



## Brexit: The path to Brexit

### Reading Test

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# Student

**Time:** *Approximately 1 hour*

## Two types of lesson

**Lesson#1:** [Easy] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Try to predict the content of text / write down key terms / ideas
2. Read text – check words and meanings with a dictionary
3. Answer questions
4. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

**Lesson #2:** [Hard] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Read text – no dictionary
2. Answer questions
3. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

# Teacher

## Two types of lesson

**Lesson#1:** [easy] \*\*\*\*\* [B2/C1]

1. Give out text a week before the test – students read, check vocabulary and meaning
2. Test day – give out a new copy of text and the questions (no dictionary or notes)
3. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
4. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary\* (add 30 minutes to test)

**Lesson #2:** [hard] \*\*\*\*\* [C1]

1. Test day – give out text and questions
2. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
3. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary\* (add 30 minutes to test)

### **\*Summary writing**

Link: [www.academic-englishuk.com/summary](http://www.academic-englishuk.com/summary)

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## The Path to Brexit

C. Wilson (2017)

1) The European Union was formed in the 1950s, specifically under the 1957 Treaty of Rome that implemented the single market for goods, labour, [redacted] with common policies on transport and [redacted] the creation of the European Social fund and commission. In these early stages it was termed the European Economic Commission (EEC) and was derived of six member states; Germany, France, Italy, [redacted]. The UK declined an invitation to join. Nevertheless, twenty-two years later the UK was granted **accession** in 1973 and [redacted] has voted to leave.

2) Since joining the EU back in 1973 there has been significant progress in terms of regulation and policy. The first being 'the Schengen Treaty' in 1985. [redacted] zone across member [redacted] visa policies and the abolishment of passport controls. The UK refused to sign up to this agreement. The second [redacted] in 1992. This changed the name from EEC to the EU and introduced the single currency of the Euro through the creation of the European Central Bank (ECB) to create a second reserve currency in the world and solely [redacted] stability. It also developed a better coordination of economic policies and the implementation of European Citizenship. The final development was the Lisbon Treaty in 2007. This improved [redacted] powers of **judicial matters** and European Parliament.

3) At the moment in 2017, the EU consists of [redacted] a single market with standardised laws and EU policies aimed at ensuring the four freedoms of the free movement of goods, services, capital and people [redacted], fisheries and **regional development**. The EU is the second largest economy in the world with a combined GDP of \$20.75 trillion, 20% of the global gross domestic product and 30% of the net global wealth of \$223 trillion. The EU is [redacted] since 2008 is the largest importer of goods and services. Internal trade is aided by the removal of **tariffs** and reduced border control. According to the Office of National Statistics (2016), the UK pays on average £ [redacted], this equates to £350million a week. In 2016, the UK received a **rebate** of £5bn and the EU spent £4.5bn on the UK, therefore the UK's net contribution is about £8.5bn a year. These costs seem **exuberant** and the true [redacted] investment. On the one hand, the UK Government (2016) claims that EU benefits provide 4-5% of UK GDP or £62-78bn a year with the single market increasing flows of investment and the free movement of people benefits recruitment and knowledge transfer skills. On the other hand, [redacted] is unclear but not necessarily negative due to the fact that this could be a new horizon opening better trade markets outside [redacted] investing solely in the UK.

4) The UK and its relationship with the EU has been a **turbulent** affair (Young & Gee, 2016) from the start and there have been numerous calls for referendums. These [redacted] in 1975 when a referendum to leave was called on the disagreement with the EEC's agricultural policies and [redacted] when Margret Thatcher famously negotiated a rebate from being the net contributor to the EU funds. Following that in 1992, the UK suspended its membership over the introduction of the Euro and the [redacted], the UK prevented the EU Government plans to **levy** banks and restrict London's financial sector. In 2013, [redacted] the UK's membership and have greater power of immigration, exclusion from Eurozone **bailouts** and prevent the [redacted], which the UK sees as a creation of a super-state Europe controlled by one type of political union. However, the negotiations were not [redacted] proposed. Finally, in 2016, **trouble in the**

**Eurozone** and the **ongoing migrant crisis** led to the referendum being called for the 23th June 2016. The controlling government 'the conservatives' were divided with the Prime Minister 'David Cameron' [redacted] politicians supporting leave.

5) On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Britain voted to leave the EU with 51.9% leave and 48.1% remain overall. However, Scotland and Northern Ireland had a majority [redacted] 55/44 respectively. According to Official Government figures (2016), 34 million people voted equating to a 72% turnout, which was the [redacted] of voting. The referendum results suggest the UK is split down the middle in its opinion on the EU. The main arguments for the leave campaign were to regain **sovereignty**, to cut immigration, to remove restrictions of the single market to access global [redacted] a week on the UK economy. Economists have analysed the results and found a correlation between the people who voted to leave being a specific [redacted], non-graduate level of education and the over 60s (pensioners). Also, the main areas that voted leave were places with high numbers of immigrants, high unemployment and **deprivation** from lack of [redacted]. London on the other hand voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU (59.9%), which some Economists suggest is [redacted], a younger population and highly educated residents.

6) The referendum vote was to leave so 'Brexit means Brexit'. Since the vote there has been a change in Prime Minister and a complete pro-Brexit **cabinet reshuffle** to accommodate the new changes. The Government has **triggered** 'Article 50' [redacted]. Triggering [redacted] of the intention to withdraw the UK from the EU and the UK has two years to leave from that date. At the same time, all the treaties that govern membership no longer apply to Britain. [redacted] between Britain's 27 counterparts. The Government has two main choices a 'hard' or 'soft' Brexit. A hard Brexit means to give up full access to the single market, go back to WTO rules for trade and gain full control of borders and laws. And a soft [redacted] relationship with the EU [redacted] with free access to the Single market, bank **passporting** rights but no seat on EU commission, and this deal must include the four freedoms. Whatever the choice, it is now becoming increasingly evident that the short-term impact is likely to be negative with uncertainties [redacted] affecting the pound sterling. [redacted] stated that Brexit is the biggest risk to financial stability in history. However, the main point is that no one actually knows exactly [redacted] of Brexit on economic prosperity and the UK's role on the international stage.

### **References:**

The UK Government. (2016). *European Union Referendum 2016: Briefing Paper No:CBP 7639*. [online] House of Commons. Available at: <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7639/CBP-7639.pdf> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2017].

ONS, (2016). *The UK's EU membership fee*. [online] Office of National Statistics. Available at: <https://fullfact.org/economy/our-eu-membership-fee-55-million/> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2017].

Young, A and Gee, G, (2016). Regaining Sovereignty, Brexit, the UK Parliament and the Common Law. *European Public Law*, 22 (1), 131-147.

**Comprehension questions**

**1. Headings – match a subtitle for each paragraph**

1	B	Background history	A	Dissatisfaction with EU policy
2			B	Background history
3			C	The way forward
4			D	
5			E	An analysis of the referendum
6			F	EU Economics

\_\_\_ / 5

**2. True / false / not given (T / F/ NG)**

i.	The UK refused to be a member in the 1950's because of the treaty of Rome	
ii.	The UK	
iii.	The UK receives nothing for its net investment of £8.5bn	
iv.	The Eurozone crisis	the referendum
v.	The main reason for the leave vote was from people who felt disadvantaged	
vi.	Hard	

\_\_\_ / 6

**3. Open questions**

i. What are the four freedoms?

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ / 4

ii. What are the key points of each treaty? (fill in box below)

'the Schengen Treaty'	ii)
'the Maastricht Treaty'	iii)
'the Lisbon Treaty'	iv)

\_\_\_ / 3

**4. EU figures - (fill in box below from paragraph 3 – what do the numbers connect to?)**

\$20.75 trillion	i)
20%	ii)
	iii)
£18bn	iv)
£350m	v)
	vi)

\_\_\_ / 6

**5. Dates: UK disagreements with EU – (fill in box below from paragraph 4 – topics of conflict)**

1975	i)
1983	ii)
	iii)
2011	iv)
	v)
2016	vi)

\_\_\_ / 6

**6. Reasons:** Key reasons why people voted leave - (fill in box below – 4 key reasons)

1	
2	
3	
4	

\_\_\_ / 4

**7. Types of people:** Who were the main people who voted leave?

1	
2	
3	

\_\_\_ / 3

**8. Definition:** What is Article 50?

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\_\_\_ / 2

**9. Key language** – explain these terms from the context / synonyms where appropriate

Accession	<i>Ex. Acquisition / to be added</i>
i. Ratified	
ii. Judicial matters	
iii. █ development	
iv. Tariffs	
v. A rebate	
vi. █	
vii. Turbulent	
viii. To levy	
ix. A bailout	
x. █	
xi. Sovereignty	
xii. Deprivation	
xiii. A cabinet reshuffle	
xiv. █	
xv. Passporting	

\_\_\_ / 15

**Overall Score:** \_\_\_ / 54

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**Comprehension Questions ANSWERS****1. Headings** – match a subtitle for each paragraph

1	B	Background history	A	Dissatisfaction with EU policy
2	D	Three key treaties	B	<del>Background history</del>
3	F	EU Economics	C	The way forward
4	A	Dissatisfaction with EU policy	D	Three key treaties
5	E	An analysis of the referendum	E	An analysis of the referendum
6	C	The way forward	F	EU Economics

**2. True / false / not given**

i.	The UK refused to be a member in the 1950's of the treaty of Rome	<b>NG</b>
ii.	The UK refused to sign two treaties	<b>T</b>
iii.	The UK receives nothing for its net investment of £8.5bn ( <i>hard to calculate</i> )	<b>F</b>

**ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**