

BRITAIN TODAY (III)

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

The point of this section is for you to test not only your understanding of what has just been explained but also your ability to state it in your own words. Imagine this is a question asked by a jury about a text: how would you briefly make yourself clear in English?

1. What do you know of "New Labour"? What does it mean and with whom do you associate it?
2. What do you understand by "The Third Way"?
3. Who is the mayor of London ? What do you know about his election?
4. What is a Civil Servant? [Check last month's presentation]
5. Who is the current British Home Secretary? [This is the opportunity for you to test your knowledge of Tony Blair's Cabinet as given last month.]
6. What document lies at the basis of the British Welfare State? When was it published? What were its principles?
7. Compare the British NHS with the French social security. What are the differences? Can you quote the assets and downsides of the British system?
8. What is at stake in the issue of fox-hunting? What is your own opinion on this practice?
9. What is the current British stance on the Euro?
10. What is the main problem of the British Railway and Underground?

CHECK YOUR VOCABULARY

1. Je voudrais montrer par ces chiffres qu'Internet a créé un fossé entre les nantis et les plus pauvres.
2. L'actuel premier ministre n'a pas appliqué les mesures énergiques qu'il avait promis de lancer.
3. C'est d'une réforme de grande ampleur dont il s'agit, d'après le ministre des finances.

CORRECTION DES PHRASES DE THEME

1. With these figures, I'd like to point out / my point is to show / that the Internet has fostered / triggered a gap between the haves and the have-nots.

« I'd like to point out / my point is »: retenez ces formules pour vos présentations orales

« THE Internet »: toujours un article, toujours une majuscule

« Has fostered »: j'utilise le present perfect car il y a un bilan dans le présent

« the haves and the have-nots »: expression à retenir pour les riches et les démunis; cet usage constitue une exception aux adjectifs substantivés vus note 29.

2. The incumbent Prime Minister did not implement / has not implemented the crackdown he had pledged to launch.
3. An overhauling is at stake, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer / The Chancellor contends.

Ne jamais calquer la mise en emphase très française. « C'est moi qui l'ai fait » = « I did it » et on insistera sur le « I » à la prononciation.

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