

# 英语国家概况

【00522】

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考前30分



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## PART I The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

### 1. The Norman Conquest (诺曼征服) (1066)

#### William the Conqueror 征服者威廉 ★★★★★

- 1) William was Duke of Normandy.
- 2) He landed his army in Oct. 1066 and defeated king Harold.
- 3) Then he was crowned king of England on Christmas Day the same year.
- 4) He established a strong Norman government and the feudal system in England.

### 2. Magna Carta (大宪章) ★★★★★

- ① The Great Charter, also called Magna Carta, was the first famous political document to limit the king's powers in English history.
- ② It was signed in 1215 by King John. It contains altogether 63 clauses.

### 3. Industrial Revolution (工业革命) ★★★★★

- ① The Industrial Revolution refers to the mechanization of industry and the consequent changes in social and economic organization in Britain in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
- ② Britain was the first country to industrialize.

### 4. Two-Party System

#### official opposition/"shadow" government ★★★

- ① The two-party system, together with uncertainty about the timing of a general election, has produced the British phenomenon of the official opposition.
- ② Its decisive characteristic is that the main opposition party forms an alternative, or "shadow" government, ready at any time to take office, in recognition of which the leader of the opposition receives an official salary.

### 5. Education

#### Open University (开放大学) ★★★★★

- ① The Open University is a unique innovation in higher education.
- ② It is a degree-granting institution that provides courses of study for adults through television, radio, and local study programs.
- ③ Applicants must apply for a number of places limited at any time by the availability of teachers.

## PART II The United States of America

### 1. Mississippi ★★★★★ The Mississippi has been called "father of waters" or "old man river".

### 2. Bill of Rights of America ★★★★★

- 1) Some of the arguments for opposition to the Constitution concerned the absence of a Bill of Rights in the Constitution.
- 2) It was not until the federalists agreed to the Bill of Rights Amendments that ratification of the Constitution was assured.
- 3) In 1789, James Madison introduced in the House of Representatives a series of amendments which later were

drafted into twelve proposed amendments and sent to the states for ratification.

4) Two of these amendments were not ratified by the states and the other were ratified in 1791 and became the first ten amendments to the constitution — the Bill of Rights.

5) By then, it is agreed, the foundation of the American constitutional system was completed.

### 3. Separation of Powers: Checks and Balances ★★★★★

1) The government is divided into three branches: the legislative, the executive and the judicial.

2) Each has part of the powers but not all the powers.

3) Each branch of government can check, or block, the actions of the other branches.

4) The three branches are thus in balance.

5) This is called “checks and balances.”

### 4. Holidays

(1) **Memorial Day** is observed on **the last Monday of May**.

(2) **Veterans Day** is celebrated on November 11. This holiday was originally called Armistice Day and established to honor Americans who had served in World War I. It now honors veterans of all wars in which the US has fought. Veterans’ organizations hold parades, and the president places a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

## PART III Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Ireland

### 1. Ottawa ★★★★★

1) Ottawa is the capital of Canada, and the fourth largest city in the country.

2) The name “Ottawa” is derived from the Algonquin word *adawe*, meaning “to trade.” Initially an Irish and French Christian settlement, Ottawa has become a multicultural city with a diverse population.

3) It is rated the second cleanest city in Canada, and third cleanest city in the world. In 2012, the city was ranked for the third consecutive year as the best community in Canada to live in.

### 2. Politics ★★★★★

1. It is bicameral—that is, consisting of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. In Australia the Queen is represented by the Governor-General.

2. New Zealand has a parliamentary form of government based on the British model. Legislative power is vested in the single-chamber House of Representatives (Parliament), the members of which are elected for three-year terms. There are two dominant parties, National and Labor. The leader of the governing party becomes the prime minister, who, with ministers responsible for different aspects of government, forms a cabinet. The cabinet is the central organ of executive power.

3. With the establishment of the power-sharing assembly, the Irish government continued to remain active in promoting peace and economic development in Northern Ireland. The president is the guardian of the constitution. There are two houses of the Oireachtas—the Dáil and the Seanad éireann (Senate). Executive power is vested in the prime minister, who heads the cabinet and presides over its meetings.