

Přehledně vypracovaná témata

MATURITA



23. GREAT BRITAIN

Angličtina

Zkvalifikuj se

1. What does Great Britain consist of?
2. How large is the area?
3. Which are the main mountain ranges and which is the highest mountain?
4. Which are the largest rivers?
5. How large is the population of Great Britain?
6. What is the climate like?
7. Which are the main industries of the economy of Great Britain?
8. What kind of government is there?

Great Britain is an insular state. It lies north-west of Europe, across the Channel in the North Sea. The western coast of Britain is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea. On the eastern coast there is the North Sea. Great Britain borders Ireland on the West and France on the South. The shortest connection to Europe is by the tunnel from Dover in southern England to Calais in France. It leads to the Channel Tunnel.

Great Britain and Northern Ireland cover an area of nearly 250,000 square kilometres. In addition to the two main islands Great Britain includes thousands of small islands. The largest islands are the Isle of Man, Anglesey, Wight and the Channel Islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and others). There are also the archipelagos of the Hebrides, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands.

The landscape of England is mostly rolling hills. The main mountain regions are the Cornish (south-west), the Cambrian (Wales), the Pennines and the Cumbrian Mountains. The highest mountain is Ben Nevis in the Highlands of Scotland - 1,344 m high.

The British rivers aren't very long but some important ones are situated on them. There is London on the Thames, Liverpool on the Mersey, Glasgow on the Clyde, and Belfast on the Lagan. The longest rivers are the Severn and the Trent. There is also a system of canals in Britain.

There is an important difference between the terms Great Britain and United Kingdom. Great Britain includes England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Wales with Cardiff and Northern Ireland with Belfast are part of the United Kingdom.

Great Britain has a population of about 57 million people. Britain is a relatively densely populated country. England has the highest density. Scotland has the lowest.

The official language is English. It has many dialects throughout the country. It is very difficult to understand Scottish or Welsh accents even for many English native speakers and people from other countries have real problems with it. British English differs from American English in some ways, such as pronunciation, spelling or vocabulary.

Although Britain is predominantly Christian, there are also Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh communities in the country. The (Anglican) Church of England and the Presbyterian Church of Scotland are the official state churches.

In Great Britain the climate is temperate and humid due to the Gulf Stream. Winters are mild and summers are not very hot. It rains a lot and the grass is greener than in Central Europe. The average temperature ranges from 4 degrees Centigrade in winter to 15 degrees in summer, sometimes even 18.

Thanks to mild climate agriculture is fully widespread in Great Britain. About 50 per cent of the land is arable but only 1 % of the area is used for work in agriculture. The main agricultural products are grain, cattle, fruit and vegetables. Cattle and sheep breeding are also profitable. British rural estates are rich in cash, tea, oil, gas, iron and so on. The main industries are steel, metal, textiles, mining, pottery, insurance, textiles and electronics. The main trading partners of Britain are Germany, the USA and France.

Great Britain was first settled by the Celts about 3000 years ago. In the year 43 the Romans invaded and they stayed there for 400 years. They built villages, roads and towns throughout the country. They have been used for centuries. Then arrived Saxon people and from Celtic people to the Normans.

The last successful invasion was by the French speaking Normans led by William. Duke of Normandy, who became William the Conqueror after defeating the Saxon King Harold in the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

In 1215 the Magna Carta was signed as a guarantee of rights and the start of law. In the year 1284-1285, after the Welsh War, Wales was incorporated into the Kingdom of England. In 1534, after the Reformation, the monarchy was established but the sovereignty of the Parliament was confirmed.

Great Britain is a constitutional monarchy. The head of the country is a king or queen, but his power is limited by the Parliament. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been the official title of the British state ever since 1707.

Angličtina

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Struktura témat

- **téma:** maturitní otázka
- **základní otázky:** série otázek, které tvoří osnovu pro dané téma; zapamatujete-li si je, bude se vám u maturity obsah tématu lépe vybavovat
- **zpracované téma:** to podstatné, co byste měli znát; najdete zde odpovědi na základní otázky a zároveň inspiraci pro své vlastní vyprávění
- **další otázky:** podrobnosti, na které se vás u maturity také mohou zeptat; máte-li čas, pokuste se na ně najít odpovědi
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- **odkazy:** rozšiřující literatura, kde najdete podrobnosti k tématu v titulech edice MATURITA V KOSTCE z našeho nakladatelství

Hodně štěstí u maturity!

Co list, to téma...

Co v učebnici najdete

základní otázky

otázky jsou zároveň
osnovou tématu

další otázky

i na ně se vás u maturity
mohou zeptat

téma
maturitní
otázka

slovíčka
vybraná slovní
zásoba pro
dané téma

zpracované téma

to podstatné, co byste měli znát

odkazy

rozšiřující literatura

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1. MY FAMILY

Základní otázky

1. Describe your family in general.
2. Where does your father work?
3. What is your mother like?
4. Do your parents have the same hobbies?
5. What about your siblings?
6. What do your parents think about young people's getting married?
7. Tell us something about your grandparents.
8. How many uncles and aunts do you have?
9. What importance does your family have for you?

I live with my family in a big flat in the centre of Prague. Our family is quite big: I have father, mother, two brothers and a sister.

My father's name is Jan and he is fifty-five years old. He works as a manager in a bank. He works a lot; he often comes home late in the evenings and he also often goes on business trips. He is slim and tall, with a round face and short straight brown hair. He wears glasses. My father likes sports and travelling, in summer we usually go abroad. He likes gardening as well.

My mother's name is Marie and she is fifty-two. She is a teacher. She is small and slim, with short wavy brown hair and blue eyes. She is always very cheerful and in a good mood. She likes children and that's why I have so many siblings. She also likes travelling. In winter she likes to go skiing. We have a cottage with a garden so she often works there.

My older brother Peter is twenty-five years old. He is slim with short brown hair and glasses like our father. He has already finished his studies at the university. He likes sports and wants to work as a manager of a football team. He has got a girlfriend named Monika – a very nice red-haired girl, who studies English and Czech languages. She will be a teacher like my mother. They plan to get married, but they don't have enough money to buy a flat. They would like to stay with us until they find a place for living, but my mother doesn't like this idea. Although she is looking forward to having grandchildren, she believes that young people should arrange their lives, buy or rent a flat and find good jobs first, and only after that they can establish a family. But I'm looking forward to their wedding. It will be a special day for the whole family. All relatives are invited; there will be plenty of food and drinks and a lot of fun. Newlyweds get many presents, both useful and useless. To avoid useless presents, some couples prepare a wedding list and everyone who wants to buy a present can make a choice.

My younger brother Jirka is seventeen. He is also tall and slim, with dark brown hair and eyes. Girls like him. He has a lot of friends and on weekends he goes out to the disco. He also likes to play computergames, to play football and ride a bike. He often goes out with his girlfriend. In fact he changes his girlfriends often. Jirka studies at a grammar school and he would like to continue at a university. He is interested in economics and he would like to work in a bank like our father.

I also have a small sister named Magda. She is only eleven years old and she is our parents' darling. She is small, with blond hair and big blue eyes. Everybody loves her and no one can deny her anything she wants. I think she is a little bit spoiled.

I have lots of uncles and aunts, but only one grandmother and one grandfather. My father's parents died when he was a child. My mother's parents are retired and they live in a small house near our town. My grandmother is small and slim and she is often ill. My grandfather is very nice. He is very friendly and he always has time for us. I love them both very much. We go to see them almost every weekend. When we were small children we used to spend holidays in their house with our cousins.

My family is very important to me. My parents are very friendly and nice although sometimes they are tired and become moody or sad. But I can rely on them and they always help me. My family is a model family for me. My parents agree that both men and women have specific roles in the family: a woman should raise children and a man should be able to repair household equipment, but they prepare meals, look after us, do the shopping, spend and save money and organize the leisure time together. They have some hobbies in common. They respect each other and are tolerant to their children. In future I would like to have a family like ours.

Doplňující otázky

Do you have good relationships with your parents and siblings? • What do you wish to change in your family? • What pets do you have, if any? • What are their names? • Do you visit your aunts and uncles often? • Do you have any cousins? • How old are they? • Is anybody in your family divorced? • What is your opinion on getting married? • Is it useful or needless? Why? • Do you plan to have children? Why?

Slovní zásoba

aunt teta
biological parents biologičtí rodiče
bride nevěsta
bridegroom ženich
brother-in-law švagr
couple pár, dvojice
cousin bratranec, sestřenice
date schůzka, rande
divorce rozvod
fall in love with zamilovat se do
father-in-law tchán
get on well vycházet s někým
girlfriend dívka, přítelkyně
go steady mít vážnou známost
grandchildren vnoučata
grandfather dědeček
grandmother babička
husband manžel
illegitimate child nemanželské dítě
marriage manželství
mother-in-law tchyně

nephew synovec
newly married couple, newlyweds novomanželé
niece neteř
pensioner důchodce
relationship vztah
relatives příbuzní
row hádka
siblings sourozenci
single-parent family rodina s jedním rodičem
sister-in-law švagrová
split up rozejít se
spoiled rozmazlený
stepfather nevlastní otec
stepmother nevlastní matka
to get married oženit se, vdát se
traditional family tradiční rodina
uncle strýc
unfaithful nevěrný
wedding svatba
widow vdova
wife manželka

Poznámky

2. HOUSING

Základní otázky

1. **Where do you live?**
2. **How many rooms does your flat or house have?**
3. **Describe each room.**
4. **What is in the kitchen?**
5. **In which room does the whole family gather?**
6. **What do you have in your own room?**
7. **What are the differences between living in a city and in the country?**

I live with my parents and my sister in a three-room flat in a block of flats. Our flat is on the fifth floor. Our house is not very nice from the outside but our flat is comfortable and lovely. The rooms are quite small but they fulfill modern standards.

If you come for a visit, you will come first to the entrance hall. It is small and there are many doors leading to each room. You will leave your coat on a coat hanger and then I'll show you round our flat.

The kitchen is our mother's kingdom. She cooks and prepares various delicious meals there. Our kitchen is fitted with a fridge, freezer, electric oven and a gas-stove. Then there is a cupboard, food store and a sink. My mother would like to have a dishwasher, but there is no place for it. In the corner there is a square table with four chairs. Here we have our daily meals. My mother is a very good cook. Everybody who has visited us praised her cooking. Our kitchen is small but bright because there is a big window decorated with curtains. My mother keeps the kitchen clean. She mops and polishes the vinyl flooring nearly every day.

The living room is the centre of our family life. We spend our evenings there. It is the largest room of our flat. Two doors lead to this room. One of them leads to the hall and the other one to the kitchen. Here we can watch TV, listen to music or meet our guests, sitting on a sofa or in armchairs. Between the armchairs there is a coffee table with a vase and a lamp. There are always some flowers in the vase. In the corner there is also a small table with a computer where I often play games or prepare for school. Next to the window there is a large bookcase because my parents love books. Our stereo is near the bookcase. The walls are painted in light yellow, so the room looks sunny and cosy. And they are decorated with many pictures and photographs. The whole floor is covered with a brown carpet.

We call my room the children's room, although I live there alone. I used to share it with my sister, but now she lives with her boyfriend in his small flat. My room is furnished with a cabinet, a wardrobe, a chair with a desk on which I do my homework, and two beds. Opposite the window there is a small bookcase. I have a small plant on my table, on the walls there are many photos and many posters.

My parents' bedroom is very small, but it gives them privacy. There is only a large twin bed and two wardrobes in which nearly all our clothes are stored.

From the hall we can go to a toilet and a bathroom with a large bath, basin and a washing machine. There are white tiles with flowers on the walls.

I like our flat because it is my home. But in future I would like to have my own flat or a house. In the beginning a small flat would be good enough, maybe somewhere in the centre of the city. But later when I have a family, I would like to have a nice house with a large garden in the country or the suburbs. There are various types of houses:

Terraced houses are built in long rows, each house is attached to another on both sides.

Semi-detached houses are a part of a pair.

Detached houses stand alone, usually with a garden all around it. These houses are much more expensive than semis and are often owned by rich people.

Both living in the town and in the country has its advantages and disadvantages. When you live in a town, you are close to various shops, theatres, cinemas and restaurants and also to doctors. It is very comfortable. On the other hand there are always many people, cars, noise and the air is polluted. And there is also a greater risk of crime. In general, living in the centre of a town is better for people with no children.

Living in the country is much calmer. There is fresh air and countryside. Children can play in the garden or ride bicycles. However it can be difficult to get to the nearest city with only public transport. It can be more complicated to get to shops, to the cinema, to the doctor's or to get children to school. Families usually need at least one car. Sometimes it is also difficult to find a job there.

For someone who grew up in the country it may be difficult to settle in the town and vice versa. Anyway, it is a modern trend to leave the town, live in a house in a suburb and go to the city to work every day.

Doplňující otázky

Would you prefer to live in the town or in the country? • What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a block of flats? • What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the country? • What type of housing would you choose for your future life? • What kind of equipment would you choose for your future flat? • Is it advantageous to rent a furnished flat? • Do you prefer modern or antique furniture? • Does your family have a weekend house or a cottage? • How long have you lived in your place? • How far from the centre is your house? Which floor do you live on?

Slovní zásoba

armchair křeslo

attic podkroví

basement suterén

bay window arkýřové okno

block of flats panelák

bookcase knihovna

brick cihla

bungalow přízemní dům

cabinet skříňka se zásuvkami

carpet koberec

cellar sklep

chimney komín

cottage chalupa

council house nájemný dům

curtains záclony

desk psací stůl

detached house samostatný rodinný domek

dishwasher myčka nádobí

doorstep práh

drawing room salón

dustbin popelnice

electric oven elektrická trouba

farmhouse farma

fence plot

flowerbed květinový záhon

foundations základy

freezer mrazák

fridge lednička

front door vstupní dveře

gas-stove plynový sporák

gate branka, brána

hall předsíň

hall of residence studentská kolej

housing association bytové družstvo

housing estate sídliště

laundry prádelna

lawn trávník

live in lodgings bydlet v podnájmu

loft půda

outskirts okraj města

pantry spíž

path cestička, cesta

prefabricated parts panely

roof střecha

semi-detached house dvojdoměk

sofa pohovka

suburbs předměstí

terraced house řadový domek

tile kachle, taška

tower block věžák

vice versa naopak

vinyl flooring lino

wardrobe šatník

wornout opotřebovaný

weekend house chata

Poznámky

3. MY DAILY ROUTINE

Základní otázky

1. What are your mornings like?
2. What do you usually have for breakfast?
3. How do you travel to school?
4. How is the school organized?
5. Where do you go for lunch?
6. What do you do when school is over?
7. Tell us something about your hobbies.
8. Describe your evening at home.
9. What do you do after dinner?
10. Describe your weekend.

My days are usually full of activities and duties so I have only a little free time for myself.

On weekdays I get up at half past six, although I would like to sleep much longer. When I get up I do my morning routine of washing my face, brushing my teeth, and then deciding what to put on. After I get dressed I brush my hair. Then I have breakfast. My mum usually prepares some bread or cake for me and I prepare tea. Sometimes I also eat yoghurt and cereals. After breakfast it is time to leave for school.

I often go to school by bus, although it is not so far. It takes me about ten minutes by bus or twenty minutes on foot. As I am always in a hurry in the morning, I prefer to go by bus.

My lessons start at eight. Each lesson takes 45 minutes and then there is a 10-minute break. Between the second and the third lesson there is a long break, which lasts 20 minutes. This gives us more time to walk around or have a small snack.

Our lessons take place in our classroom, in various labs or in a gym. The timetable is different every day. Sometimes we have afternoon classes, seminars, optional after-school activities or driving lessons.

At noon students usually go for lunch in the canteen. The food is not very good, but it is cheap. Some of my friends prefer to bring sandwiches from home, but it would not be enough for me. I like to have a hot meal for lunch.

When school is over, I usually walk home. It gives me time to relax. I often go with my friends, we talk and laugh.

When I come home, I must walk the dog first. It is my daily responsibility. I often also do some shopping as well. In the afternoon there is time for my hobbies. On Mondays and Wednesdays I play softball. On Thursdays I attend photography lessons as I am an amateur photographer. On Tuesdays I study German. My only free afternoon is on Friday.

Dinner at my home usually starts at seven o'clock. This is the time when the whole family comes together. We talk about the events of the day and about future plans.

After dinner I do my homework and prepare for school. When I finish, I watch some TV, read a book or listen to music. Then I have a shower and go to bed. I usually go to sleep by eleven p.m. On weekdays I rarely go out in the evening. But sometimes, mostly on Fridays, I go to the cinema with my friends.

On weekends my programme is quite different. I can sleep as long as I wish, usually till ten o'clock. Then I have some breakfast. After breakfast I do some things for school or help my mother with housework. In the afternoon I often have softball matches. If not, I spend a lot of time with my friends. We ride bikes, or just walk around or go to cafés. When the weather is nice I go to our cottage with my parents. I like to walk in the forest and take photos of the countryside. Sometimes my parents want me to help them in the garden, but I don't like it very much. In winter I go skating or skiing.

In the evening I go to rock concerts or to the disco with my friends, or sometimes we have a party. I can go to bed late.

I like that my life is full of activities and I never get bored. I hope that in future I will always have time for my hobbies and sports.

Doplňující otázky

What do you wish to change in your daily routine? How? ● Do you have any after-school activities? Why? ● Do you also attend driving lessons? ● What kind of dog do you have? How old is it? Do you always walk it alone or does anybody help you? ● Do you wish to have any other pet? ● Do you help your mother? How? ● Which housework do you hate? ● Do you ever cook dinner? ● Do you often watch TV? What kind of programme do you prefer? ● And what music do you listen to?

Slovní zásoba

afternoon classes odpolední vyučování

be bored nudit se

be in a hurry spěchat

break přestávka

canteen školní jídelna

cottage chata, chalupa

driving lessons řidičský kurz

dust a place utírat prach

German course kurz němčiny

gym tělocvična

high time nejvyšší čas

hobby koníček

hold a party pořádat večírek

housework domácí práce

keen photo amateur nadšený fotoamatér

lab laboratoř

leisure time volný čas

lessons vyučování, vyučovací hodiny

optional after-school activities kroužky, zájmová odpolední činnost

relax odpočinek

seminars semináře

small shopping malý nákup

snack svačina

tidy up uklízet

timetable rozvrh

vacuum carpets luxovat koberce

walk the dog vyvenčit psa

weekdays všední dny

wash up mýt nádobí

watch TV dívat se na televizi

Poznámky

4. LEISURE TIME AND HOBBIES

Základní otázky

1. When do we have time for fun and hobbies?
2. Why do we have hobbies?
3. Describe the differences between typically men's and women's hobbies.
4. What are typical hobbies for men and for women?
5. Compare reading books and newspapers.
6. How can culture help us to relax?
7. Is fashion only women's hobby?
8. What's the point of using computers in our leisure time?
9. Why and how do we practice sport in our leisure time?

Ideally, a typical weekday has three parts – eight hours for work, eight hours for rest and eight hours of leisure time. But this is only a theory. We have to spend eight hours at work and we need to sleep but there are not eight hours for fun and hobbies. We also need time for commuting to and from work, for shopping, tidying up, cooking and so on. We have time for our hobbies during weekends.

Hobbies are activities we do for fun. Hobbies help us relax. And it doesn't matter what we do. Some hobbies are rather expensive, some are dangerous, some are very romantic, some are very time-consuming.

There are big differences between men's and women's hobbies. Men are usually more active and more technically inclined than women so they love sports, cars or building models of ships or planes. Women prefer hobbies that allow them to sit down and relax, such as knitting, sewing or reading books. Some hobbies are enjoyed by both men and women, such as hiking, travelling or watching TV.

Collecting things is probably the most common hobby. People collect common things such as stamps, beer mats, coins, chocolate wrappers or models of cars. Some people have more specialized interests, and collect things like porcelain dolls, antique cars or celebrity items. Collecting things can be a very expensive hobby, if you want to have a unique collection.

Many people love reading. Some of them read books – novels or poetry. But there are also people who read newspapers or magazines. Those who read newspapers know a lot about political, social and cultural events in the country and in the world. But it is necessary to read more than one title of newspaper to get an impartial view. Reading magazines gives one a broader perspective on specific topics. People read magazines about photography, nature, cars or living.

Having a range of relaxation opportunities is a part of our culture. We can visit exhibitions or fairs or we can go to the cinema or theatre. Some people do it just for fun while others are more interested in art and culture. They know actors or directors, and can compare performances by various theatres and so on.

A hobby that used to be favored more by women but is now gaining popularity among men is fashion. Some people care about what they wear and how they look. Girls are especially interested in clothes, make-up, hairstyles and accessories. They want to be trendy; they feel attractive in new clothes. Designers also focus on fashion for men – new cuts, materials, colours.

On the other hand computers are predominantly a men's hobby. From about the age of ten, boys can use their computers very well and some of them even start to write their own programs. Some people like playing games. Internet is a source of fun and entertainment. We can search for news, recipes for Sunday lunch, new games, or we can chat with others. Chatting is a very interesting way to 'meet' new people and learn new information or opinions. Sometimes people who chat decide to meet in person and become good friends. When we use the internet we must be careful in deciding what information is true. Everybody can write whatever they want so when we really need to get correct information we must use reliable servers.

Sports are a widespread leisure activity. Many people don't have enough movement activity at work. They work in an office in front of a computer and they sit all day. In their leisure time they need to compensate for it. Individuals or families ride bikes or spend time outdoors, they go swimming or skiing. But there are also opportunities for team sports. Children go to sports clubs, adults mostly must make some group themselves. They play games like basketball, volleyball or football, tennis and squash.

There is one more activity which is preferred mostly by men – motorsports. Some men like car or motorbike races. More active men don't just watch racers but they have their own car or motorbike. They drive and 'repair' their vehicles – even when they are absolutely fit. They can spend a lot of time and money on this hobby. A special kind of this hobby is collecting vintage cars or planes.

Doplňující otázky

What do you usually do in your leisure time? • Do you have any uncommon hobby? • Do you collect anything? What? • Does reading belong to your hobbies? Why? • What do you prefer to read, books or magazines? • Are you interested in fashion? • Do you know anybody who likes to repair cars in their leisure time? • Do you do any sports? Do you prefer winter or summer sports? • What are family hobbies? Does your family have any?

Slovní zásoba

baking pečení
beer mat pivní tácek
collecting sbírání
computers počítače
cottage chata, chalupa
dress accessories módní doplňky
entertainment zábava
fair trh, veletrh
family hobbies rodinné koníčky
fashion móda
fishing rybaření
gardening práce na zahradě

handwork ruční práce
hiking turistika
knitting pletení
motoring motorismus
passion vášně
reliable spolehlivý
search vyhledat
sewing šití
tableware nádobí
time-consuming náročný na čas
widespread rozšířený
wrapper obal

Poznámky

5. SPORTS AND GAMES

Základní otázky

1. What is the difference between a sport and a game?
2. Why do people go in for sports?
3. Which sports are typically indoor/outdoor?
4. Do you know any other division of sports?
5. When do we practise sports?
6. Tell something about PE at Czech schools.
7. What are the favourite sports in the Czech Republic, Great Britain, USA?
8. What do you know about the Olympic Games?

At first I would like to describe the difference between sports and games. Here is a simple definition: when you add rules to a sport it can be called a game.

Sports are one of the most popular leisure time activities. This is mainly due to the fact that they help one to keep fit both physically and mentally. Sports are refreshing, can help lose weight and make use of one's skills and strengths. Last but not least, during sports events one can meet a lot of new people and see how it feels to be a winner or a loser.

We can divide sports according to where they are practised. Indoor sports include for example gymnastics, table-tennis, boxing, wrestling etc. On the other hand, outdoor sports include skiing (downhill, cross-country, slalom, ski jump), sledging, hiking, rock climbing, horse riding, golf and some water sports such as rowing or windsurfing. Non-professional cycling, or riding a (mountain) bike, which is one of the most popular activities, is also enjoyed outdoors (on the roads or paths). But most sports and almost all games can be done both indoors and outdoors.

The other division of sports and games depends on the season. Winter sports can be done only on snow or ice-skiing, skating and sledging. The remaining sports and games we call summer or all-season activities.

My favourite game is football. By football I mean European football, which is known as soccer in the USA. Two teams of 11 players try to get a ball inside the rival's goal. This game needs a good strategy and skilled players. They have to be able to run fast, kick the ball correctly and cooperate with others.

You can practise sports and games while on vacation. In winter you can go skiing and snowboarding to the mountains with your friends. In the Czech Republic there is a problem with good ski-centres. Our mountains aren't high enough. Good skiers prefer to go abroad – to France or to Italy. There are big ski-centres where you can spend the whole week without getting bored of a single downhill slope. On the other hand, the Czech mountains are very good for cross-country skiing.

There are more possibilities for sports during summer holiday. You can ride a bike or a mountain bike – in the Czech Republic there are many cycle paths of various difficulty. Or you can go canoeing on rivers, yachting or windsurfing on lakes. In the Czech Republic there is great terrain for hiking.

In the Czech Republic we also do sports at school. We usually have two PEs a week. At first we change our clothes in a dressing room. The best clothes for PE is a T-shirt, shorts or training suit and trainers. Then we always do a small warm-up exercise. What we do in the lesson depends on the weather and the teacher. When the weather is good, we go outside to play games like football, volleyball or basketball. Sometimes we practice for athletic events – running, jumping, throwing. When it is raining or in winter we go to gym and we do gymnastics.

The most popular sports in the Czech Republic are football and ice-hockey. In Great Britain, rowing, cricket and polo (players are riding horses and hitting a ball with sticks) are typical. In the USA there are four famous sports: American football, baseball, basketball and ice-hockey. These games are usually big shows in which the sports stars make a lot of money.

The Olympic Games

The first Olympic Games took place in Olympia, Greece, in the year 776 B.C. There are many legends about the origin of the games. They were probably a part of a religious ceremony honouring the Greek god Zeus. They became gradually more and more important and the winners were respected throughout the western world.

The father of the modern Olympic Games is Pierre Coubertin. He was an idealist who saw athletics as a way of improving the educational system in France. He gave the Olympic Games an international nature. It was his great gift to be able to organize what we would today call 'public relations'. The first modern Olympic

Games took place in Olympia in 1896. Twelve nations, besides Greece, participated. The modern games, like their ancient models, are supposed to be competitions between individuals, not nations.

Doplňující otázky

Which winter sports do you prefer? ● Can you ski? When did you start learning to ski? ● What do you think about snowboarding? ● What summer sports do you practise? ● Do you like riding a bike? Why? ● What is your attitude to water sports? ● Can you swim well? Who taught you? ● Who is your favourite sportsman? Have you ever met him? Do you want to be like him? ● Do you prefer individual or collective sports? Why?

Slovní zásoba

bored znučený

catch chytat

competition soutěž

cricket kriket

cross-country skiing běžkování

dowhill slope sjezdovka

downhill skiing sjezdové lyžování

dressing room šatna

field pole, hřiště

goal gól, branka

gym tělocvična

hiking turistika

hockeystick hokejka

leisure time volný čas

loser poražený

polo pólo

rowing veslování

rules pravidla

skate bruslit

skill dovednost

sledge sáňkovat

take place konat se

throw házet

track dráha

trainers tenisky

training suit tepláky, tepláková souprava

warm-up exercise rozcvička

water sports vodní sporty

winner vítěz

Poznámky

6. CULTURE

Základní otázky

- 1. What kinds of literature do we have?**
- 2. Compare fiction and non-fiction literature.**
- 3. Why do some people prefer going to the cinema to watching TV?**
- 4. What theatre genres do you know?**
- 5. What is fine art?**
- 6. And what do you know about design?**
- 7. What can you say about music?**
- 8. Can you explain the broader meaning of culture?**

Culture is a source of knowledge, education, experience and fun. The traditional part of culture is literature. It is known for hundreds of years. The most common is literature written in books. We can divide literature in two parts – poetry and prose. The most usual forms of prose are novels and short stories. In a novel there is one main story and many side stories. The whole story might be long, so the book can be divided in volumes and chapters.

Poems are usually structured in strophes. Most of rhymes for children are versificated. It is easier to remember these rhymes. Adults prefer free verse, which is much more emotive.

The other way to divide literature is fiction and non-fiction. We can mention historical novels or science fiction (sci-fi) as an example of fictional literature. The non-fiction is based on facts. These are books like manuals, dictionaries, textbooks or encyclopaedias. Books are quite expensive today, so we visit a library and borrow books instead of buying them. We only have to pay a low charge every year.

Some people prefer watching movies in the cinema to reading books. Most films are produced by the USA. In the Czech Republic we can watch them dubbed or with subtitles. There are many kinds of movies – for example thrillers, romantic films, films with social topics, comedies. Czech movies are also popular.

People like going to the cinema instead of watching TV because to watch a film in the cinema is much stronger experience. The quality of picture and sound is much higher. Cinema multiplexes use Dolby Surround System which ensures that you feel like you were really in the scene you are just watching.

The other possibility of cultural self-realization is a theatre. It is more intensive experience than the cinema. The relationship between actors and spectators is very close. Every performance is original. This is the reason why some people visit one play three times or more. The atmosphere is different every time. Sometime the spectators are bored and sleepy and the other time they are excited.

There are various repertoires in Czech theatres. Especially in larger cities there are theatres focused on a single genre. If you want to watch a comedy, you visit a different theatre than if you want to go to a classical play. We also divide theatre to little theatres and Coliseums. Coliseums are for hundreds of spectators. It is necessary to be well-dressed and the visit of this kind of theatre is usually very strong experience. Little theatres are focused more on comedies and the atmosphere isn't so serious there.

The term fine art can have many different meanings. One of them is painting or drawing. There are so many artists today that it can be difficult to have a good view of it. We can visit many exhibitions in galleries or there are also some open-air exhibitions, especially in summer. The other meaning of fine art is sculpture. It doesn't mean only statues made of stone as it was in medieval times. The artists work with glass, metal, textile and many other materials. They don't make only human statues but also animals and things of daily use like bowls and glasses. It has a close connection to modern design. It is a very special kind of culture. Designers target things like furniture, dishes or clothes.

Ceramics also belongs to fine art. These are plastics made of special clay and burned at a high temperature. It can be glazed in many colours.

The most popular kind of culture is music. Probably everybody listens to some kind of music. Young people prefer modern music which has many variations. We know for example rock, metal, folk or pop music. Some groups are focused on a fusion of various styles. Many musicians arrange concerts of their groups in clubs or halls. There are also people who like classical music. It is a great cultural experience to visit a concert of the classical music.

The broader meaning of culture is the way how people live in some area. Czech culture is quite different from the British one and absolutely different from for example the American. We have in mind traditions, meals, behaviour of the society. There are large differences in various rituals such as weddings or funerals.

Doplňující otázky

Have you read any interesting book lately? What was it about? ● Do you also read poetry? ● What is your favourite book? ● Can you recommend us some theatre performance? In which theatre do they play it? Do you know the names of the main actors? ● What kind of music do you prefer? ● Have you visited a concert of your favourite music group? And what about classical music, do you like it? ● What is your favourite movie? ● Have you visited any interesting exhibition of modern art lately? ● Did you like it or not? Why?

Slovní zásoba

actor herec
adult dospělý
artifact výrobek
bookcase knihovna (domácí)
chapter kapitola
drawing kresba
dub dabovat
essence bytost
excited nadšený
fiction beletrie
fine art výtvarné umění
focus on zaměřit se na
free verse volný verš
genre žánr
glaze glazovat
knowledge vědomost
library knihovna (instituce)
medieval times středověk

movie film
novel román
open-air exhibition výstava pod širým nebem
painting malba
poetry poezie
prose próza
relationship vztah
sculpture socha, sochařství
self-realization vyžití
short story povídka
source zdroj
spectator divák
subtitles titulky
to this date dodnes
variation varianta
versificated veršovaný
volume díl, svazek (knihy)

Poznámky