

TOPIC 'UKRAINE'

Pre-reading tasks

1. Match these terms with their definitions. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary:

a) president	1. an official statement made once a year that gives details of what
a	government plans to spend and how it intends to collect the money needed
b) constituency	2. the Commonwealth of Independent States
c) parliament	3. when people vote to choose a representative to take an official
(esp. political) position	
d) CIS	4. an organization that makes important decisions, or the room
building where it meets	
e) election	5. the leader, and often also ruler or chief governing official,
many modern states that do not	
have a king or queen	
f) budget	6. any of the areas of a country that elects a representative to a
parliament	
g) chamber	7. the group of people who are elected to make and change the
laws of a country	
h) embassy	8. the official building used by a group of officials, led by Ambassador,
who are sent by a government to live in a foreign country for the purpose of keeping good relations	
with its government	

2. Read the text and fulfil the post-reading task.

Ukraine

Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe. Its area is 603,700 sq. km. About 50 million people live in Ukraine. It is **situated** in the Eastern Europe. It **borders on** Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Russia and Slovakia. In the South it is **washed** by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. So it has very important ports.

The territory of Ukraine is mainly flat, but the Carpathians and the Crimean mountains make up 5% of its area. The major rivers are the Dnieper, the Dniester, the Bug and the Donets. The Dnieper is the third longest river in Europe, which divides the country into left bank and right bank territories.

There are many large cities in Ukraine, among them: **Kiev** (the capital of Ukraine), Kharkiv (the first capital of Ukraine, and its second largest city), Donetsk (coalmining center), Dnipropetrovsk (an important metallurgical center), Lviv (a scientific and cultural center) and many others.

The geographical position of Ukraine is very favourable for the development of its industry and agriculture.

Ukraine is divided into 24 administrative regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. On the 24th of August 1991 Ukraine declared its independence. Nowadays Ukraine is a sovereign, democratic, unitary state with presidential and parliamentary form of government. It has its own national emblem, state flag and anthem. The political system of Ukraine, its home and foreign policy, rights and duties of its citizens are established and guaranteed by the Constitution adopted on June 28, 1996.

The government are divided into three branches — the **legislative**, the **executive**, and the **judicial**.

The **President** is the head of the state and is elected by majority vote for a five year term. He is the guarantor of state sovereignty, the territorial integrity of Ukraine, human rights and freedoms. He is also the **Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine**.

The Verkhovna Rada (the Supreme Council or Parliament) of Ukraine is the sole legislative body. The main function of the Verkhovna Rada is making laws. It has one **chamber** and consists of 450 people's deputies. They are elected at general and direct elections every four years. Voting, which is not compulsory, is **by secret ballot** and from the age of 18. The candidate with the largest number of votes in **a constituency** is elected.

The highest body of the executive power is **the Cabinet of Ministers**. It is responsible to the President and accountable to the Verkhovna Rada. The Cabinet carries out domestic and foreign policy of the state. **The Prime Minister** heads the Cabinet. He is nominated by the President and is to be approved by the Verkhovna Rada. There are also local bodies of executive power.

Judicial power in Ukraine belongs to **the Constitutional Court** and courts of general jurisdiction. **The Supreme Court** of Ukraine is the highest **judicial body** of general jurisdiction. The Constitutional Court has exclusive constitutional jurisdiction in Ukraine.

Being a sovereign state, Ukraine establishes new relations with the countries throughout the world. It sets direct contacts with many foreign countries **signing agreements and treaties**, participates in the work of many international organizations. As a result, there are a lot of foreign **embassies** in its capital.

Words and word combinations

legislative branch — законодавча гілка (влади)

executive branch — виконавча гілка (влади)

judicial branch — судова гілка (влади)

the Supreme Court — Верховний Суд

the Verkhovna Rada (the Supreme Council) — Верховна Рада

compulsory — примусовий, обов'язковий

by secret ballot — таємним голосуванням

constituency — виборчий округ, виборці

appointment — призначення (на посаду)

judicial body — судовий орган

the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine — Головнокомандувач Збройних Сил України

determined by law — визначений законом

national emblem — герб

state flag — державний прапор

national anthem — національний гімн

to sign agreements and treaties — підписувати угоди й договори

embassy — посольство, представництво

Post reading task

Answer the questions:

1. Since what time has Ukraine become independent?

2. What kind of state is Ukraine nowadays?

3. What three branches is the government divided into?

4. How is the President elected in Ukraine?

5. What are the main functions of the Verkhovna Rada?

6.What is the territorial structure in Ukraine?

7.What is the highest judicial body of general jurisdiction in Ukraine?

Exercises

1. In the following sentences supply the articles (A, AN, or THE) if necessary. If not necessary, leave the space blank:

- A. Following _____(1) Declaration of Independence, the blue and yellow flag was adopted as _____(2) national flag.
- B. On our trip to _____(3) Ukraine, we crossed _____(4) Black Sea.
- C. Rita entered _____(5) National Law Academy of _____(6) Ukraine named after _____(7) Yaroslav _____(8) Wise.
- D. _____(9) Queen Elizabeth II is _____(10) monarch of _____(11) Great Britain.
- E. _____(12) Crimean Mountains stretch for about 150 km.
- F. _____(13) Crimea is _____(14) peninsula located in _____(15) south of our country.
- G. _____(16) capital of _____(17) Ukraine is _____(18) oldest and _____(19) most charming city in _____(20) Europe — _____(21) Kiev, which is situated on the hills along _____(22) Dnieper.
- H. On _____(23) June 16, 1990, _____(24) Supreme Council of _____(25) Ukraine passed _____(26) Declaration of _____(27) State Sovereignty.

2. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the sentences with one suitable preposition:

- 1. In the North Ukraine borders _____(1) Belarus. 2. Ukraine is washed _____(2) the Sea of Azov. Ukraine is divided _____(3) 24 regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. 4. Nowadays Ukraine is a democratic state ruled _____(4) the law. 5. The state power of Ukraine is based _____(5) the division of powers and consists _____(6) three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. 6. According _____(7) their everlasting dream the Ukrainian people voted _____(8) the independence of the country and _____(9) the 24th _____(10) August, 1991 Ukraine became an independent state. 7. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea is included _____(11) Ukraine's territorial structure and Sevastopol possesses a special status determined _____(12) law. 8. Parliamentary elections take place every 4 years _____(13) the last week of March.

3. Translate the following sentences into English:

- 1. Україна розташована на південному сході Європи і межує з Росією, Молдовою, Румунією та іншими країнами.
- 2. Україна має свою територію, уряд, національний герб, державний прапор та гімн.
- 3. Законодавча влада належить парламенту.
- 4. Державний устрій — президентсько-парламентська республіка.
- 5. Виконавча влада належить Урядові або Кабінету Міністрів, яким керує Прем'єр міністр.

6. Голова держави обирається загальним таємним голосуванням строком на 5 років.

7. В Україні 24 адміністративні регіони і Автономна Республіка Крим.

8. Дніпро — одна з найдовших рік Європи та одне з головних джерел гідроенергії держави.

9. Географічне розташування України дуже сприятливе для розвитку відносин із країнами Європи і всього світу.

10. Президент України є Головнокомандувачем Збройних Сил України.