Unit 1 — British Cultural Anchors — Teacher copy

Track E · Klasse 11 · Niveau E (Basisfach / Leistungsfach)

Niveau E

1. Vocabulary

Match each item to its meaning or use it in a sentence.

Term	Your note
charter	
mandate	
public-service	
broadcaster	
licence fee	
devolved	
post-war	
founding moment	
settlement	
institutional resilience	
soft power	

2. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

Reading — *The BBC, in Three Sentences*

The BBC was founded in 1922 as a private company and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1927. Its public-service mandate, often summarised as inform, educate, entertain, has been the source of constant argument and constant funding fights. By contrast with most national broadcasters, it is funded by a household licence fee — a model that is, accordingly, both unusual and politically vulnerable.

Discourse markers (formal academic)

by contrast / accordingly / in this regard / more specifically / it is worth noting that / it follows that / on this account / to put it differently.

Vocabulary — cultural-history register

charter, mandate, public-service, broadcaster, licence fee, devolved, post-war, founding moment, settlement, institutional resilience, soft power.

3. Practise

Niveau E — controlled

1. Choose discourse marker: *(contrast)* → ___ ; *(consequence)* → ___ ; *(specification)* → ___ .
2. Match: charter → founding document; licence fee → funding model; soft power → cultural influence.

Niveau E — productive

3. Build 4 sentences about a British anchor using 4 different discourse markers.

4. Your turn

Cultural-essay paragraph, 250 words. Pick one British anchor (BBC / NHS / National Trust / Parliament). Write a single argumentative paragraph with one claim, two pieces of evidence, and one concession. Use 4 academic discourse markers.

Sample

The BBC is often described, accurately and lazily, as the most British institution. The accurate part is that the household licence fee places the BBC, by contrast with most national broadcasters, in a structural relationship to the public that is unusual: every household pays directly for an institution none of them owns. Accordingly, the BBC's editorial pressures are unusual too — it is criticised simultaneously by all major political camps, which is either a sign of balance or of a particular kind of blandness, depending on whom you ask. More specifically, the *inform-educate-entertain* mandate from 1927 survives because it is vague enough to be useful and old enough to be defensible. In this regard, the BBC's resilience is the resilience of an institution that has been continuously slightly embarrassing to power. The lazy part of calling the BBC the most British institution is that it ignores the post-1945 NHS, which has done at least as much to shape what *British* means in the second half of the twentieth century. Both are needed.

5. Further reading / listening

- BBC History — accessible long-form articles.
- The Guardian — *Long reads* on British institutions.

6. Teacher answer key

Controlled. 1. by contrast / accordingly / more specifically.

2. all true.

Productive. 3. Open.