

## **Билет 20**

### **Let's talk about Belarus**

#### **1. What are the symbols of Belarus?**

There are official and unofficial symbols of Belarus. The official symbols of the Republic of Belarus are the national flag, the national emblem and the national anthem.

There are 3 colours on the national flag: green, red and white. Red represents freedom and the sacrifice of our forefathers, green represents life and is the symbol of our green forests while the white colour is the symbol of peace.

The national emblem of Belarus features a ribbon in the colours of the national flag, a map of Belarus, wheat ears and a red star.

The national anthem is unofficially called "My Belarusy". The music was written by Nestor Sokolovsky, the lyrics by Mikhail Klimkovich and Vladimir Korizna.

Most widely known floral and animal symbols of Belarus are the bison, the stork and the cornflower.

The national costume is also considered the symbol of Belarus.

#### **2. Do you speak the Belarusian language in your everyday life?**

Unfortunately, not. There are two official languages in Belarus, Russian and Belarusian, but most people in cities prefer Russian. So do I. Maybe that's because most Belarusian schools teach in Russian. But I like Belarusian and try to speak it at my Belarusian language classes.

#### **3. What questions do you expect to hear from a British teenager about Belarus?**

- ✓ What is your country famous for?
- ✓ What is the most beautiful city in Belarus?
- ✓ What language do Belarusians speak?
- ✓ What national holidays do you celebrate?

#### **4. What historical sights can you advise your British friend to visit to make his/her stay unforgettable?**

Minsk should be the first place on your route. It's our capital. Then, there are such landmarks as Belovezhskaya Pushcha, the Struve Arc, the castles in Mir and Nesvizh. These are our historic places that should be visited. Old Belarusian towns

Turov, Zaslavl, Polotsk, and villages like Dudutki, Stotchitsy are a great way to learn about Belarusian everyday life and history.

#### **5. Many people gather to make the world better. What do you think young people of Belarus can do to make their country a better place to live in?**

I think, young people should actively participate in the social and political life of the country. They should unite in organizations like the BRSM and express their own opinion on different issues. Together they can make the world better.

## **Билет 21**

### **Let's talk about any English-speaking country**

#### **1. What do you know about the USA?**

The USA is situated on the continent of North America. It's a large country. Its territory is over nine million square kilometres. People of different nationalities live in the USA. The population of the country is nearly 250 million people. Most of the people live in towns.

As the USA is a large country, there is a number of climatic and time zones.

The main river of the country is the Mississippi. Other great rivers in the USA are the Colorado and the Columbia. There are five Great Lakes between the USA and Canada.

There are many big cities in the country. The capital of the country is Washington. Largest cities are New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Detroit, etc.

The USA is a federal republic, consisting of fifty states. Each of these states has its own government. The president is the head of the state and the government. He is elected for four years.

English is the most widely spoken language in the USA, and it's also the language of the government, the country has no official language.

#### **2. Do you think that people speaking the English language are similar in character?**

I can't say that all these people are similar in character. English is spoken in half of the world. For millions of people it is their mother tongue or their second language.

#### **3. What questions will you ask your foreign friend about his/her country?**

- ✓ What's the official name of the country?
- ✓ What is your country's currency?
- ✓ What places of interest are worth visiting?
- ✓ What national holidays do you have?
- ✓ What national dishes do you have?

#### **4. Give me a piece of advice on what to choose from a tourist guide to do when planning a visit to the USA?**

I think, you should first of all go to New York, the city of skyscrapers with the Statue of Liberty. Then visit Washington, the capital, and see the White House. I also recommend visiting Yellowstone National Park and the Niagara Falls.

**5. If you have a chance to travel to any country in the world, which one will you choose?**

As for me, I have always dreamed of visiting the USA. I want to see its famous cities such as Washington, New York or Los Angeles and to get to know the American lifestyle.

**Билет 22**

**Let's talk about national character and stereotypes**

**1. Do stereotypes really reflect national character?**

It goes without saying that people of different nationalities differ from each other.

Let's compare Belarusian and English nations. Belarusians are open-hearted and sociable. They are industrious, tough and brave, hospitable and generous. They are patriotic and respectful to others.

The British are conservative. They are reserved, tradition-loving, polite and honest. They have a specific sense of humor.

Stereotypes are a generalization. They can be either positive or negative but most of them are unfair and misleading. They suggest that all people of a nation are the same when, in fact, they are different.

I'd say that, of course, national character exists. People of the same nation do have common features because they have the same culture, traditions, history. But this generalization shouldn't be applied to everyone.

**2. Would you like to visit Great Britain? Why or why not?**

Yes, I would like to visit Britain. It would be exciting to see this country with my own eyes and practise English.

**3. Ask your British friend how they celebrate Christmas in their family.**

- ✓ What is your favourite Christmas dish?
- ✓ Do you have any family Christmas traditions?
- ✓ Do you like to give or to receive Christmas presents?
- ✓ What do you like most about this holiday?

**4. Your British friend wants to discover Belarusian cuisine. What advice will you give him/her?**

Why not trying some traditional dishes? Machanka, draniki, kolduny, babka, or mushroom soup are on the menu in national cafes.

**5. What do you think is the best symbol of Belarus?**

For me, the best symbol of Belarus is the cornflower. Since ancient times this blue flower has been the symbol of happiness and long life.