



NO FUTURE

DOWN WITH THE CROWN

LEVEL 3 ENGLISH COURSE MATERIAL
SECOND TERM OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

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PART 1

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GETTING READY



Icebreaker: Which Female Royal Are You?

Take this quiz in pairs, helping each other out with unknown vocabulary, to discover how you wear your crown.

1. What is your favourite home or residence?

- A. Balmoral for peace, Windsor for duty, Sandringham for Christmas, Buckingham Palace for ceremonies
- B. Clarence House as your London home, though Buckingham Palace is the official stage
- C. Forest Lodge in Windsor — historic, private, and close to Eton
- D. Your Montecito, Ca. estate — sunny, eco-friendly, and far from British tabloids



Balmoral



Windsor



Sandringham



Buckingham



Clarence House



Forest Lodge



Montecito

2. How do you prefer to meet your husband?

- A. At a wedding as teenagers. You'll become engaged after seven years of exchanging letters
- B. At a polo match in your twenties. You'll fall in love, marry other people, and finally marry each other nearly thirty-five years later
- C. At university during a charity fashion show
- D. On an almost blind date in your early thirties — he will notice you on a mutual friend's Instagram

3. If your husband is accused of cheating, you...

- A. Say nothing publicly
- B. Accept that sometimes the mistress becomes the queen
- C. Stay calm and dignified
- D. Have never faced that rumour

4. What is your relationship with the media?

- A. Distant and controlled — “Never complain, never explain”
- B. Complicated and long-lasting
- C. Strategic — you understand the power of a good photo
- D. Mixed. They need your story, you choose how to tell it

5. Choose a horrible newspaper headline about you:

- A. “One's Bum Year” — mocking the worst year of your life (*Annus Horribilis*)
- B. “6-Minute Love Tape” — about a leaked private phone call
- C. “Picture of Chaos” — after you badly edited a family photo
- D. “Duchess Difficult” — a common label because you always speak your mind

6. What is your relationship with Netflix?

- A. You've never watched it, yet you appear in many of its shows
- B. You are shown negatively and choose not to respond
- C. You know every royal drama now includes you, but you stay silent
- D. You help produce content, including a documentary series and lifestyle projects

Results (all As, Bs, Cs and Ds are true!)



Mostly As: Queen Elizabeth II (1926–2022) – Britain’s longest-serving monarch

You were not born to be queen, but you showed great strength and responsibility. Calm, private, and dedicated to duty, you helped Britain stay stable through fifteen Prime Ministers, wars, family problems, and major changes like the rise of the Internet. You always appeared in public with confidence — usually in bright-coloured coats.

Did you know?

Her reign lasted 70 years, the longest in British history. She met every US president from Truman to Biden. She and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, were married from 1947 until his death in 2021.

Mostly Bs: Queen Camilla – King Charles’s consort against all odds

Your story proves that patience matters. Once criticised heavily by the public, you survived years of negative attention and eventually married the man you loved. You understand timing — and how to stay strong under pressure.

Did you know?

Before becoming queen, Camilla Shand (ex-Parker Bowles) was known as the Duchess of Cornwall. She was crowned alongside King Charles III in 2023, almost 50 years after their first relationship began, and 18 years into their eventual marriage.

Mostly Cs: Catherine, Princess of Wales – wife and mother of prospective kings

Calm, elegant, and relatable. You have handled intense public attention, health challenges, and family life with dignity. Many people see you as a symbol of stability for the monarchy in the digital age — even when a small mistake reminds the world that royals are human too.

Did you know?

Catherine Middleton studied art history at St Andrews University in Scotland. In 2024, she shared that she had cancer and confirmed she was in remission in early 2025. She and William, Prince of Wales, have been married since 2011.

Mostly Ds: Meghan, Duchess of Sussex – wife of the Spare to the heir

Confident, ambitious, and outspoken. You chose independence over tradition and created your own path, mixing activism, media, and lifestyle projects. People strongly disagree about you — but they always pay attention.

Did you know?

Meghan Markle was the first woman of mixed racial background to marry into the British royal family in 2018. Her and Prince Harry’s 2021 interview with Oprah Winfrey was watched by over 49 million people worldwide.

A. PRONONCIATION

1. Mots-clés pour le semestre

Exercice : Lisez les mots du tableau à votre partenaire de quiz et corrigez votre prononciation respective. Si vous avez des doutes, vérifiez sur www.howsay.com.

VOYELLES COURTES		VOYELLES LONGUES		DIPHTONGUES	
		ɑ:	bAr, ChARles, PARliament, hEARt	eɪ	chANge, debAte, estAte, KAtE, sAY, WAlEs
æ	Act, Advertise, Asset, democrAtic, nAtional	ɔ:	AUthority, Alternative, cIAUse, IAW, IORd	aɪ	advertise, tItle, envIronment, PrImE
e	dEmocratic, devElop, rEpresent, sAIId, tEnant	i:	IEAseholder, IEgal, sEnior, pEOple, QuEEen	ɔɪ	rOYal, vOIce
ɪ	bIll, dEvelop, DuchEss, Inheritance, reprEsent	ɜ:	bIRth, Urban, wORld, wORth	ɪə	arEA, carEER, voluntEER, barrIER, idEA
ɒ	COmmons, fOreigner, gOvernment, Offence			eə	affAIRs, hEIR, humanitARIan, unFAIR
				ʊə	pOOOr, tOUrism
ʊ	tOOK, cOULD, wOULD, shOULD	u:	constitUtional, mOOD, DUke	əʊ	leaseholder, thrOne
ʌ	cUlture, DUchess, pUnishment, repUblic			ɑʊ	hOUse, crOWn, dOWn
VOYELLE RÉDUITE					
ə	CAmilla, commonER, cultUre, famOUs, naturAL, Opinion, the ...-Est				
CONSONNES					
ʃ	tradiTIon	ð	worTHy	ʒ	viSIon
tʃ	CHarles, riCH	h	Hair, inHerit	dʒ	Jeopardy, George
θ	ElizabeTH, THrone, worTH	ŋ	kiNG	j	Yes, Union

2. /əʊ/ ou /ɑʊ/ ?

Classez les mots suivants dans le tableau ci-dessous en fonction de leur prononciation. Lisez-les à voix haute pour ne pas faire d'erreur. Si vous avez des doutes, vérifiez sur www.howsay.com.

accountability - allowance - crown - crowd - downfall - expose - global - house - low - oath - outcry - over - power - process - role - showdown - throne

/əʊ/	/ɑʊ/

Culture note: *The Crown* (TV series, 2016-2023) - source: *Wikipedia*



The Crown is a historical drama television series about the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, created and principally written by Peter Morgan and produced by Left Bank Pictures and Sony Pictures Television for Netflix. Morgan developed the series from his film *The Queen* (2006) and his stage play *The Audience* (2013), which also focused on Elizabeth II.

Go back to pp. 4-6 to answer questions 1 and 2, and make reasoned guesses for questions 3 and 4.

1. The series begins shortly before the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten in:

- A. 1947
- B. 1952
- C. 1964

2. It ends with the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles in:

- A. 1981
- B. 1996
- C. 2005

3. Match the principal cast with the corresponding seasons:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| A. Seasons 1-2 | 1. Olivia Colman, Helena Bonham Carter |
| B. Seasons 3-4 | 2. Claire Foy, Matt Smith, Vanessa Kirby |
| C. Seasons 5-6 | 3. Imelda Staunton, Elizabeth Debicki |

4. *The Crown* has been praised by critics for:

- A. its acting
- B. its writing, directing and cinematography
- C. all of the above

- *The Crown* Season 1 – Official Trailer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWtnJjn6ng0>
- *The Crown* Season 2 – Official Trailer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdG2mrnodcw>
- *The Crown* Season 3 – Official Trailer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aypy-W15Mn0>
- *The Crown* Season 4 – Official Trailer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiXEpmnPms>
- *The Crown* Season 5 – Official Trailer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ej0vb8xhvbw>
- *The Crown* Season 6 – Official Trailers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1weI6ICx-hq>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtJLfEX8tKM>

ACTIVITY – Fact-check an episode of *The Crown*

Examine how *The Crown* constructs the image of the British monarchy – and how far it departs from historical reality.

- Conduct short but rigorous factual research using trustworthy sources,
- Develop critical awareness of how history and fiction interact by analysing tone, bias, and representation in audiovisual material.

Study an episode of your choice to **deconstruct its representation of the monarchy – showing how artistic choice should meet historical truth.**

Recommended episodes in connection with “Down with the Crown”:

a. “Favourites” (Season 4, Episode 4) – ranked 22/60

This touching episode focuses on the disappearance of Mark Thatcher during the Paris-Dakar rally. Prime Minister Thatcher openly calls him her favourite child, while the Queen insists she has no favourite – though everyone knows she does. A humanising and memorable story.

b. “Terra Nullius” (Season 4, Episode 6) – ranked 11/60

Charles and Diana’s tour of Australia wins over the public and temporarily reduces calls for a republic. Diana becomes adored by everyone – except her jealous husband. When the Queen gives her a cold, formal hug on her return, the moment speaks volumes.

c. “The Way Ahead” (Season 5, Episode 5) – ranked 34/60

This episode revisits the infamous “tampongate” phone call between Charles and Camilla. It ends with a very surprising scene of Charles breakdancing at a Prince’s Trust event – strange but actually true, and which had in fact happened years earlier.

d. “Hope Street” (Season 6, Episode 9) – ranked 52/60

Kate Middleton’s see-through dress at a student fashion show creates a media storm, but the rest of this Golden Jubilee episode feels flat. The conspiracy theories about Diana’s death are dismissed, William awkwardly says “wacky baccy,” and the Queen Mother’s death lacks emotional impact.

1. **Choose one episode** from the list above **you want to work on most**, and prepare a **persuasive pitch** explaining:
 - what makes it **interesting** and/or **controversial** and/or **relevant** to you,
 - what you hope to explore or reveal through your analysis.
2. **Report orally (record yourself speaking from notes!) in 2-3 minutes:**
 - **Introduce your episode** : title, season, number, historical background, main protagonists, critical rating (*The Guardian*, *IMDB* and *Rotten Tomatoes*).
 - Give **at least 2 reasons why you are interested** in this episode.
 - Give **at least 2 reasons why you will make a good analysis** of your chosen episode.
 - Fill in the table below to prepare your notes.

Title	
Season, ep. number	
Historical background	
Main protagonists	
Critical rating	<i>The Guardian:</i> <i>IMDB:</i> <i>Rotten Tomatoes:</i>
2 reasons why you are interested	
2 reasons why your group is the best for this episode	

Follow up work: research and verification

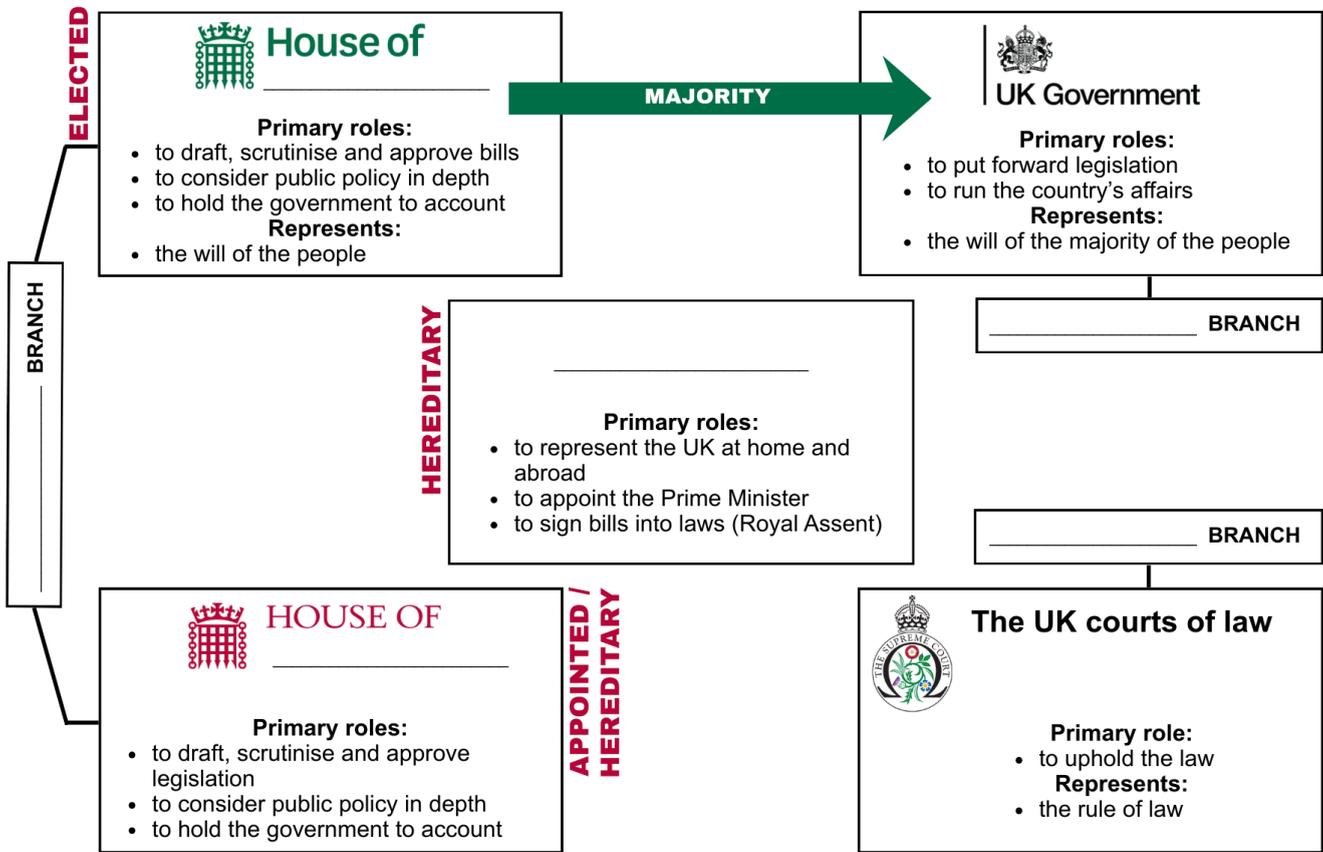
- Watch your episode in full to select **key scenes** that seem **historically significant**.
 - Conduct **research about them** using **trustworthy sources**: *BBC History*, *royal.uk*, etc.
 - **Compare** how the show presents the event(s) **with what really happened**.
-

D. GENERAL BRAINSTORMING

Document 0.a: Who holds power in the UK?

1. Use the words listed below to fill in the blanks in the diagram.

Commons - Executive - Judicial - Legislative - Lords - The Monarch



2. Understanding the system – True or False? Justify with one or several element(s) from the diagram.

a. Houses of Parliament carefully examine all proposed laws before voting on them. T/F

b. The government cannot be held responsible for its actions. T/F

c. The House of Lords is the only chamber which vets laws. T/F

d. The Prime Minister always says they act following the opinion of the majority. T/F

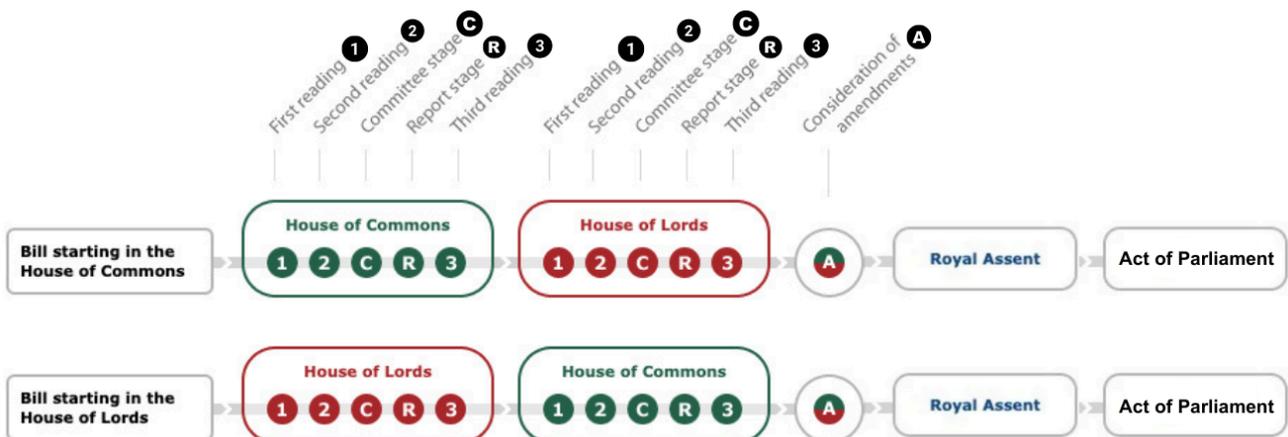
e. Government ministers propose laws. T/F

f. People who commit offences or crimes are prosecuted in UK courts of law. T/F

3. Vocabulary in context – select the correct answer, then deduce the French translation for the **bolded word**.

- a. The **cornerstones** of British democracy are a free press, fair elections and the rule of law.
 a) foundations
 b) limitations
 c) checks and balances _____
- b. Members of Parliament receive some **perks**, such as travel and housing allowances.
 a) punishments
 b) extra benefits
 c) extra work _____
- c. There was a **stand-off** between the government and the opposition.
 a) a friendly discussion
 b) a situation where neither side gives up
 c) a celebration _____
- d. The opposition refused to **back down** during the debate.
 a) stop arguing
 b) continue arguing
 c) agree with the government _____
- e. Some MPs were **barred** from voting because of a conflict of interest.
 a) stopped or forbidden
 b) encouraged
 c) invited _____
- f. Elected representatives must always **act above board**.
 a) act secretly
 b) act honestly and openly
 c) act angrily _____
- g. The monarch should not **meddle** in the affairs of Parliament.
 a) interfere (without right or reason)
 b) influence
 c) interrupt _____

Document 0.b: How does a Bill become an Act of Parliament?



1. Match each word/phrase with its definition.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|--|
| a. an Act of Parliament | ___ | 1. the monarch's approval |
| b. a reading | ___ | 2. a formal discussion of a bill in Parliament |
| c. the Royal Assent | ___ | 3. a bill that has become law |

2. Summarize the process by putting the following segments in the correct order.

- A. It goes through several stages,
- B. Then it receives Royal Assent
- C. when members of Parliament read, discuss, and amend it carefully.
- D. Both houses must agree.
- E. During these stages, the bill is vetted —
- F. and becomes law.
- G. A bill can start
- H. in the House of Commons or the House of Lords.
- I. meaning it is checked in detail to make sure it is fair, clear, and legal.

1. ___ 2. ___ 3. ___ 4. ___ 5. ___ 6. ___ 7. ___ 8. ___ 9. ___