



Questions for Unit 0 (Introduction)

1. Discuss the meaning of the following terms. When should you use them? When should you *not* use them? Do any of them pose translation problems (DE-EN and/or EN-DE)?
 - a) British Isles
 - b) Great Britain
 - c) Britain
 - d) British
 - e) England
 - f) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 - g) Ireland
 - h) Northern Ireland
2. Describe (and sketch) the following flags:
 - a) the flag of England
 - b) the flag of Wales
 - c) the flag of Scotland
 - d) the flag of St Patrick
 - e) the flag of the Republic of Ireland (Eire)
 - f) the flag of the Kingdom of Great Britain
 - g) today's Union Jack
 - h) the flag of Australia
 - i) the flag of New Zealand





Questions for Unit 1 (Geology)

1. Where were England and Scotland situated in the Cambrian period, and how did they get to where they are today?
2. Where are the oldest rocks in Britain?
3. When did the mountains of the Scottish Highlands form? How?
4. Where is Siccar Point, and why is it important for the history of geology?
5. Who is ...
 - a) ...the “father of modern geology”?
 - b) ...the “father of British geology”?
6. What are Britain’s most important geological resources, and where are they located?
7. What metal was Britain famous for in antiquity, and why did people need it?
8. The White Cliffs of Dover...
 - a) ...what are they made of?
 - b) ...what is their symbolic significance?
9. How much of the British Isles was covered by ice sheets during the last Ice Age?
10. What river would the Thames be a tributary of if the sea levels fell again?





Questions for Unit 2 (Geography, Climate, Initial Human Settlement)

1. Name five important rivers in Great Britain and Ireland. Where are they? Why are they important? Be prepared to identify them on a map.
2. Make sure you can identify at least four firths on a map. Where is the Bristol Channel? the English Channel? the Wash? the Humber estuary? the Thames estuary?
3. List 15 of the 20 biggest cities or towns in the UK and 4 of the 10 biggest cities or towns in the Republic of Ireland. Be prepared to identify them on a map. How/why are these towns or cities culturally and/or economically important?
4. Identify the following on a map: the South Downs, Salisbury Plain, the Cotswold Hills, the Midlands, the Tees-Exe line, the Pennines, the Lake District, the Lowlands, the Highlands, the Grampians, the Highland Boundary Fault.
5. What are the latitude and longitude of the British Isles?
6. Where is Lough Neagh? How do you pronounce its name? How was it formed (according to Irish legend)?
7. On the banks of which rivers are the following towns and cities located? Dublin. London. Glasgow. Liverpool. Newcastle.
8. Compare the climate of the London with the climate of New York. What is the major factor that makes the climate of the British Isles different from the climate of the upper east coast of North America?
9. What would have been the consequences for the history of human settlement and population development in Great Britain if
 - a) the entire island had been flat?
 - b) the mountainous parts had been in the southeast rather than the northwest?
10. Who were the first people to settle in Britain after the last Ice Age, and where did they come from? What other groups of permanent settlers came later?





Questions for Unit 3 (Roman Britain)

1. When, how and why did Britain become romanized? How much of Britain did the Romans occupy? How much did they succeed in romanizing?
2. Who was Boadicea? Why is she remembered?
3. What was life like in Roman Britain? How do we know? What is the modern name of Eboracum? What was the Roman name for London? Why is London where it is, and not elsewhere?
4. When, how and why did Roman Britain end? What was the Saxon Shore? Was it unusual within the Roman Empire? Why?
5. What was the legacy of Roman Britain? Consider the effects on: language; customs and lifestyle; government and law.
6. How and why did the effects of the Roman period in Britain differ from the effects of the Roman period in Gaul?
7. How did Britain become Christian? How did Ireland become Christian? (And looking ahead to the units to come: List the main changes that took place in the history of Christianity in Britain and Ireland, including the dates they happened.)
8. Did King Arthur exist? Explain briefly.





Questions for Unit 4 (Anglo-Saxons and Vikings)

1. How did England become English?
2. What (and when) was the Synod of Whitby?
3. What are some of the linguistic clues you can use to establish whether the name of a town in the U.K. is of Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, or Viking origin?
4. Briefly compare the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, and the Vikings in terms of i) their social organization and ii) their level of technological development.
5. Explain the terms *Northumbria*, *Mercia*, *Wessex*, *Bretwalda*, *Danelaw* and *Danegeld*. Who were Horsa and Hengist? Who was Alfred? Who was Canute?
6. Briefly describe the feudal system of production, and contrast it with that of antique slave societies and later capitalist societies.





Questions for Unit 5 (Middle Ages)

1. Did Robin Hood really exist, and what do the Robin Hood stories tell us about the middle ages in England?
2. “*Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?*” Who (is claimed to have) said that? When? What was the result? How was the resulting power conflict resolved? Was this in any way like the “*Gang nach Canossa*” of German history?
3. Mention one or more stories associated with the life of each of these leaders: i) Canute, ii) Alfred, iii) William I, iv) Edward I, v) Edward II, vi) Edward III, vii) Henry VII,
4. What were the effects of the plague of 1348 on feudal society in England?
5. The Hundred Years’ War, the Wars of the Roses,—when did they take place, and what were they about? How were they resolved?





Questions for Unit 6 (Absolutism and Reformation)

1. Compare mercantile capitalism in 12th century Northern Italy with mercantile capitalism in 16th century England. Why did the former coexist peacefully with feudalism? Why did the latter result in the ultimate overthrow of feudalism?
2. How did the Reformation come to England?
3. Who were the Old English (Irish: Seanghail) in Ireland? Who were the New English?
4. “*I may have the body of a weak and ...*”. Complete the quotation. Who said it? When? Why did this person never marry? What consequences did that have for the later history of Britain?
5. The Spanish Armada —what, when, where, why, how, and by whom?





Questions for Unit 7 (Parliamentarism)

1. The Authorized Version of the Bible; the Book of Common Prayer: When were they written? Quote one verse from the former, one sentence from the latter.
2. What were the causes of the English Civil War? When did it start? When did it end? What major principle of parliamentary democracy did it establish?
3. Who was Oliver Cromwell? What is the origin of the expression “warts and all”? What was his title when he died? How is he remembered in Ireland?
4. Would you have enjoyed life in the Commonwealth? Why?
5. What were the major achievements of the Restoration period?
6. The Glorious Revolution. Who? When? Why? Was it a revolution? Was it glorious?
7. What and when was the Battle of the Boyne? What consequences did it have?





Questions for Unit 8 (Industrial Revolution)

1. What was involved in the Agricultural Revolution that preceded the Industrial Revolution? How did it make the Industrial Revolution possible?
2. When did the Industrial Revolution begin? Why did you choose that date?
3. What were the Factory Acts? What and when was the Reform Bill? Who and when were the Chartists, and what did they want?
4. In which war did Britain acquire much of its first empire? When did the war begin and end? In which war did Britain lose much of its first empire? Who led the victorious army?
5. Thomas Paine lived and worked in three countries. Which countries were they? What did he do there? Name two of his books.





Questions for Unit 9 (Imperial Britain)

1. Who was the second-longest-reigning monarch in British history? Give the person's full name, the name of the person's spouse, the date of accession to the throne, and the date of death.
2. When and where did the Great Potato Famine take place? What policies did the Tories and Whigs put forward for dealing with it?
3. What was the Crystal Palace? What was it made of? What event was it built for? When did that event take place?
4. When did Charles Darwin publish his book *On the origin of species*? What persuaded him to do so? When did Darwin die? Where was he buried? Why was he buried there?
5. Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone: What were their party affiliations, what political office did they hold, which of the two had a better personal relationship with the monarch, and what additional title did he persuade the monarch to accept?





Questions for Unit 10 (Post-Imperial Britain)

1. What was the Constitutional Crisis of 1911 about? How was it resolved? What role did King Charles II play in resolving the crisis, even though he had been dead for more than two centuries at the time?
2. What and when was the Battle of Britain? Who should have won it? Why did the other side win it instead?
3. What was the state of the UK economy in the mid 1970s?
4. What were Margaret Thatcher's main political objectives when she came to office? Did she achieve them? Who was president of the USA for most of the time that she was Prime Minister of the UK?
5. What was the Falklands War about? When did it take place? What valuable lesson did surgeons learn from it about how to save the lives of people with severe injuries?

