

British test¹

Have you ever thought about living in Britain? These days, anyone who wants to **settle** there has to take the “Life in the UK Test”. But what’s it all about?



Before you listen

Pre-listening activity

Look at the list below. What are people’s attitudes to these things in your country? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

1. Family
 - a. In my country, family is very important because we’re very close together.
2. Driving
3. Children
4. Queuing
5. Punctuality
6. The elderly
7. Showing your
8. emotions in public

After you listen

Comprehension task

Test

Do the test, choosing the options (a / b) for the questions (1 to 9).

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1. Question 1: | A | B |
| 2. Question 2: | A | B |
| 3. Question 3: | A | B |
| 4. Question 4: | A | B |
| 5. Question 5: | A | B |
| 6. Question 6: | A | B |
| 7. Question 7: | A | B |
| 8. Question 8: | A | B |
| 9. Question 9: | A | B |

¹ Source: www.hotenglishmagazine.com

Language task

Fill in the gaps.

Complete the text with the suitable word or words.

The exam covers a **wide range of** topics. There are questions on British politics, pop music, (1) _____, where Father Christmas is from (the North Pole), what the emergency services number is (999), and what to do if you **spill** someone's (2) _____ in the pub (you're supposed to buy them another one!). Just recently, ex-Labour MP Phil Woolas proposed including something (3) _____ of **queuing**. "The simple act of **taking your turn** is one of the things that **holds** our country **together**," he (4) _____. So, in the spirit of the new changes, we decided to invent a few questions of our own. See if you can (5) _____!

1. Someone **treads** on your foot on the **Underground**. What do you say?

- a) "Ow! (6) _____!"
- b) "Sorry!"

2. You're in a **lift** with a stranger. What do you talk about?

- a) My job, my life, my family, my work...
- b) The (7) _____.

3. There's a queue for the bus. What do you do when the bus arrives?

- a) I (8) _____ to the front so I can get on the bus.
- b) I wait patiently for my turn.

4. Someone asks, "How are you?" What do you say in response?

- a) I tell them exactly how I'm feeling.
- b) I say, "(9) _____," or, "Fine thanks."

5. Someone has (10) _____ to meet you at 6pm. What time do you get there?

- a) Any time between 6:15 and 6:45.
- b) Five to six.

6. Your elderly parents are no longer able to take care of themselves. What do you do?

- a) I (11) _____ them, of course!
- b) I put them in a state-run **retirement home** and visit them once every six months.

7. You've just been given a prize in an **award ceremony**. How do you react?

- a) I jump up and down, and shout "YES!" in a loud and (12) _____ manner.
- b) I quietly thank everyone who helped me.

8. Your son **turns** 18. What do you do?

- a) Nothing – he's only 18.
- b) I **kick him out** of home, (13) _____ his room into a study and tell him not to come back till Christmas.

9. You're driving along when a pedestrian (14) _____ onto a **zebra crossing** about 75 metres in front of you. What do you do?

a) I drive towards him **at top speed**, **honk my horn** loudly, and **lean out** of the side window so I can shout at him.

b) I **slow down** and let him cross.

GLOSSARY

To settle *vb*

If you "settle" somewhere, you decide to live there permanently

A wide range of *exp*

If there is a "wide range of" something, there are many different things you can choose from

To spill *vb*

If you "spill" a drink, some of the liquid comes out of the container

To queue *vb*

To wait in a line of people (with one person in front of the other) in order to be served / attended

To take your turn *exp*

To wait until it is time for you to do whatever you are waiting for

To hold together *exp*

If something "holds people together", that thing unites people and helps them live together happily

To tread *vb*

If you "tread" on something, you put your foot on it

Underground *n*

The train system below the streets of London

A lift *n*

A device (a machine) that takes people to different floors of a tall building

A retirement home *n*

A type of hospital for elderly people

An award ceremony *n*

An event during which people are given prizes / awards

To turn *vb*

If you "turn 18", you reach the age of 18

To kick out *phr vb*

If you "kick someone out" of a place, you order them to leave that place (possibly using force)

A zebra crossing *n*

A place on the road with black and white lines where you can cross safely

At top speed *exp*

If you drive "at top speed", you drive the car as fast as it will go

To honk your horn *exp*

If you "honk your horn" in a car, you push a button in the car that makes a loud noise

To lean out *phr vb*

If you "lean out" of the car window, you put your head / body out of the window

To slow down *phr vb*

To stop travelling so fast / to travel

Classroom debate

1. What's your impression of a typical British person?
2. Do you think the stereotype is correct? Why? Why not?
3. Could you write a test for people who want to come to live in your country? What questions would you ask?

Answer key

Test analysis:

- Mostly “a” - Sorry! You haven't passed.
- Mostly “b” – Congratulations! You'll fit in perfectly.
- Of course not all British people are like this and it's based on a stereotype! But I think you get the idea.

Fill in the gaps:

1. customs
2. pint
3. on the art
4. announced
5. past the test
6. Be careful
7. weather
8. push my way
9. Not to bad
10. arranged
11. look after
12. enthusiastic
13. converts
14. steps