



TEXT

THE SPREAD OF ENGLISH

The cross-cultural spread of English is unprecedented in many ways. It is more widely used than any of the other colonial languages like French, Portuguese or Spanish as it is the international one. It even has a wider use than some of the languages associated with international non-Western religious traditions, like Arabic or Sanskrit.

Its global stature is backed up by massive English-language training programmes, an international business that in textbooks, language courses, video programmes and computerized instruction is worth hundreds of millions of pounds or dollars to the economies of the US and the UK. The English language is now one of Britain's most reliable exports. It is an ideal British product, needing no workers and no work, no assembly lines and no assembly, no spare parts and very little servicing, it is used for the most intimate and the most public services everywhere.

In countries like India, English is used at all levels of society: in local English-language newspapers and broadcasting, in public administration, in university education, in the major industries, the courts and the civil service. Indeed, with nearly 200 languages, India needs English to unify the country. As some people state: "more Indians speak English and write English than in England itself".

QUESTIONS

1. Read the text and, according to it, answer the questions. Use your own words. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 1 (3 as a whole).

- Why is English more important than other colonial languages?
- What kind of product is the English language in Britain?
- Why is English so important in India?

2. Transform or complete the following sentences according to the instructions. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 0.5 each (2 as a whole).

- Complete: *If we had to learn another language ...*
- Put into the passive: *India needs English to unify the country.*
- Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer: The English language is a good source of money for UK and USA.
- Transform into reported speech: *Dr Robert Smith said: "any literate, educated person on the face of the globe is deprived if he does not know English."* Begin with: *Dr Robert Smith remarked ...*

3. Find a synonym in the text for each of the words below. 0 to 0.25 each answer (1 as a whole).

- a) growth b) extraordinary c) supported d) main

4. Write about one of the following topics, between 80-120 words (0-4 marks).

- English and Spanish in the world.
- What do you think about the use of English as a global language?