

The British and the European Union

1 Watching a video: Eurosceptics in the UK

a) Watch this video and collect information about Eurosceptics in the UK.



UK Eurosceptics say their doubts are realistic:

<http://www.youtube.com/>

b) Make a list of the issues that anger British people when they think of the European Union.

c) With a partner, compare your lists and exchange ideas.

d) Discuss in class which of these aspects are valid points of criticism.

2 Paired discussion: Going metric

a) Read the two articles below and collect information about the British opinion towards introducing metric measurements.



[Metric martyrs take a mile](#)



[UK metric association](#)

b) Make a list of words and phrases that you need in order to discuss this issue and find out what metric and imperial measurements are.

c) The question whether imperial measurements should be phased out has become synonymous with the British desire to be independent from the European Union. Choose one of the two role cards and prepare a discussion with your partner.



Role card A

You are a supporter of imperial measurements. Consider the following points in your line of argument:

- the question of tradition and change
- self-rule vs. domination by the EU
- simply better
- costs

Role card B

You are a supporter of metric measurements. Consider the following points in your line of argument:

- the question of tradition and change
- self-rule vs. European integration
- simply better
- costs

d) Act out the discussion in class.

Well-known Britons

1 Writing: Famous Britons

In 2002 a survey was carried out to find out who the ten most famous Britons were. By choosing these people the British public also showed what they regarded as important.

a) Research the names on the list and complete the grid.

Name	Dates	Profession	Famous for
Isambard Kingdom Brunel			
Winston Churchill			
Oliver Cromwell			
Charles Darwin			
Diana, Princess of Wales			
Queen Elizabeth I			
John Lennon			
Horatio Nelson			
Isaac Newton			
William Shakespeare			

b) Study this article and take notes of the main points.



[Ten most famous Britons chosen](#)

c) As a regular reader of the BBC News site you decide to write a **letter to the editor** about this survey and the report you have read. In your letter, you should:

- analyse the choice of the people
 - refer to the article you have read and evaluate it
 - discuss what the survey has shown for you
- Write about **200 words**.

2 Spoken presentation: The worst Britons

a) Read the following article in The Independent and research one of the ten persons for your presentation.



[Are these the ten worst Britons?](#)

b) Give a presentation in class. In your presentation, you should:

- outline the person's biography
- discuss their achievements/failures/crimes etc.
- analyse why they might have been chosen
- comment on this survey as a whole

Key

1 Writing: Famous Britons

Name	Dates	Profession	Famous for
Isambard Kingdom Brunel	1806–1859	civil engineer	creator of the Great Western Railway, designer of numerous significant ships and bridges
Winston Churchill	1874–1965	British politician	Prime Minister during World War II
Oliver Cromwell	1599–1658	Lord Protector	ruled England from 1648–1658
Charles Darwin	1809–1882	naturalist	originator of the theory of evolution through natural selection and author of <i>On the Origin of Species</i>
Diana, Princess of Wales	1961–1997	first wife of Charles, Prince of Wales (married 1981–1996)	charity activities and mother of Prince William, now Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Harry of Wales
Queen Elizabeth I	1533–1603	monarch (reigned 1558–1603)	Spanish Armada was defeated during her reign
John Lennon	1940–1980	musician with The Beatles, philanthropist	peace activities, artist
Horatio Nelson	1758–1805	vice admiral, 1 st viscount, naval commander	won the Battle of Trafalgar
Isaac Newton	1643–1727	physicist	originator of the laws of classical mechanics and gravity
William Shakespeare	1564–1616	English poet and playwright	thought of by many as the greatest of all writers