

# Ukraine

## Political system

### Pre-reading

*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. when people vote to choose a representative to take an official (esp. political) position  |
| c) parliament   | 3. an organization that makes important decisions, or the room or building where it meets   |
| d) election     | 4. the leader, and often also ruler or chief governing official, of many modern states that do not have a king or queen   |
| e) budget       | 5. any of the areas of a country that elects a representative to a parliament   |
| f) chamber      | 6. the group of people who are elected to make and change the laws of a country   |
| g) embassy      | 7. 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 |

## Vocabulary of the topic:

 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

## Reading

*Read the text. Pay attention to the words and word combinations in bold and marked by colours.*

### Ukraine

Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe. Its area is 603,700 sq. km. About 45 million people live in Ukraine. It is situated in the Eastern Europe. It borders on Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Poland, the Russian Federation 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: Kyiv (the capital of Ukraine), Kharkiv (the first capital of Ukraine, and its second largest city), Dnipro (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 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.

## Post reading tasks

### *I. Please answer the questions*

1. Since what time has Ukraine become independent?

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2. What kind of state is Ukraine nowadays?

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3. What three branches is the government divided into?

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4. How is the President elected in Ukraine?

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

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6. What is the territorial structure in Ukraine?

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

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### *II. 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 one of \_\_\_\_\_ (18) oldest and \_\_\_\_\_ (19) most charming city in \_\_\_\_\_ (20) Europe — \_\_\_\_\_ (21) Kyiv, 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.

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

In the North Ukraine borders \_\_\_\_\_ Belarus. Ukraine is washed \_\_\_\_\_ the Sea of Azov. Ukraine is divided \_\_\_\_\_ 24 regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Nowadays Ukraine is a democratic state ruled \_\_\_\_\_ the law. The state power of Ukraine is based \_\_\_\_\_ the division of powers and consists \_\_\_\_\_ three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. According \_\_\_\_\_ their everlasting dream the Ukrainian people voted \_\_\_\_\_ the independence of the country and \_\_\_\_\_ the 24th \_\_\_\_\_ August, 1991 Ukraine became an independent state. The Autonomous

Republic of Crimea is included \_\_\_\_\_ Ukraine's territorial structure and Sevastopol possesses a special status determined \_\_\_\_\_ law. Parliamentary elections take place every 4 years \_\_\_\_\_ the last week of March.

***IV. Translate the following sentences into English:***

1. Україна розташована на південному сході Європи і межує з Російською Федерацією, Молдовою, Румунією та іншими країнами.

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2. Україна має свою територію, уряд, національний герб, державний прапор та гімн.

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3. Законодавча влада належить парламенту.

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4. Державний устрій — президентсько-парламентська республіка.

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5. Виконавча влада належить Урядові або Кабінету Міністрів, яким керує Прем'єр міністр.

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

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

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

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

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10.Президент України є Головнокомандувачем Збройних Сил України.

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