1973: Referendum => 99% voted to remain in the UK

Northern Ireland Assembly to restore devolution with power shared between Irish Nationalists and unionists
- Dissolution of Assembly in 1986
- 1998: Good Friday Agreement + Northern Ireland Act
- N.I Assembly reinstated, based in Stormont Castle
- 108 members of the Legislature Assembly (MLA)
- But suspended since 2017
- Still 18 MPs in the Westminster Parliament, London

Further Devolution & Independence issues
- Ireland: Sinn Fein MPS (7 at the moment) refuse to swear allegiance to the Queen and do not sit in Westminster (abstentionist policy) assembly still suspended
- Scotland voted 62 % against Brexit = Indyref 2 ?
- The « English Question »: No regional Parliament, Only Westminster
- « West Lothian Question »: Welsh + Scottish MP scan vote on English Questions
- Devolution also to the city of London since 2000 (1998 vote = 72% in favour)

Conclusion
- 4 regions with distinct identities
- Historical & cultural identity
- Linguistic specialties, including accents
- A united kingdom ?
Principles of the Constitution

Rule 1 of Law = All are equal
● Separation of Powers
● Law Lords
● 2005 Constitutional Reform Act => New Supreme court

A written Constitution?

● Absence of one single written constitution, except under Oliver Cromwell
● 1653-1657 Instrument of Government
● 1657-1660 Humble Petition and Advice

Sources of the Constitution

Statute Law

● 1215 : Magna Carta. Limitations to Royal rights / abuses (King John)
● 1628 : Petition of Rights. No taxation without the consent of the House of Commons
● 1679 Habeas Corpus Act
● 1689 : Bill of Rights
● Consequence of « Glorious Revolution » (1688)
● End to the « Divine Rights of Kings »
● No one is above the law
● Parliament approval needed to raise taxes, or to keep an army in times of peace
● Authority of Parliament over the sovereign
● 1701 Act of Settlement. Illegitimate, adopted or Catholic persons excluded from Royal Succession. Need for sovereign to be protestant. Primo-geniture
● 1707 : Act of Union
● 1832, 1867, 1884 Reform Act, completed by Representation of the People Acts (1918,1969)
● Equal Franchise Act (1928)
● 1911 Parliament Act : Less power for the House of Lords + No more than 5 years (rather than 7) between general elections
● All previous laws = STATUTE LAWS
But there is also :

● COMMON LAW and CASE LAW (precedents)
● CONVENTIONS and CUSTOMS (Traditional practices that have acquired the force of laws. Ex : Royal assent)

European Union Law

● 1972 : European Communities Act => Europe > Domestic Law
● Brexit => EU legislation may be annulled or amended
2-Constitution & Political System

1-The Political System

The Bill of Rights in 1689, it was the consequence of Glorious Revolution in 1688, end to the Diving right of kings, no one is above the law.

1972: European Communities act -> European Domestic law.
1998: European convention on Human Rights adopted

Unwritten and UN-codified constitution= flexibility & durability but:

- Criticism of unelected chamber (House of Lords)
- Lack of restraining parliamentary checks and balances
- Governments with strong majority can pass rushed legislation
- 2005 : Constitutional Reform Act => Law Lords no longer in House of Lords, formed a Supreme Court
- 2010: coalition agreement.
- 2011: Fixed-term Parliament act, every 5 years but the Prime minister still can call an election (the last one in date is 2017 by Theresa May).
- 2011: Alternative Vote rejected still no proportional representation
- 2013: succession to the crown act

House of Lords Reform Bill = withdrawn.

Britain still has no written constitution, an UN-elected second chamber and calls to reduce the number of peers in the house of lords with a possible repeal of EU legislation , including the European Convention on Human Rights

2-The Monarchy

a) Who is she?

The monarchy is the oldest institution on the UK. with;

- The House of Normandy (1066-1189)
- Plantagenets (1189-1483)
- The Tudors (1483-1603)
- The Stuarts (1603-1714)
- The Hanover's (1714-1901)
- The Saxe-Coburg became the Windsor since 1917)

Today the sovereign is Elisabeth II, she was born in 1926, eldest child of George 6, succeeded her father in 1952 with coronation in 1953, married to Philip Mountbatten in 1947 and had 4 children. In 2012 Diamond Jubilee since 2015 she is the longest serving monarch. The national anthem is God save the Queen or God save the King but technically it isn’t official.

b) Her powers

She rains but doesn’t rules, she has to remain above party politics, she doesn’t vote, symbolize unity & continuity of the kingdom. She also performs the ceremonial, constitutional & diplomatic duties; meeting politicians and dignitaries.
c) Her Titles & Duties

- Head of State
- Head of the Commonwealth
- Head of the armed forces
- Head of the Church of England and the Church of Scotland
- Head of the Executive

She does the opening of parliament before the general election and she has to dissolve the Parliament. Before a bill becomes a law it needs the queen’s signature. She also has to appoint and dismiss the prime ministers, but is a formality. She also has a weekly meeting with the prime minister.

*The sovereign has under a constitutional monarchy such as ours three rights; the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn*

*WALTER BAGEHOT, THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION 1867*

She can offer a Royal Pardon, attributes honors (knighthood, commander, member or officer of the order of the British Empire. She does state visits and parades & ceremonies.

d) Royal finances

The queen is on the civil list (it’s a list of person founded by the state), but since 1994 it’s only the Queen and Prince Philip. They distributes the money in the family and live of their estate. In 1992 (Annus Horribilis) the Queen agreed to pay taxes since 2001 publication of royal accounts in an effort towards a greater transparency.

e) The crises

- 1936: Abdication crisis
- 1992: Annus Horribilis
- 1997: Princess Diana’s death (was seen insensible)

f) The modernization and polarization

The people wants to keep the monarchy (2/3). Both heirs married Commoners (William & Catherine Middleton Harry &Meghan Markle)
3-The UK & Europe

A complex history

- After WW2: « United States of Europe » promoted to preserve place
- 1951: European Coal & Steel Community
- 1957: European Economic Community (EEC)
- The UK did not join & tried to create a European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Difficult integration

- British request to join EEC vetoed by France 1961, 1967
- 1st January, 1973: Britain joined EEC under PM Edward Heath confirmed by 1975 referendum
- Concerns about loss of sovereignty + cost of CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)
- Margaret Thatcher = Interested in economic advantage only
- Signed Single European Act (SEA) in 1986
- 1992: Maastricht Treaty = greater integration
- Britain: not part of Eurozone (Tony Blair gave up on a ref. he had announced in 1997)
- Division of both Conservative & Labour parties over the European question

The British Referendum

- Promised by David Cameron in 2013, if re-elected in 2015
- Attempt to counter the growth of UKIP
- Division of Conservatives: Boris Johnson and Michael Gove campaigned against David Cameron
- Referendum held on 23rd June 2016

Explanations for the vote

- Blame on immigration for the UK's problems
- Remain supported by main party leaders, but lack of active campaigning
- Belief that « Vote Leave » would never win

How to Brexit?

- Resignation of D. Cameron
- Succeeded by T. May, also originally a remainder
- 29/03/2017: Article 50 triggered
- Lack of consensus on « soft » vs « hard » Brexit
- 15/01/2019: 432 MPs vs 202 voted to reject the deal negotiated by Theresa May with the EU
- 16/01/2019: T. May survived a vote of no confidence (326 vs 305)
- Growing divisions in political parties
- Prospects: No deal? Second referendum? Extension?
4-Health & Education

Health and Welfare

- First measures from 1908:
  - old age pensions
  - unemployment benefits
  - minimum age
  - maternity leave
  - health care for workers
- 1940s: new dimension, «Welfare State»
- 1942: Beveridge Report = 5 great Evils (Idleness, Want, Disease, Squalor, Ignorance)
- 1945-1951: Labour Government led by Clement Attlee
- 1946: National Health Service Act
- 1948: NHS launched
- Increasing pressure on the Welfare State after 1980
- Attempts to cut costs, especially under Conservative governments (M.Thatcher, D.Cameron)

Today

- Free consultation with a GP (General Practitioner) but ...
  - Flat-rate prescription charge (£8.80)
  - People have to pay for dental treatment & eye test

Current social issues

- Increasing income gap
- Difficulty to climb the social ladder
- Emphasis on individual responsibility against the «culture of entitlement»
- Food banks, temporary & zero-hour contracts

Education

- 1870: Foster Act first involvement of State in education but many children couldn’t go to school
- 1944: Butler Act: free and compulsory schooling 5-15
- 1973: Compulsory school until age 16
- 2013, 2015: compulsory school until age 17 then 18 in England

After the 11= Exam:
- Grammar Schools for brighter pupils
- Secondary Modern Schools for the less clever
- Technical Schools for the non-academic

Today only 163 grammar schools left project not to open new ones, David Cameron wanted to end them as an relic of the past but Theresa May wants to keep them even build new ones.
The different stage of education

- Under 5 nursery School
- Age 5-11 Primary School
- Age 11-16 Secondary School = High School
- Age 16-18 Same secondary School or Sixth form college or technical college.
- National Curriculum since 1992
- Ofsted office for standards in Education inspects schools at least every 3 years
- Most schools are organized and maintained by the LEAs (Local Education Authorities)
- Obligatory Subjects English Math Science (core subjects) Computing, Citizenship, PE
- State System is more than 90% of schools, others are independent, fee-paying schools. They are private, but some of them are called Public Schools.

Grades & Degrees

- GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary Education
- A Level (3 subjects to choose)
- Grades
  - A to E. Best grade A+
  - 1 to 9 Best grade 9

Further Education

- UCAS: Universities and Colleges Admissions System
- Application to 5 universities
- (Non)provisional offer of a place or refusal. (according to the grades or else)
- Possibility of Gap Year

Type of Universities

- Ancient Universities: Oxfod, Cambridge, St Andrew’s, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Eddinburg, Wales...
- Red Brick Universities: Liverpool, Manchester Sheffield
- New universities (former polytechnics)
- Open University

Degrees

- Bachelor Degree: 3 years
- Arts: BA Degree
- Science: BSc Degree
- Education: Bed
- Law: BL
- Master Degree: 1-2 more years: MA Degree
- Doctorate: PhD

Results

- First/1st: Excellent (5%)
- Upper Second 2.1/ very Good 40%
- Lower Second /2.2: Good 40%
- Third: Satisfactory 10%
- Pass or Fail
Cost

- From 1998-99: Tuition fees (1000/ year)
- From 2006-2007: each university can decide how much to charge within limits (3,290 for 2010)
- From 2012-2013: cap of 9000/year

Conclusion

Pride of the NHS, for which the labour party often claims credit
High ranking universities, (Cambridge#3, Oxford #7, Sorbonne#36, ENS#64)
BUT: High cost of studies, cost & waiting list for healthcare, social gap/ inequalities.

5- Media, Culture, Music & Cinema

Our Reach is about much more than millitary might, It’s about our music, film, TV, fashion. The UK is the soft power super power

David Cameron, about the UK 7th February