

Topic 1 BRITAIN – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

1 Complete the text using vocabulary from topic 1.

Britain – Past, present and future

These are interesting times in Britain. On the one hand, *The United Kingdom*, as it is also known, is as culturally diverse as it has ever been, with people from all parts of the world calling it home. However, on the other hand, in the aftermath of the 2016 Brexit referendum there has been a divide amongst the population and a level of xenophobia and bitterness that cause some to suggest that British society has been damaged irreparably. The decision to leave the EU may not lead to economic devastation as some worry, but the once great colonial power is in danger of becoming a laughing stock.

But how did we get to this point? Why are many *remain* voters queuing up to leave the country and start new lives elsewhere, uprooting their families? And what were the main reasons behind all the *leave* votes? And perhaps most importantly, how will Britain recover from this self-inflicted wound?

Many people who voted *leave* say they are worried about the future of the country and felt that their jobs and the British identity was in jeopardy due to the large number of migrants coming from all over the world. They felt that important issues such as housing and schools were being put on the back burner as local governments were spending too much time dealing with the influx of migrants.

Although many people have compassion with the plight of refugees, they sometimes felt like strangers in their own country.

The *remain* voters, however, cannot understand the decision to leave the EU and the referendum has caused a rupture in society and some families. For example, many young people, who would like to study abroad or work in foreign subsidiaries of British companies, feel betrayed by the older population. Consequently, many have become disengaged with Britain and are very pessimistic about the future, regardless of what the politicians say.

Whatever happens post-Brexit, as Britain contemplates a life outside of the European Union, its leaders cannot afford to disregard the domestic issues in the heartland of the country.

2 Match the words on the left (1-8) with their synonyms on the right (A-H).

C	1	to subjugate	A	negatively
E	2	tedious	B	to be suitable
A	3	adversely	C	to conquer
H	4	to set a precedent	D	cereals
B	5	to fit the bill	E	boring
D	6	grain	F	separation
F	7	partition	G	to ignore
G	8	to disregard	H	to set an example

3 Match the words on the left (1-8) with their definitions on the right (A-H).

D	1	to pillage	A	to profit from something
F	2	famine	B	a lack of activity
G	3	austerity measures	C	constantly changing
A	4	to reap the benefits	D	to rob with open violence
B	5	inertia	E	the central area of somewhere
C	6	in flux	F	extreme scarcity of food
H	7	to be wanting	G	reductions in government spending
E	8	heartland	H	lacking something

4 Fill in the gaps.

1. If there are a lot of people in a shop, then you have to queue to pay for your purchases.
2. The right to vote is known as suffrage.
3. BBC is an acronym for British Broadcasting Corporation.
4. A self-inflicted wound is something you bring on yourself.
5. Our company headquarters are in London, but we have a subsidiary in Madrid.
6. In breaking her promises she betrayed our trust.
7. If you divert something you re-direct it.
8. The PM has taken a controversial stance on immigration.

5 What is it in German?

1. uprooting Entwurzelung
2. to impose auflegen
3. to contemplate erwägen
4. adversely nachteilig
5. to become a laughing stock sich lächerlich machen
6. xenophobia Fremdenhass
7. prosperity Wohlstand
8. dedication Engagement