

1 Which version of English do you prefer, American English or British English?

I adore British pronunciation and the British accent. / I think British English is more sophisticated and elegant. / I love listening to British English and I try to imitate it.

American English is definitely the best. It is so soft and pleasant / I love the accent and the pronunciation / It is also easier when it comes to spelling. / American English is so diverse, it is different when white Americans speak and when Afro-Americans speak / I adore listening to the American accent while watching movies.

2 What do you know about the political systems of the US / UK?

The USA is a republic of 50 states with a federal government. The legislative branch is Congress, the executive branch is the President and the judicial branch is the Supreme Court. There are two parties in the USA, namely: the Democrats and the Republicans.

The UK is a constitutional monarchy, where the Queen is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of the government. The two largest parties in the UK are the Labour Party and the Conservative Party. The highest court is the Supreme Court.

3 Is the USA a land of opportunity? Why? Why not?

I think that the USA was once a land of opportunity. Many emigrants who came to the USA worked hard and became millionaires. / There are many "rags to riches" stories connected with the USA about the people who worked hard and achieved success.

I think that everybody who has a great idea and talent can achieve a lot in the USA. / I suppose that people connected with IT, such as software developers, or people who are passionate about fashion can become successful in the USA.

Maybe the USA was a land of opportunity in the past, but not any more. Nowadays it is just as difficult to achieve success there as anywhere else.

4 What do you know about the geography of the US, UK or Australia?

The USA is the third largest country in size. It borders Canada in the North, Mexico in the south, the Atlantic in the east and the Pacific in the west. There are 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are tropical beaches, prairies, mountains and deserts.

Australia consists of two landmasses: Australia and Tasmania. It doesn't border any other country. The nearest neighbour is Papua New Guinea. The highest peak is Mount Kosciuszko.

The UK is made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The highest mountain is Ben Nevis in Scotland. The longest river is the River Severn flowing through England and Wales. Loch Neagh is the biggest lake. There are 15 national parks in the UK.

5 Do you celebrate Valentine's Day? Why? Why not?

I celebrate Valentine's Day because on that day I can show that I really care about somebody / Valentine's Day is a pleasant day which I spend with the person I love / Valentine's Day is a special day for me because on that day I met my girlfriend / boyfriend for the first time. / It is a pleasant day which I spend at the cinema or restaurant. / It is a day which shows us that love is a magical feeling.

I do not celebrate Valentine's Day because it is too commercial and artificial. / On that day cinemas and restaurants are full of people, so it is impossible to spend some relaxing time with the ones we love. / It is a weird, foreign celebration which does not appeal to me. / It is a normal day which is why I do not celebrate it / I try to show love and affection to my boyfriend / girlfriend every day, not just on Valentine's Day.

6 What do you know about Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is a US celebration. / It is a national holiday in the United States. / It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. / It is a day when families meet together and eat roast turkey. / It was originally celebrated as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.

▣ Język angielski PP, Elementy wiedzy o krajach obszaru nauczanego języka , Wiedza o krajach obszaru anglojęzycznego

7 What is typical American / British food?

Hamburgers and hot dogs are typical American food. / When I think about the USA, chips, hamburgers and hot-dogs come to mind. / Americans love junk food so they consume a lot of cheeseburgers, pizzas, hot-dogs and chips.

When I think about British food, fish and chips come to mind. / Fried bacon, eggs and beans - these are typical ingredients of a traditional British breakfast.

8 How would you characterise a typical American / British person?

A typical American person is open and friendly. I think Americans are obese because they eat a lot of junk food / They are very spontaneous, ready to help and funny. / They have different skin colours; there are Afro-Americans, white Americans and Americans of Mexican or Cuban origin.

A typical British person is reserved and does not talk a lot. / British people are not very attractive. / They are proud of their country and the Queen. / They are very conservative.

9 What places in the UK / the USA would you like to visit?

I think I would like to visit London because it is a multicultural city / there are many amazing pubs and exclusive shops / there are many interesting landmarks and places to see / it is very close to Poland, only a few hours by plane.

I would like to visit Las Vegas because it is an incredible city built in the desert / it is a city which never sleeps / I would like to visit a casino and win some money / I would like to try my luck in one of the casinos.

10 What comes to mind when you hear "the United States", "Australia" or "the United Kingdom"?

The United States is a huge country in North America. It consists of 50 states. It is a country of many cultures. / I guess Americans are open and friendly. / It is a land of opportunity where everyone can achieve success. / It is a country with incredible natural scenery. / It is one of the most developed countries in the world. / When I think about the USA, I think about good cars with powerful engines.

Australia is a country as well as a continent / Cricket and rugby are extremely popular there. / It is a place where you can see the Great Barrier Reef and incredible animals such as kangaroos, koalas or platypuses. It is a place of Uluru - a huge, red rock that is very important to the Aborigines.

When I think about the UK, Queen Elizabeth II comes to mind. I also think about black London cabs and the cockney dialect. / The UK is connected with double-decker buses and red phone boxes. / When I think about the UK, I imagine reserved people and old-fashioned clothes. For me the UK is connected with the Beatles, the Spice Girls and One Direction.