

## **English literature:**

Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*

Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

George Orwell: *1984*

William Golding: *Lord of the Flies*

I.R.R.Tolkien: *The Lord of the Rings or The Hobbit*

## **American literature:**

Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*

Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Ernest Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms*

J.D. Salinger: *Catcher in the Rye*

Joseph Heller: *Catch-22*

## **History of the British Isles:**

1. Roman Britain. Conquest, Achievements and influence.
2. Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The beginnings of English people, language and culture.
3. Arrival of Christianity to Britain.
4. King Alfred the Great and the Vikings.
5. The Norman conquest.
6. Magna Carta and the beginnings of English parliament.
7. Medieval conflicts with Scotland and Wales.
8. England and Ireland: the roots of the conflict and the current situation.
9. 14<sup>th</sup> century: Hundred Years War and the Black Death.
10. The Wars of the Roses.
11. Henry VIII and the beginnings of English Protestantism.
12. Elizabethan England.
13. The Stuart kings and the conflicts with the parliament. Oliver Cromwell and the Republic.
14. Restoration of monarchy and the Glorious Revolution.
15. The rise and development of British colonialism.
16. The colonial wars – the Seven Years War, the War of American Independence.
17. Victorian England and the Industrial Revolution. Social problems, social advancements.
18. Britain and World War I.
19. Britain and World War II.
20. Post-war Britain. Social changes. Britain and the European Union.

## **Culture and geography of Great Britain:**

1. Stereotypes and the shaping of national identity – Englishness and Britishness.
2. King Arthur – the truth and the legend.
3. Britain as a multicultural society..
4. British heritage as portrayed in films and in the tourist industry.
5. British popular music.
6. Contemporary British film.
7. British Art of the 1990s – the YBA (Young British Art).
8. British society as a consumer society.
9. The monarchy.
10. The mass media – TV, press and radio.

11. Main regions of the British Isles.
12. British national parks.
13. London as a tourist destination.
14. Scotland as a tourist destination.
15. Wales as a tourist destination.
16. Ireland as a tourist destination.
17. A British town/city (of your choice) and its attractions.
18. The remnants of the Empire: British colonies now.
19. English cuisine – tradition and changes.

### **Recommended sources:**

#### **Books**

1. Norman Davies, *The Isles. A History* (London: Macmillan, 1999)
2. Wojciech Lipoński, *Dzieje kultury brytyjskiej* (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, 2003)
3. Wojciech Lipoński, *Narodziny cywilizacji Wysp Brytyjskich* (Poznań: SAWW, 1995)
4. D. Morley, K. Robins, eds., *British Cultural Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001)
5. *British Life and Institutions* (London: Longman, 1993)

#### **www resources**

1. BBC News – <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>
2. BBC History – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/index.shtml>
3. The National Trust – <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/>
4. English Heritage – <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/default.asp>
5. BritLink, one of the web portals to the British Isles – <http://www.britlink.org/>

### **History of the United States:**

1. Native American culture
2. The early settlers
3. The colonial period 1497-1763
4. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
5. Jacksonian Era
6. Slavery and the Civil War
7. The Wild West and the Gilded Age
8. The Roaring Twenties
9. The Great Depression and the New Deal
10. USA in World War II
11. 1960's and Vietnam
12. The Cold War
13. The Gulf War
14. USA now

### **Culture and Geography of the United States:**

1. Major states and their characteristics
2. New York, Washington, Los Angeles
3. Educational system
4. Political system and the most important political parties

5. The law and the legal system
6. The culture of New Orleans
7. Contemporary art
8. Contemporary cinema, Hollywood and independent films
9. The mass media in the United States
10. Native Americans now
11. The American Dream and the American lifestyle
12. African-American culture
13. America's foreign policy in the last decade
14. Immigration in the USA
15. American consumerism
16. America as an economic power
17. The feminist movement in the USA
18. American sports and leisure

### **Recommended sources:**

#### **Books**

1. Hugh Brogan, *The Penguin History of the USA*
2. Bryn O'Callaghan, *An Illustrated History of the USA*
3. Józef Chałasiński, *Kultura amerykańska: formowanie się kultury narodowej w Stanach Zjednoczonych Ameryki Północnej*

#### **www resources**

1. <http://www.state.gov>
2. <http://www.usa.gov>
3. <http://www.britannica.com/place/United-States>
4. <http://www.nationalgeographic.org/topics/united-states>