

The National CV 2016

'Applying for an Independent Future'

Name: **Britain**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, the UK

Age: **8,000 years an island**

Everyone else is 'overseas' – since the ice melted that covered most of Britain during the Ice Age; sea levels rose, cutting off the Continent

Capital city: **London**

One of the world's oldest capitals; the Greenwich Meridian is 0° longitude; this is the central line of reference for measuring time anywhere on Earth and, along with the equator, location

Family members: England, Scotland & Wales are parts of the island known as Great Britain (named to contrast with 'Lesser Britain', on the opposite shore to the south, now known as Brittany); **Northern Ireland** is another part of the island group known as the British Isles, which is made up of more than 1,000 islands

Overarching statement: Britain has made the most disproportionate contribution to civilisation of anywhere on Earth, whilst representing less than 0.2% of the world's land and having under 1% of its people at any given time; Britain launched the modern world (constitutional monarchy & parliamentary democracy, science, Age of Reason, industry, second agricultural revolution) and has made many other pioneering contributions (TV, jet engine, antibiotics, World Wide Web, English language); the British are *The Influential Islanders* whose history and destiny are calling them to 'Apply for an Independent Future'

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Summary – Britain has given the world:

Megalithic Culture (3800-1500 BC), started before Sumer & Ancient Egypt

Tin to harden copper for tools & weapons in the Bronze Age (2500-750 BC)

Druidism (BC) & **Roman Empire**

Christianised by Helen of Britain & her son Constantine the Great (AD 300s)

Wool: AD 700s-1500s, the Middle Ages

Writing standards: Alcuin of York, AD 789

Common law (880s), **trial by jury** (1166), **habeas corpus** (1305)

Constitutional monarchy & parliamentary democracy (1600s); reigning, Elizabeth II

Modern science (Royal Society, 1660)

Age of Reason (1680s & 1700s)

Coal & manufactured goods after the

Industrial Revolution, which started in Britain c1750; Great Exhibition, 1851

War heroes: Arthur of the Britons, Richard the Lionheart, Henry V, Marlborough, Nelson, Wellington, Churchill; fighting tyranny with Allies

Inventions: pencil, dairy ice cream, steam engine, vaccination, postage stamp, jet engine, antibiotics, milk chocolate, sandwich, business suit, modern novel

Ideas: liberty, gravity, evolution, liberal economics, anti-slavery, medical leaps (e.g. scurvy, sanitation, asepsis, nursing), maths symbols (=, x, π), Greenwich Meridian, organised sport, the weekend, names like 'Easter', 'USA' & 'Big Bang'

Globalisation: Britain linked up the world (late 1800s) when she was the first global superpower (with history's most extensive empire) & made crucial contributions to the second link-up (1990s), e.g. packet switching, World Wide Web, English

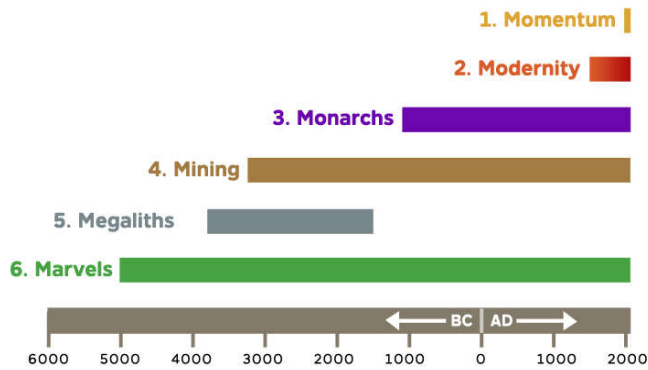
Legends: Giants, St George & the Dragon, Lady Godiva, King Arthur, Robin Hood

Culture: Chaucer, Shakespeare, Austen, Burns, Dickens, Elgar, Constable, Turner; genre & children's fiction, films/TV, pop, art

English as the first world language

'This sceptred isle, this green and pleasant land of hope and glory'

The Influential Islanders



1. Momentum HM Queen (longest serving British monarch; new great-grandchildren, George & Charlotte); armed forces in action; Higgs boson found & stem cell Nobel Prize; fun (Downton Abbey, Harry Potter, Wallace & Gromit, James Bond 007, Beatles, Red Nose Day); firsts (stem cell bank, solo Pacific oarsman, supersonic car, personal digital assistant, balloon circumnavigation, clockwork radio, bagless vacuum cleaner, World Wide Web, genetic profiling & genomic decoding, cloned mammal – Dolly the sheep – privatisation, National CV); sporting triumphs (29 golds at London 2012 Olympics, Rugby World Cup, 2003, Football World Cup, 1966); traditional values (freedom, democracy, tolerance, fair play, practicality, individualism & originality, civility, seeing the funny side of things & looking outwards as part of a global destiny)

2. Modernity Britain launched the modern world through (1) science (gravity, atomic theory, evolution, electromagnetism), (2) industry, (3) thinking (the Age of Reason) & (4) agriculture; she (5) linked up the world (globalisation) and gave great ideas about (6) freedom & democracy and (7) humanitarianism & health; also, Britain has been influential through (8) six great wars won, (9) the British Empire (450 years from late 1400s; maritime, trading, liberal), (10) language & culture, (11) invention of modern sport & (12) as a hot spot for firsts (car, 1711, dynamo, 1831, penicillin, 1928)

3. Monarchs World's oldest monarchy; 3,000-year history, ~140 kings & queens, representing extraordinary continuity; ancient tradition is of mixed government of regal and democratic; now, a constitutional monarch within a parliamentary democracy; some nations have not allowed women to rule, but Britain has proudest tradition of queens anywhere, to Elizabeth II – today's most Influential Islander – and is personified by a goddess, Britannia

4. Mining Longest tradition anywhere of extracting riches from the Earth; Britain was 'Tin Island' in the Bronze Age; copper, the other component of bronze, has also been mined since remote antiquity; pioneered extraction of salt from seawater & deep mines; graphite (for pencils); coal & iron for the industrial revolution, which started in Britain; North Sea oil & gas; recently, Northern Irish gold, Yorkshire potash, Devonian tungsten

5. Megaliths 'Great stones' for burial chambers & standing stones; full-on Megalithic Culture by 3500 BC, before Sumer & Ancient Egypt; Britain is a fabulously ancient land; unique chalk hill figures; island had been reinhabited after Ice Age (ended c8000 BC); of ethnic British genes, 2/3rd relate to this founder population

6. Marvels Unique flood story (Welsh Triads); home of Druidism (literate BC); birth of Christendom (Constantine the Great, half British, decreed Sunday holy); female pope (Joan); Domesday Book (1086); cathedrals; wool trade; woollen business suit (c1860); week-end (Robert Walpole, 1700s); Uranus found (1781); Scotch whisky; 1st bottled beer & sparkling wine; dairy ice cream; stilton, cheddar; fine wine appreciation; milk chocolate; sandwich; Western curries; pubs & beer; fish 'n' chips; roast lunch, proper puddings; cup of tea

2016 EU IN/OUT Referendum **Key dates**

2015 800th anniversary Magna Carta

2001 Human genome decoded, 31% in UK

1990s Second globalisation; WWW (1989, UK)

1982 Falklands War won; Margaret Thatcher PM

1973 Britain enters EU (see above, 2016)

1953 DNA structure solved in UK; Elizabeth II

1939-45 WWII won; Winston Churchill; first functional computer, Colossus; George VI

1925 Television invented in Britain (J L Baird)

1918 British women gain vote

1914-18 WWI won; Lloyd George; George V

1880-1914 First globalisation (railways, iron steamships, telegraph); Victoria, Edward VII

1859 Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*

1833 Slavery abolished in British Empire

1803-15 Napoleon vanquished (Trafalgar, 1805, Waterloo, 1815); George III (lost US in 1776)

1776 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*

1759 Best-ever year for British arms; wins in North America, India & Europe; George II

c1750 Industrial Revolution starts in Britain

1733 Invention of flying shuttle (John Kay)

1712 Newcomen steam engine, refined Watt 1768

1709 Smelting iron with coke (Abraham Darby)

1701-14 War of the Spanish Succession won; Blenheim, 1704; Marlborough; Anne

1700s Age of Reason (the Enlightenment)

1690 John Locke describes rights to life, liberty & property; rulers should serve the people

1688 Glorious Revolution; William & Mary; Bill of Rights, 1689

1687 Isaac Newton, *Principia* (laws of motion)

1670 Juries don't need to convict or say why

1666 Great Fire of London; Charles II

1660 Royal Society founded; modern science

1642-51 English Civil War; Charles I beheaded as traitor, 1649; republic under Cromwell

1640 Star Chamber abolished as unjust; accused's right to silence affirmed

1564-1616 William Shakespeare; *Holinshed's Chronicles*; Guy Fawkes (1605); Bible (1611)

1588 Spanish Armada defeated, Elizabeth I

1534 Protestant Reformation, Henry VIII

1455-85 Wars of Roses; Richard III killed 1485

1415 Agincourt won by Henry V, during Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)

1381 Peasants' Revolt; Wat Tyler & Richard II

1348 Black Death; Edward III; Order of Garter

1200s Science based on evidence; Roger Bacon & other proto-scientists; Henry III, Edward I

1265 Elected parliament; Simon de Montfort

1215 Magna Carta; John

1166 Trial by jury; Henry II

1102 Slavery outlawed in England; Henry I

1066 Battle of Hastings, William beat Harold

973 Coronation Oath, pledging justice; Edgar

880s Common law; Alfred the Great

789 Alcuin of York standardises writing

c670 *Tysilio Chronicle* started by monk Tysilio

55 BC – AD 51 Britons resist Romans, then in Roman Empire to AD 410; Boudicca, AD 60

390 BC Sack of Rome by Brennus of Britain

c420 BC Molmutine Laws; Molmutius

c1100 BC Brutus the Trojan names island 'Britain' & founds London; traditional tale

2500-750 BC Bronze Age Cornish tin

3800-1500 BC Megalithic monuments erected

c6000 BC Britain becomes an island

‘Aspiring to a future inspired by the best of Britain’s past’