

## A. Written Comprehension

Read the article "Newspapers In Britain" and answer the following questions:

**1. Name the 2 categories of newspapers, give their respective synonyms, and 4 examples of each.**

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**2. Complete this table:**

Name	Foundation date	Circulation	Political viewpoint

**N/A = Not Available**

**3. Which newspaper is read by the people who run the country? .....**

**4. Which newspapers are read by people interested in gossip and scandal? .....**

**5. Give the three main reasons why most British people are satisfied with the press?**

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## B. Vocabulary



## NEWSPAPERS IN BRITAIN

All newspapers in Britain can be divided into the quality press and the popular press. The quality newspapers are also known as "broadsheets" and they usually deal with home and overseas news, with detailed and extensive coverage of sports and cultural events. They also carry financial reports, travel news and book and film reviews. The popular press or the "populars" are also known as "tabloids" as they are smaller in size. Some people also call them the "gutter press" offering news for the people less interested in daily detailed news reports. They are characterised by large headlines, carry a lot of big photographs, and concentrate on the personal aspects of news, with reports of the recent sensational and juicy bits of events, not excluding the Royal family. The language of a tabloid is much more colloquial than that of quality newspapers. It is notable that although newspapers are normally associated with a particular political viewpoint, either left or right, most of them have no formal or legal links with political parties.

**"The Times"** founded in 1785, is read by the minority of people today. It has a rather small circulation (100,000 copies a day) but its influence is greater than its circulation figures. It is an establishment newspaper, read by lawyers, politicians, and businessmen, and by all those who work in the government. It is not an organ of the Conservative Party, but still is rather conservative in views it expresses, though it is reliable and unbiased and claims to be politically independent. However, "The Times", as many Englishmen stress themselves, always supports the government in power, the bureaucracy, because the bureaucracy in Britain, they say, does not change when the general elections take place. It is, thus, the newspaper for the upper echelon of the civil service.

**"The Daily Telegraph"**, founded in 1855, is a very conservative paper. However, it has a circulation twice as big as that of "The Times", "The Guardian" or "The Independent". It has a nickname – "The Torygraph" after the nickname "Tory" of the Conservative Party. This newspaper has rather a comprehensive news and sports coverage. Some say it has a more objective reporting of what is going on in the world than any other quality newspaper. It is right of centre and has always supported the Conservative Party.

**"The Guardian"** has a slightly bigger circulation than "The Times". It is a liberal newspaper, noted for its lively reporting and campaigning support for "worthy causes" such as education, medical reforms, the problems of aging people and retirees, protection of the environment, etc. It also claims to be politically independent, but it is left of centre and formally supports the Liberal Party of Britain. Some British people say that the reporting of "The Guardian" is biased and trendy, concentrating mostly on things like fashions, homosexuals, etc., but still it is enjoyed by its readers.

**"The Independent"** was founded in 1986 and has rapidly acquired a reputation for its excellent news coverage, intelligent reports, informal commentaries, and a good balanced sense of humour.

**"The Sun"**, founded in 1964, has a circulation of around four million and outsells all other "populars". **"The Daily Mirror"** with a circulation of about three million, was founded in 1903 and has always traditionally supported the Labour Party. Both **"The Daily Mail"** and **"The Daily Express"** have circulations of about a million and a half, and were founded in 1900 and 1896 respectively. Of the above mentioned newspapers, **The Mail** is the most sophisticated of the others. The populars as a rule, however, express no news, though they are mass circulation papers. There you will find leading articles about murders, stories about the rich and famous, games and lotteries. Because they are in constant competition with each other, and want to sell more copies than their competitors in an effort to increase the readership and circulation, they actually all have nude girls in unconventional poses on page three or seven, and devote much room to advertising holidays.

In general, however, English people themselves, though slightly condescending about their "populars", underline that the quality of newspapers in Great Britain today is much better than 20 years ago. Most people perceive the press in Great Britain as objective, since they claim that there is no overt censorship, no overt bias in reporting the news, and that there is a wide choice of newspapers apart from the national dailies. They say that the British press is also investigative, uncovers scandals in the governments, and if they are not satisfied with what they read in "The Times" and think it is not true, they have the opportunity to go and pick up another newspaper and compare reportings.

*(Abridged) By Natalya Predtechenskaya*