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**УЧЕБНО – МЕТОДИЧЕСКОЕ
ПОСОБИЕ ПО РАЗВИТИЮ ПРОФЕССИОНАЛЬНО -
ОРИЕНТИРОВАННОЙ КОММУНИКАТИВНОЙ
КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ СТУДЕНТОВ НА ЗАНЯТИЯХ ПО
АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ**

*Для студентов факультета управления и социологии
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Пособие предназначено в качестве дополнительного материала по домашнему чтению для студентов факультета управления и социологии (отделение «ГМУ»). Пособие включает в себя тексты из оригинальных источников (<http://www.direct.gov.uk>) и профессиональную лексику. Цель данного пособия – научить студентов работать с текстами по специальности, развить навыки чтения и перевода, расширить их лексический запас и закрепить грамматические навыки. Пособие содержит помимо непосредственно текстов ряд последовательных предтекстовых и послетекстовых упражнений, нацеленных на развитие речевых и аналитических навыков, и может быть использовано как для самостоятельной, так и для аудиторной работы по развитию навыков работы с литературой по специальности.

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Text 1

Historical development of local government in the UK (stages)

Vocabulary

charter – хартия, грамота
highway – шоссе, автомагистраль
drainage – сток, канализация
maze – путаница, лабиринт
urban – городской
rural – сельский
devolution – передача
Greater London Assembly – большое собрание Лондона

Reading Practice

Task 1. Read and translate the text.

11th Century

Royal charters, justices of the peace, parish bodies, commissions and benches of citizens. Single purpose bodies provided services like highways, drainage and charitable education.

Early 19th Century

Led to a maze of separate and varied bodies unable to cope with changes in society and the economy as a result of the Industrial Revolution.

19th century

In 1888 and 1894 legislation created county councils and urban and rural district councils.

Mid 1970s and 1990s

Two major reorganisations led to the creation of metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties and districts in 1974 in England, and the creation of unitary authorities in England, Scotland and Wales in the 1990s.

1998

Devolution of powers to some regional territories. Legislation in 1998 established the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1999

Greater London Authority Act created the Greater London Assembly and a directly elected mayor for London.

2003

Elected Regional Assemblies. Regional Assemblies (Preparations) Act 2003. The first referendum was held in the North East of England on 4 November.

Comprehension

Task 2. Enumerate the stages of the historical development of local government in the U.K. Which of these steps do you consider the most important?

Text 2

Local government structure

Vocabulary

one-tier – одноуровневый

two-tier – двухуровневый

county council – орган местного самоуправления в графстве

district council – орган местного самоуправления в районе

leisure facilities – возможности для проведения досуга

recycling – переработка

trash – мусор

borough – округ

unitary authority – унитарный орган управления

to reduce – сокращать

to simplify – упрощать

parish – округ, приход

community – общность, община, сообщество

allotment – распределение, назначение

to split up – раскалывать

to maintain – поддерживать

Reading Practice

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

Across the country, local governmental bodies are organised into a mixture of one-tier and two-tier systems. How your local system is arranged will depend upon where a person lives.

County and district councils

In most of England, there are two levels: a county council and a district council. County councils cover large areas and provide most public services, including schools, social services, and public transportation.

Each county is divided into several districts. District councils cover smaller areas and provide more local services, including council housing, gyms and leisure facilities, local planning, recycling and trash collection. District

councils with borough or city status may be called borough councils or city councils instead of district council, but their role is exactly the same.

Unitary authorities

In most large towns and cities, and in some small counties, there will be just one level of local government responsible for all local services. These are called a 'unitary authority'. Depending where they are in the country, these may be called metropolitan district councils, borough councils, city councils, county councils, or district councils.

In London, each borough is a unitary authority, but the Greater London Authority (the Mayor and Assembly) provides London-wide government with responsibility for certain services like transport and police.

In April 2009, the government introduced unitary governments in seven regions in England; reducing 44 local authorities down to just nine. The idea was to simplify the system, as local residents were increasingly confused about which local authority was responsible for local services.

In Scotland there is a unitary system with one level of local government. In Northern Ireland, there are local councils, but most services are carried out by other organisations.

Town and parish councils

In some parts of England there are also town and parish councils, covering a smaller area. In Wales, they are called community councils.

They're responsible for services like allotments, public toilets, parks and ponds, war memorials, and local halls and community centres. They are sometimes described as the third tier of local government.

In Scotland there are community councils with fewer powers. There is no equivalent in Northern Ireland.

Joint services

Some local authorities share services covering a wider area, like police, fire services and public transport. This may be done to avoid splitting up services when council structures are changed, or because some councils are too small to run an effective service on their own.

Every part of the UK is covered by a local authority fire and rescue service. Each of the 59 fire authorities must by law provide a firefighting service and must maintain a brigade to meet all normal requirements. Each fire authority appoints a Chief Fire Officer, or Firemaster in Scotland, who has day-to-day control of operations.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To govern – government – governor – governmental

To organize – organizer – organization – organized

To transp'ort – transportation – transportable – transporter

To collect – collected – collectible – collective – collection

To authorize – authorized – authorship – authorization – authority

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: system, to cover, area, borough, to simplify, structure, part, law, power.

B: component, entity, plan, span, regulation, to make simpler, district, to overlay, might.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

Local governmental bodies; mixture of one-tier and two-tier systems; district councils; gyms; local planning; borough councils; metropolitan district councils; city councils; county councils; reducing 44 local authorities down to just nine; the idea was to simplify the system; but most services are carried out by other organisations; parish councils; parks and ponds; war memorials; to avoid splitting up services; some councils are too small to run an effective service on their own; a firefighting service; to meet all normal requirements; Chief Fire Officer; who has day-to-day control of operations.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

Будет зависеть от того, где вы живете; предоставляют большинство общественных услуг, включая школы, социальные службы и общественный транспорт; возможности для проведения досуга; переработка и сбор мусора; унитарный орган управления; советы сообщества (общности); распределения; третий уровень местного правительства; служба спасения; ежедневный контроль за операциями.

Task 5. Match up the following half-sentences.

1) Each county	a) covering a wider area like police, fire services and public transport.
2) In April 2009 the government	b) is divided into several districts.
3) Each of the 59 fire authorities	c) introduced unitary governments in seven regions in England.
4) Some local authorities share services	d) must by law provide a firefighting service and must maintain a brigade to meet all normal requirements.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) How many levels of local government structure are there in England?
- 2) What is a “unitary authority”?
- 3) What does the Greater London Authority provide London-wide government with?
- 4) What system of local government is there in Scotland?
- 5) What are the community councils responsible for?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

Text 3

Local government powers and finance

Vocabulary

to be funded - финансироваться, субсидироваться
laid down - установленный
far-reaching - далеко идущий
mandatory - обязательный, принудительный
discretionary - действующий по собственному усмотрению
to safeguard – гарантировать, предоставлять гарантию
to exceed - превышать
to be challenged to court - быть привлеченным к суду
set up - организован
devolved - переданный, автономный
rate - темп, степень, норма, ставка
grant - дотация, субсидия
excessive - чрезмерный, завышенный
non - domestic - не внутренний
revenue - доход
to pool - суммировать
to audit – проверять

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

Local authorities have a wide range of powers and duties. National policy is set by central government, but local councils are responsible for all day-to-day services and local matters. They are funded by government grants, Council Tax and business rates.

Powers and duties

Local authorities work within the powers laid down under various Acts of Parliament. Their functions are far-reaching. Some are mandatory, which means that the authority must do what is required by law. Others are discretionary, allowing an authority to provide services if it wishes.

In certain cases, ministers have powers to ensure consistent standards to safeguard public health or to protect the rights of individual citizens. Where local authorities exceed their statutory powers, they are regarded as acting outside the law and can be challenged in court.

Central and local government

The main link between local authorities and central government in England is the Communities and Local Government department. It is responsible for national policy on how local government is set up, what it does, how well it works, and how it is funded.

Other central government departments deal with national policy on local services, in particular:

Department for Children, Schools and Families

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department of Health

Department for Transport

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, local authorities now work mainly with the devolved governments.

How local government is financed

Local government spending is about a quarter of all public spending in the UK. Local authorities are funded by a combination of grants from central government, Council Tax and business rates.

In Northern Ireland, district councils still raise money through a domestic rate and a business rate.

Grants

Central government (or the devolved government in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) provides specific and general grants to enable local authorities to deliver all the necessary services.

To divide up the funding, the government uses a system that takes into account the number and value of properties in each area, and how much it costs to provide services there.

Council Tax

Council Tax provides about a quarter of local funding. Local authorities set the total Council Tax they need to raise, based on their overall budget for the year. Each household pays an amount depending on the value of their home.

The government has powers to ensure that increases in local authority budgets and Council Tax are not excessive.

Business rates

Business rates are a property tax on businesses and other non-domestic properties. Their formal name is national non-domestic rates.

The national rates are set by central government. The revenue is collected by local authorities, pooled by central government, and then redistributed to local authorities.

Auditing of accounts

Local authorities' annual accounts must be audited by independent auditors appointed by the Audit Commission in England and Wales, or in Scotland by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. In Northern Ireland, the chief local government auditor carries out this role.

Local electors have a right to inspect the accounts to be audited. They may also ask questions and lodge objections with the auditor.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To fund – funded – funding

Minister – ministerial

To protect – protection – protected – protecting – protective – protector – protectionist

To depend – depending – dependable – dependent – dependence – independent – independence

To pool – pooling – pooled

To appoint – appointed – appointment

Task 2. Find the antonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: responsible, to increase, to spend, to enable, local, consistent, mandatory, domestic.

B: to decrease, to ban, inconsistent, irresponsible, national, to save, discretionary, non-domestic.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

A wide range of powers and duties; in certain cases; ministers have powers to ensure consistent standards; to protect the rights of individual citizens;

can be challenged in court; combination of grants from central government; council tax and business rates; to enable local authorities to deliver all the necessary services.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

Национальная политика; устанавливается центральным правительством; гарантировать общественное здоровье; когда органы местного управления превышают свои узаконенные законом полномочия; все еще получают деньги; принимает во внимание; общий бюджет за год; чрезмерный (излишний); местные сборы; доход.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) Local authorities work within the powers laid down under various Acts of Parliament.
- 2) Some of the functions of local government are mandatory, others are discretionary.
- 3) In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland local authorities now work mainly with the devolved governments.
- 4) Business rates are a property tax only on business.
- 5) The National rates are set by local government.
- 6) Local electors don't have a right to inspect the accounts to be audited.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) What are the local authorities funded by?
- 2) Which are the functions of local authorities?
- 3) What is the link between local authorities and central government in England?
- 4) What is it responsible for?
- 5) Enumerate other central government departments.
- 6) Which is local government's spending?
- 7) How is the Revenue collected in England?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

**Text 4
Local councillors**

Vocabulary

to run - руководить

councillor - советник

on behalf - от лица кого-то

charges - издержки, расходы

ward - административный район города, избирательный округ

allowance - довольствие, вознаграждение

expenses - затраты

via - через, путем

advice surgery - кабинет, где можно спросить совет

to make a complaint - жаловаться

overall - весь, всеобщий

to be subjected to scrutiny - быть подверженным внимательному
осмотру

panel - комиссия, группа специалистов

to exclude - исключать

to withhold - удерживать, утаивать, скрывать

to abide - придерживаться, соблюдать

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

Local councils are run by elected councillors who are voted for by local people. Councillors are responsible for making decisions on behalf of the community about local services, for example rubbish collection and leisure facilities, and agreeing budgets and Council Tax charges.

Representing the community

Councillors are elected by the local community and are there to represent its views. Each councillor represents an area called a ward, serving for four years. There are more than 20,000 elected councillors in England and Wales, representing their communities in 410 local authorities.

The work of a councillor includes holding surgeries to help local people, supporting local organisations, campaigning on local issues, and developing links with all parts of the community.

Councillors are not paid a salary or wages, but they are entitled to allowances and expenses to cover some of the costs of carrying out their public duties. They are not council employees. The elected councillors provide the policies, and then paid employees (council officers) put them into practice.

If you want to discuss any issues with your local councillor, you can contact them via your local authority or attend the councillor's advice surgery. Advice surgeries are available for local people to ask for help or advice, make a complaint or enquire about local authority services.

Decision making and scrutiny

Councils have different ways of making decisions. Since 2000 most councils in England have had a small executive group that is responsible for the overall business of the council. Its decisions are subject to scrutiny by a different

group of councillors who meet in overview and scrutiny panels, to check and monitor what the council does.

Smaller councils often have a committee structure dealing with separate aspects of the council's business, rather than having executive and scrutiny panels.

While the full council (a meeting of all members of the council) is theoretically responsible for all the decisions made, in practice most of the work is delegated to smaller groups of councillors or council officers (employees).

The arrangements are designed to ensure that people know who in the council is responsible for taking decisions, how they can have an input into decision making, and how they can hold decision makers to account.

Council meetings

You can attend most meetings of the council, although usually you will not be able to speak at them. Every council must publish a 'forward work plan' listing the decisions that will be taken over the coming months. They also publish meeting papers at least five working days in advance, and afterwards they publish the minutes of the meeting, summarising the decisions made.

Local authorities may exclude the public from meetings and withhold papers only in limited circumstances.

Declaration of interest

All local councillors abide by a code of conduct, part of which requires them to declare any financial interests, gifts or hospitality that could influence any decisions they make.

All local authorities must publish these declarations, and you can usually access this information via the authority's website or at the town hall.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To elect – electable – election – elective – electoral

To support – support – supporter – supporting

To develop – developed – developer – developing – development – developmental

To cover – covered – covering – coverage

To provide – provided – provider – providing – provision

To discuss – discussion – discussed – discussing

To complain – complaint – complaining – complained

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: to be run, for example, salary, to be entitled, to contact, via, in practice, to attend, although, coming, afterwards, to summarise.

B: to deal, to be governed, to sum up, in fact, to visit, wages, for instance, future, after, though, to have a right to, through.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

Are run by the elected councilors; to represent views; to help local people; to campaign on local issues; provide the policies, to contact via local authority, councillor's advice surgery; to scrutiny; scrutiny panels; although usually you will not be able to speak at them; at least; to exclude public from meetings.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

За которых голосуют местные люди; от лица сообщества; например уборка мусора и возможности проведения досуга; развивая связи со всеми частями сообщества; пожаловаться; принимать решение; в действительности большая часть работы передается меньшим группам советников или служащим совета; перечисляя решения, которые будут приняты в ближайшие месяцы.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) Councillors are responsible for making decisions on behalf of the community about local services.
- 2) Each councillor represents an area called a ward serving for 5 years.
- 3) Councillors are paid a salary or wages.
- 4) You can attend most meetings of the council.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) What do councilors do?
- 2) How many elected councilors are there in England and Wales now?
- 3) Since what time have most councils in England had a small executive group?
- 4) What must every councilor publish?
- 5) What must councilors abide?
- 6) Where can you find the information about councillor's declarations?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

Text 5

Local government elections

Vocabulary

crownservant - слуга короны

service voter - избиратель, находящийся на государственной службе

overseas voter - иностранный избиратель

“first-past-the-post” voting system - система выборов, при которой побеждает кандидат, набравший наибольшее число голосов избирателей

“top up” basis - основа «дозаполнения»

to allocate - распределять, назначать

ballot - избирательный бюллетень

“single transferable vote” system - система голосования с указанием кандидата в порядке предпочтения

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

In a local election, you vote for the councillors who run the local services. Councillors are elected for a term of four years, though in some areas they're not all elected at the same time, so elections may take place more often.

Who can vote

You can vote in local government elections if you have registered to vote and you are: a British citizen living in the UK, a Commonwealth citizen living in the UK, a citizen of the Irish Republic living in the UK, a European Union citizen living in the UK, registered to vote as a Crown Servant, registered to vote as a service voter.

You cannot vote in local government elections if you are: a British citizen living abroad and registered as an overseas voter.

How to vote for local authorities

The way you vote for local councillors is similar to voting for Members of Parliament in a general election. In England and Wales, the candidate who gets the most votes wins – this is called a 'first-past-the-post' voting system.

When you vote in a local election, the ballot paper will list all the candidates standing to be a councillor in your area. You may be asked to vote for more than one candidate, depending on where a person lives.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, you will be asked to rank the candidates in order of preference. This is called the 'single transferable vote' system, a form of proportional representation.

How to vote for the Greater London Authority

In elections for the Mayor of London, you will be asked to mark your first and second choice on your ballot paper, though you don't have to give a

second choice. If no candidate receives more than half of the first choice votes, then second choice votes for the two leading candidates are taken into account to decide the overall winner.

For the London Assembly elections, London is divided into 14 constituencies, whose members are elected using the first-past-the-post system. A further 11 London-wide seats are allocated on a 'top-up' basis, where votes are counted across London and the seats are shared among the political parties in proportion to the votes each party receives.

When elections are held

Local elections take place at least every four years. There are several types of election, because local authorities are organised in different ways, depending on where a person lives. Either: all of the councillors are elected every four years; half of the councillors are elected every two years; a third of the councillors are elected every year for three years, with no elections in the fourth year.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To register – registered – registering – registration

To prefer – preference – preferable

To transfer – a transfer – transferable – transeferability – transeference

To represent – representation – representative – representativeness – representational

To mark – a mark – marked – a marker

To win – winning – a winner

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: overseas, to receive, form, type, way, overall, choice, to take into account, to decide.

B: to consider, foreign, variant, kind, universal, to get, option, to make up ones' mind.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

Elections; may take place more often; a British citizen living in the UK; registered to vote as a service voter; similar; ballot paper; in order of preference; if no candidate receives more than half of the first choice votes; across London; with no elections in the fourth year.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

На местных выборах; советники избираются на пятилетний срок; можно голосовать за правительство на местных выборах; житель сообщества, проживающий в Соединенном Королевстве; система выборов, при которой побеждает кандидат, набравший наибольшее число голосов

избирателей; в зависимости от того, где живет человек; на выборах мэра Лондона; общий победитель.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) You cannot vote if you are a citizen of the Irish republic.
- 2) You can vote in a local government elections if you are a British citizen living abroad and registered as an overseas voter.
- 3) Local elections take at least every four years.
- 4) There are several types of election.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) Whom can you vote in a local election?
- 2) Can you vote if you're registered as a Crown Servant?
- 3) What's the name of the form of proportional representation in Scotland and Northern Ireland?
- 4) How many constituencies is London divided into?
- 5) What's the name of the basis further 11 London-wide seats are allocated?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

**Text 6
Mayors**

Vocabulary

mayor - мэр

chain - цепь

robe - мантия, одеяние

binding referendums - ограничительные обязательства

petition - прошение, просьба

to intervene - вмешиваться, происходить

provost - провост, мэр

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

There are two types of mayor with different roles. Many local councils have a mayor for ceremonial duties, who is chosen by the councillors. A few councils have an elected mayor with the power to make decisions, who is chosen by the public.

Ceremonial mayors

Some districts have the ceremonial title of borough or city, granted by royal authority. Traditionally, their councillors choose a mayor (in Scotland a provost) to act as presiding officer and to perform civic ceremonial duties.

The mayor represents the district at ceremonial and social events, meets important visitors, and chairs council meetings. Their role is non-political and they cannot make decisions about council business. Mayors wear a gold chain of office and a red robe on special occasions.

In the City of London and certain other large cities, they are known as the Lord Mayor. In Scotland, the presiding officer of the council of the four longest established cities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow) is called the Lord Provost.

In local councils which don't have borough or city status, there is a chairman of the council instead of a mayor, who performs the same functions.

Elected mayors

New decision-taking structures for local authorities in England and Wales were introduced in the Local Government Act 2000, including the option of a directly elected mayor.

Elected mayors are responsible for the day-to-day running of local services. They are voted for by local people, and serve for four years. They provide political leadership to the council and the community, and carry out the local authority's policies.

The best known elected mayor is the Mayor of London, who heads the Greater London Authority - not to be confused with the Lord Mayor of London. However, the Mayor of London has wider, more strategic powers than other elected mayors.

Systems of leadership

In most local authorities the arrangements are based on one of three executive frameworks: a mayor and cabinet, a council leader and cabinet, a mayor and council manager.

Within these options, local authorities have flexibility to work under a constitution that reflects local circumstances. Most English and Welsh local authorities have opted for a style of executive where the leader of the cabinet is chosen by other councillors.

Small district councils with a population of less than 85,000 also had the choice of reforming their existing committee system.

Referendums for an elected mayor

Provisions in the Local Government Act 2000 required councils in England and Wales to hold binding referendums if, following consultation, local people indicated that they wanted to directly elect a mayor under the new executive arrangements.

Councils may choose to hold a referendum, but local residents can also force a referendum with a petition signed by at least five per cent of registered voters in the area.

Although the Government has powers to direct a local authority to hold a referendum in certain circumstances, in June 2002 it announced that it would not intervene in cases where it did not agree with the judgement made by a council following consultation.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To differ – different – difference – differentiate – differentiated – differently

To establish – established – establishment

To perform – performance – a performer – performing

To lead – a leader – leadership – leading

To execute – execution – executioner – executor

To arrange – arrangement – arranged – arranging

To announce – an announcer – announcement

To judge – a judge – judgement

To consult – a consultant – consultation – consultancy – a consultee – consulting

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: To choose; chairman; important; occasion; area; existing; special; to be confused.

B: Particular; chief, to take up; case; territory; crucial; to be mixed up; current.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

Ceremonial duties; granted by royal authority; to act as a presiding officer; have opted for a style of executive; to force a referendum with a petition; certain circumstances; announced; it would not intervene; following consultation; arrangement; are based on one of three executive frameworks.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

Существует 2 типа мэров с различными ролями; общественные события; известны как Лорд мэры; встречает важных посетителей; работать в соответствии с конституцией, которая отражает местные особенности; существующая система комитета; референдум; подписанную по крайней мере 5 % зарегистрированных избирателей в этой области.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) Some districts have the ceremonial title of borough or city, granted by royal authority.
- 2) Ceremonial mayors wear a silver chain of office and a red rose on special occasions.
- 3) New decision-making structures for local authorities in England and Wales were introduced in the Local Government Act 2001.
- 4) The Mayor of London has more strategic powers than other elected mayors.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) Which two kinds of mayors can you point out from the text?
- 2) What is the role of ceremonial mayors?
- 3) What do ceremonial mayors wear?
- 4) How is the presiding officer of the council in Scotland called?
- 5) What are the elected mayors responsible for?
- 6) Who is the best known elected mayor?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

Text 7
Political parties

Vocabulary

to evolve - развивать, превращать

to merge - сливать

to oppose - возражать

Chief Whips - «Главный кнут»

counterpart - двойник, аналог

forthcoming - предстоящий, грядущий

donation - дар, пожертвование

Plaid Cymru [ˈplaɪd ˈkəmri] - партия валлийских националистов

Sinn Féin [ʃɪn ˈfeɪn] - Ирландская республиканская партия

Ulster Unionist Party - Партия сохранения Северной Ирландии в составе Соединенного Королевства, юнионистская партия

Respect - политическая партия социалистов в Англии и Уэльсе

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

The party system is based on political groups with their own policies, which compete for the support of the public to win power. In Parliament, the two parties with the most Members of Parliament (MPs) form the government and the opposition.

A political party is an organised group of people who have similar ideas about how the country should be run. Their aim is to get their candidates elected to political power.

After a general election, the party with the most MPs usually forms the new government. The second largest party becomes the official opposition, with its own leader and 'shadow cabinet'. Most candidates in elections, and almost all winning candidates, belong to one of the main parties. If an MP doesn't have a political party, he is known as an 'Independent'.

History of the party system

The system of political parties has existed since at least the 18th century. It evolved from the historical division of Whigs and Tories in the Stuart period. For the past 150 years, Britain has had a mainly two-party system, in which two parties dominate although there may be other parties.

Since 1945, either the Conservative Party or the Labour Party has held power. The Liberal Democrats, the third biggest party in the UK, were formed when the Liberal Party merged with the Social Democratic Party in 1988.

Political parties represented at Parliament

The UK has a wide range of political parties, including national parties in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The following parties have members in the House of Commons or the House of Lords: Labour Party; Conservative Party; Liberal Democrat; Scottish National Party (SNP); Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales; Democratic Unionist Party (DUP); Sinn Féin; Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP); Ulster Unionist Party (UUP); Respect; UK Independence Party (UKIP); Independent Labour; Independent Conservative.

The role of political parties in Parliament

The effectiveness of the party system in Parliament relies on the relationship between the government and the opposition parties.

The opposition parties contribute to policy and legislation through constructive criticism, oppose government proposals that they disagree with, and put forward their own policies to improve their chances of winning the next general election.

Leaders of the government and opposition sit opposite each other on the front benches in the debating chamber of the House of Commons. Their supporters, called the 'backbenchers', sit behind them.

There are similar seating arrangements in the House of Lords, but peers who don't wish to be associated with any political party choose to sit on the 'crossbenches'.

Chief Whips

The government Chief Whips in the Commons and the Lords, in consultation with their opposition counterparts, arrange the scheduling of government business. Collectively, the Chief Whips are often referred to as 'the usual channels' when the question of finding time for a particular item of business is being discussed.

The Chief Whips and their assistants, who are usually chosen by the party leaders, manage their parliamentary parties. Their duties include keeping members informed of forthcoming parliamentary business, maintaining the party's voting strength by ensuring that members attend important debates, and passing on to the party leadership the opinions of backbench members.

Party funding

The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 aims to make party funding more open. It specifies that: 1) parties can only accept donations of over £500 from 'permissible donors', who are individuals on the UK electoral register, registered companies incorporated in the EU which do business in the UK, registered political parties, or trade unions; 2) all donations of over £7,500 to a political party's central organisation must be reported to the Electoral Commission on a quarterly basis, or weekly during a general election campaign; 3) organisations or individuals who campaign but don't stand for election (like trade unions) must register with the Electoral Commission if they spend more than specific limits on campaigns. In England, the limit is £10,000. In Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland the limit is £5,000; 4) all donations of over £1,500 to 'accounting units', like a constituency association, must be reported to the Electoral Commission.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To form – a form – formation – formed – forming – a former

To belong – belongings

To contribute – contribution – contributing – contributor

To construct – constructor – construction – constrictive

To improve – improver – improvement – improvable

To maintain – maintenance

To accept – accepted – acceptee – acceptor – acceptable – acceptability

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: Similar; range; to be associated; incorporated; forthcoming; to oppose; to evolve.

B: To develop; row; included; to disagree; to be related; future; alike.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

Most MPs; the second largest party; “shadow cabinet”; he is known as “an Independent”; two parties dominate; Labour Party; merged; including National parties in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; to be associated with political party; scheduling of government business; particular item; to manage; maintaining the party’s voting strength; to attend important debates.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

Формируют правительство и оппозицию; после всеобщих выборов; принадлежит к одной из главных партий; двухпартийная система; Партия Консерваторов; Партия либеральных демократов; пэры; «Главный кнут»; помощник; предстоящие парламентские чтения.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) A political party is an organized group of people who have different ideas about how the country should be run.
- 2) The system of political parties evolved from the historical division of Whigs and Tories in the Stuart period.
- 3) The opposition parties contribute to policy and legislation through constructive criticism, oppose government proposals that they disagree with.
- 4) The Political parties, Elections and referendums Act 2000 aims to make party funding more open.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) What is the party system based on?
- 2) What is the aim of a political party?
- 3) Since what time the system of political parties existed?
- 4) Enumerate some national parties in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 5) What does the effectiveness of the party system rely?
- 6) Whom do we call “backbenchers”?
- 7) What does The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 aim?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

**Text 8
The European Union**

Vocabulary

To promote – продвигать, содействовать

The main decision-making body – главный орган, ответственный за принятие решение

To rotate – перемещать, сменять
Unanimously – единодушно, единогласно
Overall – общий, полный
Agenda – повестка дня, программа
Priority – приоритет
To draft – составлять план, набрасывать, выделять
To put into effect – осуществлять, приводить в действие
To bring proceedings – предъявлять иск
To be bound – быть обязанным
Lobbying – лоббирование
Devolution – передача власти

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

The European Union (EU) is a partnership of 27 democratic countries, working together for the benefit of all their citizens. It aims to promote social and economic progress among its members, common foreign and security positions, police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters, and European citizenship.

Member states

The 27 countries in the EU are listed below, by the year they joined:

1958 - Belgium, France, (West) Germany, Italy, Luxembourg,
Netherlands

1973 - Denmark, Ireland, UK

1981 - Greece

1986 - Portugal, Spain

1995 - Austria, Finland, Sweden

2004 - Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania,
Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia

2007 - Romania, Bulgaria

Croatia, Macedonia and Turkey are official candidates to join the EU.

Map of EU countries opens new window.

The Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union - informally called the Council of Ministers - is the main decision-making body, which approves European laws (jointly with the European Parliament). The Presidency of the Council rotates every six months from one member state to the next.

Meetings are attended by the relevant minister from each country, depending on the subject. For example, when health matters are being discussed, the UK's Secretary of State for Health attends, with their European counterparts.

The Council can take decisions either by simple majority, by qualified majority, or unanimously on the most important issues. In most cases, the Council uses qualified majority voting, a weighted system which means that each member state has a certain number of votes reflecting its size and population. A majority of the member states must be in favour, as well as a minimum number of overall votes.

The European Council

The European Council is made up of the presidents or prime ministers of each member state, accompanied by their foreign ministers, and the President of the European Commission. They meet up to four times a year in 'European summits' to set the EU's overall agenda and priorities. The meetings are chaired by whichever country holds the EU Presidency.

The European Commission

The European Commission is the executive body, similar to the UK civil service. It implements the agenda set by the European Council, by drafting new laws and ensuring that member states put them into effect.

Every member country nominates one Commissioner, who is responsible for a specific policy area, for example, education, transport or agriculture. The Commissioners are entirely independent of their countries and serve the EU as a whole.

The European Parliament

The European Parliament is made up of MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) elected by the people of EU countries. It approves laws jointly with the Council of Ministers.

The European Courts

Each member state sends a judge to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. The court ensures that laws passed at a European level are applied and interpreted correctly. In certain circumstances, individuals can also bring proceedings against EU institutions.

The Court of Auditors also has one member from each member state. It reviews the accounts of the European Union, to verify that the funds are used legally, economically, efficiently and effectively, and for the intended purpose.

The UK in the European Union

As a member of the European Union, the UK is bound by various legislation and policies. These are based on a series of treaties since the 1950s, which set out the EU's powers and how it can use them.

UK government ministers take part in the discussions and decision-making, and the final decision is taken collectively by all the member states.

The United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the European Union (UKRep) represents the UK's interests in the EU. Based in Brussels, UKRep conducts most of the negotiations and lobbying on behalf of the UK government. Following UK devolution, offices were opened in Brussels to promote the interests of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, working closely with UKRep.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To promote – promoter – promoting – promotion

To secure – secured – security – securely

To lobby – lobbyism – lobbyist

To intend – intended – intending – intendant

To proceed – proceedings

To conduct – conducting – conductor

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: to put into practice, rotates, correctly, relevant, certain, next, to take part in, benefit.

B: following, definite, in a right way, appropriate, use, to put into effect, to participate, changes.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

For the benefit of all their citizens; aims to promote social and economic progress; when health matters are being discussed; in favour; European summit; agenda; priority; it reviews the accounts of the European Union; to verify; for the intended purpose; is bound by various legislation and policies; based on a series of treaties; devolution; decision-making; collectively.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

Партнерство 27 демократических государств; полиция и судебное сотрудничество в криминальных делах; европейское гражданство; простое большинство; единогласно; минимальное число общих голосов; состоит из; в сопровождении своих иностранных министров; одобряет законы; могут предъявить иск; законно; эффективно.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) Greece joined the European Union in 1982.
- 2) The Presidency of the Council rotates every six months from one member state to the next.
- 3) The Council of the European Union is the main legislative body.
- 4) Every member country nominates two Commissioners, who are responsible for a specific policy area, for example, education, transport or agriculture.
- 5) As a member of the European Union, the UK is not bound by various legislation and policies.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) What is the European Union?
- 2) Enumerate some member states of the European Union.
- 3) What is the informal name of the Council of the European Union?
- 4) What is the European Council?
- 5) Are the European Commissioners dependent or independent of their countries?
- 6) What does the European Parliament do?
- 7) What is the function of the UKRep?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

Text 9

The Commonwealth

Vocabulary

Voluntarily – добровольно

Faith – вера

Charter – устав

Unifying – объединяющий

To reinforce – усиливать, укреплять

Intergovernmental – межгосударственный

Ministerial – министерский, правительственный

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of independent countries, nearly all of which were once British territories. There are 53 members including the United Kingdom, which co-operate in the common interests of their people.

Principles and aims

The Commonwealth promotes international peace and security, democracy, liberty and equal rights, as well as economic and social development. It opposes all forms of racial discrimination.

It represents nearly two billion people – almost a third of the world's population – from a wide range of faiths, races, cultures and traditions.

The Commonwealth does not have a formal charter or constitution. Its structure is based on unwritten and traditional procedures, but it is guided by a series of agreements on its principles and aims. These are Declarations or Statements which have been issued by Commonwealth Heads of Government at various summits.

Head of the Commonwealth

The Queen is Head of the Commonwealth. This is a symbolic and unifying role, which reinforces the links by which the Commonwealth joins people together from around the world.

The Queen and other members of the Royal Family regularly visit Commonwealth countries. The Queen also has regular meetings with Heads of Government from Commonwealth countries, and attends the Commonwealth Day celebrations in London every year, on the second Monday in March.

Commonwealth realms

The Queen is also Head of State in the UK and 15 other independent states, their overseas territories and dependencies. These countries, known as Commonwealth realms, are: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu.

In each country where she is Head of State, The Queen is represented by a Governor-General, appointed by her on the advice of the ministers of the country concerned, and independent of the UK government.

In the overseas territories, the Queen is usually represented by governors responsible to the UK government for the administration of the countries in which they serve.

Commonwealth Secretariat

The Commonwealth Secretariat, based in London, is the main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth. It helps to organise the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which takes place every two years in a different Commonwealth country.

The Secretariat also helps to organise ministerial meetings and other conferences. It administers assistance programmes agreed at these meetings, including those of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, which provides expertise, advisory services and training to developing countries in the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games are a friendly, world class, multi-sports event, held every four years. They are open to eligible competitors from all Commonwealth nations.

Although the United Kingdom is a single Commonwealth country, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man all compete in the Games as separate nations.

The 2002 Commonwealth Games were hosted in Manchester. This was the biggest sporting event ever held in the UK, with more than 5,000 athletes and team officials taking part in 17 sports. The 2006 Games were in Melbourne, Australia. The 2010 Games will be in Delhi, India, and the 2014 Games will be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To oppose – opposing – opposite – opposition

To assist – assistance – assistant – assisting

To celebrate – celebrated – celebration – celebrity

To reinforce – reinforced – reinforcement – reinforcing

To train – trained – trainer – trainee

To separate – separator – separated – separatist – separable – separately

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: aim; athlete; realm; liberty; guided by; assistance; competitor.

B: leaded by; aid; participant; freedom; sportsman; area; purpose.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

Voluntary association; promotes international peace and security; a series of agreements; various summits; unifying role; reinforces the links; Commonwealth realms; the main intergovernmental agency; helps to organise ministerial meetings; assistance; provides expertise; advisory services; open to eligible competitors; racial discrimination; a wide range of faiths and races.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

Независимые страны; которые когда-то были Британскими территориями; которые сотрудничают в общих интересах своих людей; основана на неписанных и традиционных процедурах; глав Сообщества;

символический; другие члены королевской семьи; посещает празднования дня Сообщества; во второй понедельник марта; представлена генерал-губернатором; по совету министров затрагиваемой страны; развивающиеся страны Сообщества.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) The Commonwealth has a formal charter or constitution.
- 2) The Queen and other members of the Royal Family rarely visit Commonwealth countries.
- 3) The Commonwealth Games are a friendly, world class, multi-sports event, held every five years.
- 4) The 2002 Commonwealth Games were hosted in Manchester.
- 5) England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man don't compete in the Games as separate nations.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) What does the Commonwealth represent?
- 2) Who is the head of the Commonwealth?
- 3) When does the Queen attend the Commonwealth day?
- 4) What countries are known as Commonwealth realms?
- 5) Where is the Commonwealth Secretariat based?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.

Text 10

The United Nation Organization

Vocabulary

Commitment – обязательство

To maintain – поддерживать, сохранять

To threaten – угрожать

To mediate – быть посредником, содействовать

Ceasefire – прекращение огня, перемирие

Guidance – руководство

Renewable – возобновляемый

Task 1. Scan the text and try to presuppose its main idea.

Task 2. Read and translate the text.

The United Nations (UN) is an international organisation created in 1945, after the end of World War II. The UK and 50 other countries signed the UN Charter - a commitment to preserve peace through international co-operation. Nearly every nation in the world now belongs to the UN, with 192 member countries.

The General Assembly

All countries in the UN are represented in the General Assembly - a 'parliament of nations' which meets to consider the world's most pressing problems. Each member state has one vote. The type of issues that may be discussed include globalisation, AIDS, conflict in Africa and how to help new democracies.

Decisions on key areas such as peace and security, admitting new members and the UN budget need a two-thirds majority, while other matters only need a simple majority (the largest share of the votes).

The Security Council

The most powerful part of the United Nations is the Security Council, with responsibility for maintaining peace and international security. The Council can meet at any time, whenever peace is threatened.

There are 15 Council members. Five of these - the UK, China, France, Russia and the United States - are permanent members. The other 10 members are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term.

Decisions made by the Council require nine 'yes' votes out of 15. A decision cannot pass if there is a 'no' vote or a veto from one of the five permanent members, such as the UK.

When the Council considers a threat to international peace, it first explores ways to settle the dispute peacefully. It may suggest a settlement, or try to mediate between the countries involved. In the event of fighting, the Council will try to secure a ceasefire. It may also send a peace-keeping mission to help maintain a truce and to keep opposing forces apart.

The UN can also take action to enforce its decisions. It can impose economic sanctions or order a ban on arms sales to specific countries. On rare occasions, the Council has authorised member states to use 'all necessary means', including military action, to see that decisions are carried out.

The Secretariat

When decisions are made by the General Assembly or the Security Council, the Secretariat is responsible for providing the support work necessary to carry out the decisions. It consists of departments and offices with a total of 14,000 staff (7,000 working temporarily on special projects), drawn from more than 170 countries.

At its head is the Secretary-General, who provides overall administrative guidance. Secretaries-General serve for renewable five-year terms; most have served two terms. The current Secretary-General is Ban Ki-moon of South Korea (pictured above), who took up the post in January 2007.

The UN headquarters are in New York, with other offices in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi and other locations.

Comprehension

Task 1. Translate the words and their derivatives.

To preserve – preservation

To admit – admitted – admittance – admissible – admission

To settle – settled – settlement – settler

Task 2. Find the synonyms to the words from list A in the list B.

A: key; to suggest; location; involved; to try; permanent; to help.

B: to assist; to offer; to assist; main; place; constant; to make an attempt.

Task 3. Give the Russian equivalents to the following English words and word-combinations from the text.

General Assembly; commitment; globalization; AIDS; issues; require nine 'yes' votes out of 15; matters; a decision cannot pass; it first explores ways to settle the dispute peacefully; ceasefire; whenever peace is threatened; to enforce its decisions; military action; administrative guidance; current; renewable.

Task 4. Find in the text the English equivalents for the following Russian words and word-combinations.

Ключевые вопросы; 2/3 большинства; постоянные члены; выбираются на двухгодичный период; вето; угроза международному миру; миротворческая миссия; наложить экономические санкции; в редких случаях; запрет; штаб-квартира ООН находится в Нью-Йорке; который занят пост в январе 2007 года.

Task 5. Define if the following sentences are true or false.

- 1) The United Nations (UN) was created at the beginning of World War II.
- 2) The most powerful part of the United Nations is the Security Council, with responsibility for maintaining peace and international security.
- 3) There are 20 Council members.
- 4) The head of the Secretary-General provides overall administrative guidance.
- 5) The UN headquarters are in Brussels.

Task 6. Answer the questions to the text.

- 1) What is the United Nations?
- 2) How many members does the United Nations include?
- 3) Which issues do the member countries of the United Nations discuss?
- 4) What does the Secretariat consist of?

Task 7. Sum up the contents of the text.