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British Quotations

Oral and written exercises for advanced pupils (from class 12)

NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

Learning goals:

- ⇒ The students will reinforce and deepen their knowledge of British history and culture.
- ⇒ They will get practice in discussing important events and ideas.

Learning prerequisites:

As regards language and content, the quotations set high requirements.

How to proceed:

Step 1

Teacher: "I have collected a number of quotations, from British Royals, British writers, soldiers and politicians. Some of the quotes are quite famous and well-known to every British person with a university education. Others are less known and historically unimportant. You will find on worksheet 1 an alphabetical list of the persons who said or wrote these words and a list of dates in chronological order. Your task is to match the quotations with the names and the dates and fill in the boxes in worksheet 2. In the boxes you will find additional clues in small print to help you with the task.

I want you to work in pairs, so there is just one set of worksheets for two pupils. First make sure that you fully understand the quotations. If there are unknown words, get hold of a dictionary and look them up. If you are still unsure about the meaning, you may ask me. Please use English all the time when you talk to your partner."

Ideally the assignment tasks should be carried out in pairs, even though it is difficult to persevere with the 'English only' rule in every group work session that the teacher does not actually lead. If the class is not used to English pairwork, one could help by projecting the following phrases during the course of the lesson:

Here are some typical phrases:

Do you recognise any of the quotations?

The date must be somewhere in the region of...

This quote is characteristic of... / sounds like...

Can you date the quote?

Can you guess any dates from the clues given?

This clue excludes all the prime ministers.

Who's left?

We've found both his quotes, so we can cross him off the list.

Cross the date off.

Once we have this quote, we also know number...

Step 2

The student pairs that have not finished obtain the answers for the missing spaces from their classmates and the teacher. The classmates give reasons for their decisions.

Step 3

At this stage the solutions will be discussed. For this purpose the teacher can refer to the Teacher's Notes with background information on the authors of the quotations or on the political events which they are referring to.

Fluency activities, such as a discussion about which quotations the students dislike most or find the most meaningless, or else about which ones they like best, could be introduced at this stage, depending on how motivated the students are. Topics for pro and contra discussions could be based on the quotations from the Bible.

Quotations which lend themselves best to discussion: 1 (war), 5 (evolution), 8 & 12 (duty), 9 (justice), 2 & 6 (equality), 20 & 23 (love).

Suggestion for homework:

Translate quotes nos.1, 5, 14, and 15 into good German.

Worksheet 1

Match the quotations with the names and the dates and fill in the boxes in worksheet 2.

List of Names:

Princess Diana
Spice Girls
A.A.Milne (writer)
Charles Darwin (naturalist)
Charles Dickens (novelist)
Elizabeth I. (Queen of England)
Francis Drake (admiral)
MacMillan (prime minister)
Horatio Nelson (admiral)
Lewis Carroll (writer)
Lloyd George (prime minister)
Neville Chamberlain (prime minister)
Victoria (Queen of England) - 2X
Walter Raleigh (soldier and author)
William Blake (poet)
William Shakespeare (dramatist) - 2X
Winston Churchill (prime minister) - 2X
The Bible - Old Testament - 2X
The Beatles
Take That
The Bible - New Testament
Margaret Thatcher (prime minister)
The Conservative Party
George Orwell (author) - 2X
Benjamin Disraeli

Dates:

1995
unspecified - in the beginning 3X
1588
1597
1602
1603
1618
1794
1805
1838
1859
1896
1899
1900
1965
1918
1926
1995
1938
1940
1941
1997
1945
1948
1845
1979
1959
1983

Worksheet 2

	QUOTATIONS	NAMES	DATES
1.	In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers.	Prime minister before Churchill who went to Munich to "appease" Hitler.	Just before the start of the second world war
2.	No woman in my time will be Prime minister, Chancellor or Foreign Secretary	British Prime Minister (PM) nicknamed the "iron lady".	Early 1980s, before she was to become the first woman PM in British history.
3.	Oliver Twist has asked for more.	From a famous novelist who wrote books that were later filmed or made into musicals. They dealt with the conditions of life for children in the Industrial Revolution.	First half of the nineteenth century
4.	All my possessions for a moment of time.	Famous dying words of a queen with the same name as the present one	At the turn of the seventeenth century.
5.	I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term of Natural Selection.	He suggested the theory of evolution & used the term "survival of the fittest".	At the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century.
6.	All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.	Author of the book Animal Farm, a satire on Stalinism, the Russian revolution and the corruption of the ideal of equality.	Just after the Second World War.
7.	Isn't it funny How a bear likes honey? Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! I wonder why he does?	He wrote books for children, among them was Winnie-the-Pooh. His first names are Alan Alexander.	National general strike in Britain. Between the wars.
8.	England expects every man will do his duty.	He was an enemy of Napoleon; a statue in Trafalgar Square, London, commemorates him.	Ten years before the Battle of Waterloo. At the turn of which century?
9.	If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound.	From "The Scriptures".	unspecified, but BC.
10.	So the heart be right, it is no matter which way the head lieth.	An admiral that was executed on the order of James I for treason in 1618. He was involved with the Spanish. He introduced tobacco from the New World to England	During the second decade of the seventeenth century.
11.	The Russian danger is our danger.	An address broadcast by a British prime minister who was in office during the second world war. Known as a great cigar smoker.	During the Second World War, when Communism was seen as a threat to Europe.
12.	What is our task? To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in.	British prime minister who represented Great Britain at the Treaty of Versailles	The same year that "The Great War" ended

13.	We are not amused.	<i>She married a German prince called Albert. England's longest reigning queen. There's a famous museum in London named after the two.</i>	<i>At the turn of the current century</i>
14.	Two nations; between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, and fed by different food ...	<i>Politician and writer. He was the only Jew who ever became PM. From his novel Sybil; or the Two Nations. Spoke up about the class divisions in Britain.</i>	<i>Mid-nineteenth century.</i>
15.	I would say to the House, as I have said to those who have joined this government: I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.	<i>Same as no. 11</i>	<i>Beginning of the Second World War</i>
16.	To be, or not to be: that is the question.	<i>Was he the world's most famous writer? He developed the English language and theatre. The author puts these in the mouth of the Prince of Denmark.</i>	<i>Beginning of the seventeenth century.</i>
17.	Tiger! Tiger! Burning bright in the forests of the night.	<i>From a poem by an English Romantic poet who wrote the Songs of Experience .</i>	<i>He lived during both the eighteenth and nineteenth century.</i>
18.	We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat.	<i>By the same person as no. 13</i>	<i>At the end of the nineteenth century.</i>
19.	I want you back for good.	<i>Sung by Gary Barlow; a boy band from Manchester. When they split up, it was a disaster for teenage girls around the world. They wanted them back for good.</i>	<i>The 1990's.</i>
20.	O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?	<i>By the same writer as no. 16 Was born in Stratford-upon-Avon.</i>	<i>End of the sixteenth century.</i>
21.	And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.	<i>For Christians the most famous book of all time, translated into many languages.</i>	<i>unspecified - in the beginning.</i>
22.	I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want.	<i>British "girl-power", they don't like things sweet, they like them spicy.</i>	<i>The 1990's</i>
23.	All you need is love.	<i>Best known British music band, made up of four boys from Liverpool. They created a new hairstyle.</i>	<i>The 1960's</i>
24.	There's plenty of time to win this game, and to thrash the Spaniards, too.	<i>A favourite admiral of Elizabeth I, who fought against the "Spanish Armada". He also has a sea passage named after him.</i>	<i>The year of the "Spanish Armada"</i>
25.	Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.	<i>From the "Authorized Version" of a great book.</i>	<i>unspecified but AD</i>

26.	Twas brillig, and the slithy toves did gyre and gimble in the wabe.	From a poem in <i>Through the Looking Glass</i> . Also wrote <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> .	A late nineteenth century quotation
27.	Big Brother is watching you.	Same author as in 6. The author draws a picture of a totalitarian future, where the state eliminates all privacy.	If you know the book's title, it might give you a clue as to the publication date.
28.	Labour isn't working	Party slogan used in an electoral campaign. What was the party called?	Late 1970s
29.	You've never had it so good.	Electoral slogan used by this PM. It later became a catch-phrase.	Late 1950s
30.	I'd like to be a queen of people's hearts, in people's hearts, but I don't see myself being Queen of this country.	Former wife of Prince Charles. Known for her charity work. Killed in a car crash in 1997. Legend in her own time.	Mid-Nineties.

Teacher's Notes

Chronological order and some additional information

And God said, let there be light: and there was light.

The Bible - Old Testament. Genesis 1:3

If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound.

The Bible - Old Testament. Exodus 21:24

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The Bible - New Testament. Matthew 19:19

There's plenty of time to win this game, and to thrash the Spaniards, too.

Sir Francis Drake (1540-1596), admiral. The Spanish Armada was sighted as he was playing bowls. The defeat of the Armada, caused partly by the superiority of English ships and partly by the weather, was one of the decisive naval battles of history. 1588.

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?

William Shakespeare (1564-1616), dramatist. From "Romeo and Juliet". Act 2, Scene 2. *O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo? / Deny thy father and refuse thy name; / Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, / And I'll no longer be a Capulet.* Said by Juliet who despairs at the fact that the man she loves is from a rival family. 1597.

To be, or not to be: that is the question.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616), dramatist. From "Hamlet". Act 3, Scene 1. 1602.

All my possessions for a moment of time.

Queen Elizabeth I of England (1533-1603). Her last dying words. One of the greatest of all English sovereigns, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, also known as the "Virgin Queen". She reigned for 45 years and was much loved by her people. 1603.

So the heart be right, it is no matter which way the head lieth.

Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618), soldier and author. On his death, as he lay his head on the block. James I ordered his execution in 1618 to please the Spaniards, on the grounds of treason in 1603, though he was in fact a victim of Spanish influence in court. Of course, his big claim to fame these days is the story that he once gallantly threw his cloak over a mud puddle so that Queen Elizabeth I wouldn't get her feet dirty. Like most of these nifty stories, it's almost certainly wrong. He actually had another legend as well, much less well-known these days--he supposedly used a diamond to scrawl verses on a window pane in order to get the Queen's attention. 1618.

Tiger! Tiger! Burning bright in the forests of the night.

William Blake (1757-1827), poet. Extract from the poem "The Tyger", found in his book "Songs of Experience". A mind of unbelievable originality and power, he created a new, emotionally direct mode of expression. He was ignored by the public of his day and lived in poverty. 1794.

England expects every man will do his duty.

Viscount Horatio Nelson (1758-1805), admiral of the Royal Navy. He was commander in the wars with Revolutionary and Napoleonic France; won crucial victories and defeated the French at Trafalgar, where he died after saying "I have done my duty". 1805.

Oliver Twist has asked for more.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870), novelist. From his novel "Oliver Twist". Oliver Twist was an orphan in a London workhouse where it was considered rude to ask for more food. 1838.

I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term of Natural Selection.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882), naturalist. An extract from his book "The origin of Species", in which he suggests the Theory of Evolution. 1859.

Two nations; between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, and fed by different food...

Benjamin Disraeli (1805-1881), writer and politician. An extract from his book *Sybil; or the Two Nations*. He was the first Jew to become Prime Minister. He deplored the division between North and South England

Twas brillig, and the slithy toves did gyre and gimble in the wabe.

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), writer. Pen-name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. Extract from the poem "Jabberwocky", found in the book "Through the Looking Glass". Although he had a bad stammer, he was able to speak naturally to children. His story-telling to children resulted in many books. Also wrote "Alice in Wonderland". 1896.

We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat.

Victoria, Queen of England (1819-1901) and Empress of India. She gave her name to the Victorian era. Her reign restored popularity to the English crown and may have saved the monarchy from abolition. 1899.

We are not amused.

Victoria, Queen of England (1819-1901). Found in her "Notebooks of a spinster lady". Said when someone told a questionable story at Windsor. She was known for her lack of humour. 1900.

What is our task? To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in.

Lloyd George (1863-1945), prime minister. He dominated the British political scene in the latter part of World War I. He bears major responsibility for the peace settlement. From a speech made in Wolverhampton. 24th November 1918.

Isn't it funny how a bear likes honey? Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! I wonder why he does?

A.A. Milne (1882-1956), English humorist and originator of the immensely popular stories of Christopher Robin and his toy bear Winnie-the-Pooh. Extract from "Winnie-the-Pooh". 1926.

In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers.

Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940), prime minister. Extract from a speech made at Kettering. He approved of the policy of "appeasement" towards Hitler's Germany. In the Munich Agreement (1938) he and the French prime minister granted almost all of Hitler's demands and left Czechoslovakia defenseless. When Hitler seized the rest of Czechoslovakia though, he repudiated the appeasement. 1938.

I would say to the House, as I have said to those who have joined this government: I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.

Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965), prime minister. From a speech in the House of Commons. In it he warned the House of Commons of the hard road ahead and committed himself and the nation to all-out war until victory was achieved. 1940.

The Russian danger is our danger.

Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965), prime minister. From a broadcast address. Churchill's response to Hitler's sudden attack on the Soviet Union was quick and unequivocal. Although critical of Communism he pledged aid to the Russian people. 22nd June 1941.

All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

George Orwell Animal Farm

It's a fable about animals who overthrow their human oppressors, only to be oppressed once again by the pigs, those animals who were once their comrades. Because in 1945 Russia was an ally of England Orwell had a hard time publishing it. It has now become favourite reading in German grammar schools.

Big Brother is watching you.

Although the action deals in the future, there are a couple of elements and symbols, taken from the present and past. Orwell draws a link to other totalitarian systems of our century, like the Nazis and the Communists, who had anti-Semitic ideas, and who used Jews as so-called scapegoats, who were responsible for all bad and evil things in the country.

George Orwell 1984

You've never had it so good.

Electoral slogan used by PM **MacMillan** in 1959. It later became a national catch-phrase to describe an affluent society and suggested there was a complacency within the wealthier groups.

Labour isn't working.

Electoral slogan invented by **Saatchi&Saatchi** and used for the conservative party in 1979.

All you need is love.

The Beatles (Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, John Lennon and George Harrison).
Mid 1960's. Probably one of the most famous bands of all time.

No woman in my time will become Prime Minister, Chancellor or Foreign Secretary.

Margaret Thatcher (1925-) Britain's first Woman Prime Minister and the longest serving Prime Minister of the 20th Century, reshaped the image of her Country's Conservative Party. Elected PM in 1979. In the fall of 1990, she provoked a rebellion in her own party because of her opposition to full British participation in a European monetary system. In November 1990, Thatcher resigned and was succeeded by her Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Major.

I want you back for good.

Take That. The band has now split up, but they were the most successful boy group of the 1990s. 1995.

I'd like to be a queen of people's hearts, in people's hearts, but I don't see myself being Queen of this country.

Princess Diana (1961-1997). BBC television interview, November 20, 1995. Princess Diana talked openly about her life, her children, her failed marriage, her eating disorders and depression, her husband's relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles and her own infidelity. The interview was done without consulting the Palace.

I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want.

Spice Girls. Newly discovered girl group, whose motto is "Girl Power". Hugely successful in 1997.

SOLUTIONS

Quick Reference

	QUOTATIONS	NAMES	DATES
1.	In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers.	Neville Chamberlain	1938
2.	No woman in my time will be Prime Minister, Chancellor or Foreign Secretary.	Margaret Thatcher	1983
3.	Oliver Twist has asked for more.	Charles Dickens	1838
4.	All my possessions for a moment of time.	Elizabeth I.	1603
5.	I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term of Natural Selection.	Charles Darwin	1859
6.	All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.	George Orwell	1945 (Animal Farm)
7.	Isn't it funny How a bear likes honey? Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! I wonder why he does?	A.A.Milne	1926
8.	England expects every man will do his duty.	Viscount Horatio Nelson	1805s
9.	Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.	The Bible - Old Testament	unspecified
10.	So the heart be right, it is no matter which way the head lieth.	Sir Walter Raleigh	1618
11.	The Russian danger is our danger.	Winston Churchill	1941
12.	What is our task? To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in.	Lloyd George	1918
13.	We are not amused.	Queen Victoria	1900
14.	Two nations; between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, and fed by different food.	Benjamin Disraeli	1845 (Sybil)
15.	I would say to the House, as I have said to those who have joined this government: I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.	Winston Churchill	1940
16.	To be, or not to be: that is the question.	William Shakespeare	1602 (Hamlet)
17.	Tiger! Tiger! Burning bright in the forests of the night.	William Blake	1794 (Songs of Experience)
18.	We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat.	Queen Victoria	1899
19.	I want you back for good.	Take That	1995
20.	O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?	William Shakespeare	1597 (Romeo and Juliet)
21.	And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.	The Bible - Old Testament	unspecified
22.	I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want.	Spice Girls	1997
23.	All you need is love.	The Beatles	1965
24.	There's plenty of time to win this game, and to thrash the Spaniards, too.	Sir Francis Drake	1588
25.	Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.	The Bible - New Testament	unspecified
26.	Twas brillig, and the slithy toves did gyre and gimble in the wabe.	Lewis Carroll	1896 (Jabberwocky)
27.	Big Brother is watching you.	George Orwell	1948 ("1984")

28.	Labour isn't working.	Conservative Party Slogan invented by Saatchi&Saatchi.	1979
29.	You've never had it so good.	MacMillan	1959
30.	I'd like to be a queen of people's hearts, in people's hearts, but I don't see myself being Queen of this country.	Princess Diana	1995

Solutions (Homework)

1) *In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers.* Welche der Parteien sich im Krieg auch als Sieger bezeichnen mag - es gibt keine Gewinner, immer nur Verlierer.

5) *I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term of Natural Selection.* Ich nenne dieses Prinzip, bei dem jede noch so kleine Variation, wenn sie denn nützlich ist, bewahrt wird, "natürliche Auslese/Selektion".

14) *Two nations; between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, and fed by different food ...* Zwei Nationen; zwischen denen es keinen Austausch und keinerlei Sympathie gibt; die die Sitten und Gebräuche, Gedanken und Gefühle der anderen so wenig kennen, als weilten sie in verschiedenen Sphären, als wären sie Bewohner verschiedener Planeten; die anders erzogen werden und sich anders ernähren...

15) *I would say to the House, as I have said to those who have joined this government: I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.* Ich würde dem Parlament (dem Hohen Hause) dasselbe sagen, was ich auch meiner Regierung/meinem Kabinett gesagt habe: Ich habe nichts anzubieten außer "Blut, Plackerei/Schwerarbeit, Schweiß und Tränen".

