

05 Attitudes

SECTION A Quiz

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 In passing, casual conversation, British people talk about the weather because...
 - A they are fascinated by it
 - B it is correct behaviour
 - C they don't like silences
- 2 If you hear or read of a woman who is 'six-and-a-half foot', how tall is she?
 - A very short
 - B about average height
 - C very tall
- 3 If you hear or read of a man who is 'about twelve stone', how heavy is he?
 - A very light
 - B about average weight
 - C very heavy
- 4 If a place is 'about half a mile away', how long would it take you to walk there?
 - A about two minutes
 - B about ten minutes
 - C about half an hour
- 5 Which of the following descriptions is not negative?
 - A s/he's got common sense
 - B s/he's a swot
 - C s/he's a teacher's pet
- 6 Why do the British normally form queues when they are waiting for something?
 - A they like good order
 - B they are patient
 - C they want things to be fair
- 7 In what month does the financial year begin in Britain?
 - A January
 - B April
 - C September
- 8 By what name are measurements in kilos, litres, and metres known in Britain?
 - A the decimal system
 - B the continental system
 - C the metric system
- 9 If money and access to friends and family were not a problem, where would most British people prefer to live?
 - A in a village
 - B in central London
 - C in a London suburb
- 10 What proportion of British households keep an animal as a pet?
 - A about 10%
 - B about 30%
 - C about 50%
- 11 What is a bird table?
 - A a specially designed garden table with thin legs
 - B a dish made with turkey and chicken
 - C a raised platform on which birds can feed
- 12 In Britain, which two people are least likely to kiss when meeting each other?
 - A two men
 - B two women
 - C a man and woman
- 13 If two British strangers get into conversation (for example, on a train), which of these pieces of personal information are they most likely to exchange?
 - A their names
 - B their jobs
 - C their marital circumstances
- 14 Which traditional 'sport' in Britain was made illegal in 2004?
 - A boxing
 - B foxhunting
 - C shooting

SECTION B Summary

Put the following clauses into the correct order to complete a paragraph summarizing the first three sections of chapter 5 of *Britain*.

It is possible to generalize about the attitudes of British people. However, there are three reasons for being cautious when doing so. The first is that popular stereotypes often lag behind changed reality. For example, Britain sometimes has a reputation for being a traditional country.



- 1 but they hardly ever eat it.
- 2 Finally, it should be remembered
- 3 Anti-intellectualism is an example.
- 4 that Britain is a multicultural society
- 5 where some ethnic groups hold attitudes
- 6 that are largely confined to the English.
- 7 Of course, English culture dominates Britain.
- 8 which diverge considerably from the mainstream.
- 9 Nevertheless, there are some supposedly typical British attitudes
- 10 But the fact that the British value tradition does not mean that they practice it.
- 11 The second reason concerns the confusion between Britain and England.
- 12 Most people, for example, think fondly of the traditional 'British breakfast',

SECTION C British words and phrases

Find the word or phrase in Chapter 5 of *Britain* which is used to mean or describe:

- 1 the black-and-white stripes across a road for pedestrians
- 2 a feature of a law which means that it can be (not exactly broken but) flouted
- 3 small plots of land rented by local governments on which people grow plants
- 4 an event at which second-hand items are sold
- 5 the habit of controlling the expression of emotions, especially sad ones (supposedly typically British)

SECTION D Matching

Match the organizations in the box with the descriptions below.

CCTV RSPCA The National Trust
The Ramblers' Association Neighbourhood Watch

- 1 an organization of people who like walking in the countryside
- 2 an organization of people to fight local crime
- 3 an organization which helps to preserve the countryside
- 4 an organization which looks after the wellbeing of animals
- 5 security cameras in public places