**Lexical-Grammar Test “Great Britain. British national character. British weather”**

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1. **Put each of the following words in its place in the passage below.**

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| conservatism stability building national vision associations gardeningliving thatched pond opportunities privilege common health crime  |

**The love of nature**

Most of the British live in towns and cities. But they have an idealized \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(1) of the countryside. To the British, the countryside has almost none of the negative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(2) which it has in some countries, such as poor facilities, lack of educational \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(3), unemployment and poverty. To them, the countryside means peace and quiet, beauty, good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(4) and no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(5). Most of them would live in a country village if they thought that they could find a way of earning a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(6) there. Ideally, this village would consist of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(7) cottages built around an area of grass known as a “village green”. Nearby, there would be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(8) with ducks on it. Nowadays such a village is not actually very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(9), but it is a stereotypical picture that is well-known to the British.

Perhaps this love to the countryside is another aspect of British \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(10). The countryside represents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(11). Those who live I towns and cities take an active interest in country matters and the British regard it as both a right and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(12) to be able to go “into the country” whenever they want to. Large areas of the country are official “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(13) parks” where almost no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(14) is allowed.

Even if they cannot get into the countryside, many British people still spend a lot of their time with “nature”. They grow plants. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(15) is one of the most popular hobbies in the country.

1. **Put the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous.**

Ever since the day I (1 **decide**) to move to London, I (2 **worry**) whether the decision I (3 **take**) was the right one. As I (4 already **sell**) my house and (5 **arrange**) a new job, it is too late to change my mind. However, since then I (6 **hear**) a lot of negative things about living in the capital, and lately some of them (7 **begin**) to bother me.

I (8 **grow up**) in a fairly small town and I (9 **spend**) all of my life there. I (10 always **want**) to live in a big city and so when my company (11 **offer**) me a job in their London office, I (12 **grab**) at the chance. But according to a programme I (13 just **hear**) on the radio, more and more people (14 **stop**) working in London recently, and a lot of large companies (15 **choose**) to move away from the centre. Of course I (16 **tell**) my parents that I’m moving and they (17 **accept**) my decision, but when I (18 **tell**) my friends, they (19 seem) rather shocked. Since then I (20 hope) secretly that the company would tell me that he move was off!

1. **Fill in *it* or *there.***

**A change in the weather**

\_\_\_\_\_(1) has always been a disadvantage for visitors to Britain that the weather is very changeable and that \_\_\_\_\_(2) is always raining, even in summer. \_\_\_\_(3) are countless jokes about English weather and no doubt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(4) is a good reason for their popularity. \_\_\_\_\_(5) is no smoke without fire. \_\_\_\_\_(6) doesn’t however seem to be case anymore that Britain doesn’t have a summer. In fact, \_\_\_\_(7) seems to be less rainfall nowadays, which is a worldwide phenomenon.

What has happened is that \_\_\_\_(8) has been a rise in the temperature of the planet as a whole. \_\_\_\_(9) is getting hotter every year to such extent that \_\_\_\_\_(10) is no longer necessary to go abroad if you want to get a suntan. \_\_\_\_\_\_(11) will be much quicker and cheaper to go to Brighton or Bournemouth. \_\_\_(12) is thought that global warming is having both positive and negative effects in different parts of the world. \_\_\_\_\_\_(13) have been several conferences to find solution to the problem but \_\_\_\_(14) has become obvious that \_\_\_\_\_(15) is no simple answer to the problem.

1. **Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word from the box. Use each word once only. There are five extra words which you don’t need to use.**

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| a by less regular theabove changeability little seem trueat fact more so whichbe few on stability whilebelow lack only such worth |

The climate of Britain is more or \_\_\_\_\_\_(1) the same as that of the northwestern part of the European mainland. The popular belief that it rains all the time in Britain is simply not \_\_\_\_\_(2). The image of a wet, foggy land was created two thousand years ago \_\_\_\_(3) the invading Romans. In \_\_\_\_\_\_(4), London gets no more rain in a year than other major European cities, and less than some.

The amount of rain that falls on a town in Britain depends \_\_\_\_\_\_(5) where it is. Generally speaking, the further west you go, \_\_\_\_\_(6) more rain you get. The mild winters mean that snow is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(7) feature of the higher areas only. Occasionally, a whole winter goes by ion lower-lying parts without any snow \_\_\_\_(8) all. The winters are in general \_\_\_\_\_(9) bit colder in the east of the country than they are in the west, \_\_\_\_\_(10) in summer, the south is slightly warmer and sunnier than the north.

Why has Britain’s climate got \_\_\_\_\_\_(11) a bad reputation? Perhaps it is for the same reason that British people always \_\_\_\_\_(12) to be talking about the weather. This is its \_\_\_\_\_\_(13). There is a saying that Britain doesn’t have a climate, it \_\_\_\_\_(14) has weather. It may not rain very much altogether, but you can never be sure of a dry day; there\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(15) cool days in July and some quite warm days in January.

 The \_\_\_\_\_\_(16) of extremes is the reason why, on the few occasions when it gets very hot or freezing cold, the country seems to be totally unprepared for it. A bit of snow and a \_\_\_\_\_(17) days of frost and the trains stop working and the roads are blocked; if the thermometer goes \_\_\_\_\_\_(18) 27°C, people behave as if they were in the Sahara and the temperature makes front-page headlines. These things happen \_\_\_\_(19) rarely that it is not \_\_\_\_\_(20) organizing life to be ready for them.

1. **In Britain friendly people start conversations by talking about the weather and they usually add tags at the end of the sentences. It is a way of encouraging more conversation. Add tags to the following:**
2. It’s a lovely morning, …?
3. We could go for a walk, …?
4. Yesterday was awful, …?
5. This sun makes a nice change, …?
6. Lovely day, …?
7. It never gets very hot here in summer, …?
8. It’s nicer than yesterday, …?
9. This winter has been very cold, …?
10. They say it’s going to get better, …?
11. There was a real downpour yesterday, …?
12. You had a drought last summer, …?
13. This rain won’t last long, …?
14. What awful weather! It’s dreadful, …?
15. It may rain, …?
16. “It’s a beautiful day, …?” – “Yes. Let’s go for a walk, …?”