

EGZAMIN RESORTOWY Z JĘZYKA ANGIELSKIEGO

- I. Read the following article and summarize it in English using your words. **DO NOT quote** from the article.

The Royal Consigliere

Though much of Elizabeth's role is symbolic, she also subtly wields a personal, but very real, power. By Julia Baird

Newsweek May 7, 2007 issue

On Feb. 6, 1952, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was distraught when he heard King George VI had died. His secretary, John Colville, tried to console him by assuring him he would get on well with the new queen, Elizabeth II: "But all he could say was that he didn't know her, and that she was only a child." She was 25 at the time. A year later, a royal aide confided that Churchill was so fond of her he could "scarcely speak of her without tears coming into his eyes."

The rapport between Churchill and his queen was remarkable—she a serious young woman, known for her beauty, wit and love of dancing, he a great orator and war leader who delighted in schooling his monarch in the peculiar ways of British politics. Their meetings often lasted long past their customary half-hour appointment. When he notified her of his intention to resign in 1955, Churchill was told, through the queen's secretary, that "she would especially miss the weekly audiences which she had found so instructive and, if one can say so of State matters, so entertaining." Churchill enjoyed himself, too: Colville said by the time of his retirement, at 81, he was "madly in love" with her.

Now it is the queen who is 81, and due to step onto American soil this week for the fifth time. Her six-day tour will include a trip to Virginia to mark the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement, a visit to the Kentucky Derby and dinner at the White House with President George W. Bush—the 10th American president she has met as queen. While more will be curious about her since the success of the Oscar-winning film "The Queen," many Americans will see her simply as a polite woman who wears matching hats and coats, loves horses and waves to crowds with a curling hand.

But over the half century of her reign, Queen Elizabeth II has wielded more power—and guarded more secrets—than most of us have imagined. She is certainly a figurehead but has also appointed prime ministers (following the resignation of Churchill and later, Harold Macmillan), and overseen six archbishops as head of the Church of England (George Carey, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, told NEWSWEEK her vision for her role was priestly, "almost sacramental"). As British constitutional scholar Walter Bagehot noted, the monarch has the right to be consulted, to advise and to warn. In public, her political power is largely symbolic. In private, it is personal and mysterious. She may be the ultimate *consigliere*, deriving power in part because no one knows she possesses it.

At the coronation in 1953, a palace official told NEWSWEEK that Elizabeth II "loves being Queen. It's like champagne to her. The truth is that the Queen likes being boss." Since then, she has reigned alongside 10 British prime ministers. For more than five decades, she has counseled, cajoled and carefully listened to each of them in private weekly meetings. John Major, who was prime minister between 1992 and 1997, said the fact that no notes were taken and that there was a "total block" on discussions preserved the sanctity of the meetings: he spoke to the queen in a way he did to no one else. Harold Wilson, British P.M. between 1964 and 1970, felt the queen was the only one he could confide in without thinking a knife was being sharpened behind his back. According to royal historian Robert Lacey, Tony Blair initially viewed the meetings as "ancient etiquette," but quickly realized their importance: "He actually found that it was a wonderful opportunity to sit and talk to somebody who's very wise in the knowledge that it would not go any further." If he cannot see her in person, he phones her.

It is not just British leaders who have unburdened themselves to the queen. Once, after she gave Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, a keen gardener, a tiny crystal chest of drawers containing seeds from Buckingham Palace, Yeltsin suddenly found himself "talking about the corruption and violence, not being able to trust anybody," and he was "pouring his heart out," said Lacey. Afterward Yeltsin said he had never spoken to someone so frankly before.

Margaret Thatcher is the only prime minister who had a sometimes uncomfortable relationship with the queen, partly due to the social consequences of her policies—particularly the mid-1980s miners' strike—and Thatcher's refusal to apply sanctions to South Africa's apartheid regime. In 1986, *The Sunday Times* published an article headed QUEEN DISMAYED BY UNCARING THATCHER. Their differences demonstrated that the queen does not just listen—she also expresses opinions. Charles Moore, who is writing a biography of Thatcher, attributes part of the discord to the fact that they were both powerful women who preferred the company of men: "And neither of them had any experience of dealing with another woman of that level of political importance."

Crucially, the queen tells no one of the things she hears—except the diary she keeps locked in her desk. Since she was a child, she has written in it daily. She once told a group of American students it was "far more truthful than anything you'll ever read in the newspapers," but has described her entries as short. Lacey claims a friend of his once asked her over dinner how much she writes each day: "She held up her hand and sort of stretched her thumb to her leading finger and held that up, about five or six inches of text."

Generations of historians have longed to get their hands on these diaries, but no one knows exactly what will happen to them when the queen dies. She may stipulate in her will what she wants done, but a palace spokesman said the diaries would probably be sent to the Royal Archives, released after 30 years, and available only to the royal (or authorized) biographer. Perhaps they will at last reveal the secrets of the queen who, as a young woman, loved power as much as champagne. *With Esther Bintliff in London and Kendall Hill in Australi.*



II. Translate the following extract into Polish.

That also helps to explain her special connection to the new EU members from the old Soviet bloc—as well as her distinct coolness toward Russian President Vladimir Putin. Germany simply does "not have as many values in common with Russia as it does with America," she says. That's in stark contrast to Schröder, who praised Putin as "a democrat through and through." Merkel remembers her younger years in East Germany's nascent civil-rights movement when Putin, then a lieutenant colonel in the KGB, according to Spiegel, "was busy burning intelligence records at his office in Dresden."

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- III. Write an essay on **one** of the following subjects. Use *APPROXIMATELY* 200 words.
1. Tony Blair's appointment as the Middle East peace envoy was officially welcomed by some politicians in the region, but it was greeted with scepticism by others. Whose opinion do you share and why?
 2. In the contemporary society, are we consumers rather than citizens, or vice versa? Present your view, supporting it with adequate examples.
 3. If you were to work for a charity organization for a year, which one would you choose (in Poland or abroad)? Describe their objectives, how they work and give reasons why it would be a proper place for you.

IV. Complete each of the following gaps with **one** word only.

Gold Mine in Scotland

If you were interested (1) _____ becoming a gold miner, you would probably not think of (2) _____ to Scotland to begin your career. But (3) _____ was a gold rush in Scotland a hundred years ago, even (4) _____ it only lasted for a short (5) _____. The strangest thing about this gold rush (6) _____ that the man who started it, a Mr. Gilchrist, (7) _____ just come back from Australia after spending many years looking for gold (8) _____ success. One day, while he was standing on a bridge (9) _____ his home, he noticed that the stream was shining (10) _____. He must have been surprised to realize that (11) _____ gold he had been looking for for such a long time was on his doorstep, so (12) _____ speak.

He set to work immediately but he soon told his neighbours about his good (13) _____ and hundreds of men arrived (14) _____ the village, hoping to make (15) _____ fortunes, too. After a year or so, the gold had gone and so (16) _____ the men but expeditions have been formed (17) _____ time to time since then to see where the gold comes from. So (18) _____ no one has been able to find the source and interest has died down (19) _____ of the greater attractions of the 'black gold' off the Scottish (20) _____, the oil discovered in the North Sea which has provided Scotland with great wealth.

1. in
2. going
3. there
4. though
5. time
6. was
7. had
8. without
9. near

10. brightly

11. the
12. to
13. luck
14. at
15. their / big
16. had
17. from
18. far
19. because

20. coast