

Starting Up

Look at the title of the article.

1. Which two governments is the article going to be about?
2. Was the article written before or after the visit?

Now read the article quickly and answer the questions that follow.

Beijing and London establish ‘golden’ rapport ahead of Xi’s visit to Britain

¹Chinese president Xi Jinping is to address the UK parliament, dine at Buckingham Palace and ride in a royal carriage next week as London rolls out the reddest of red carpets for the Communist party leader.

²Beijing and London have been engaged in linguistic ping pong for weeks, batting back and forth ever more florid descriptions of mutual affection, officials organising the visit said.

³China started the bidding by calling 2015 a “big year” for ties. UK officials then offered “a golden year”. By the time David Cameron, the UK prime minister, spoke recently on the phone to his counterpart, Li Keqiang, he had elevated this to “a golden time”, the officials said.

⁴Chinese officials then went into a huddle. They felt that “a golden time” sounded like it might be a description of things past and so suggested “a golden era”. But when Oliver Letwin, a UK member of parliament, gave a speech last month to honour Chinese national day, he used the phrase “golden decade”.

⁵Whichever description wins through, the intent is clear. London and Beijing hope Mr Xi’s visit will lay foundations for mutual benefit. The UK is seeking Chinese investment for regeneration projects in northern England, including £11.8bn of contracts for the HS2 high speed rail line.

⁶George Osborne, the UK chancellor, is also awaiting an investment from Beijing in the Hinkley Point nuclear power station and has offered an initial £2bn government guarantee to try to get a deal. Beijing is expected to use the visit to push forward several financial initiatives such as issuing bonds in renminbi, the Chinese currency, in London.

⁷The growing warmth in UK-China ties stands in contrast to the US’s wary relationship with Beijing, marking a significant divergence between London and Washington on an important issue of foreign policy. Mr Xi’s trip to the US last month was defined partly by issues such as cyber espionage and strategic competition in the South China Sea.



Reading Comprehension 1

Answer the following questions about people mentioned in the article.

1. Who is Ji Jinping?
2. Which party does he lead?
3. When is his visit to London?
4. Who is David Cameron?
5. Who is Oliver Letwin?
6. Who is George Osborne?

Vocabulary 1

Match these words from the first part of the article to their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. golden | to eat dinner |
| 2. ties | made of a bright yellow metal or// very successful opportunity or happy time |
| 3. era | the relationship or connections between people, groups, or countries |
| 4. dine | a talk given to a group of people |
| 5. decade | a period of ten years |
| 6. speech | a period of time in history |

Reading Comprehension 2

Look at paragraphs 3 and 4 and answer these questions.

1. Who called 2015 a “big year” for the UK and China?
2. Who called it “a golden year”?
3. Who called it “a golden time”?
4. Who called it “a golden era”?
5. Who used the phrase “golden decade”?

Vocabulary 2

Match these words from the second part of the article to their meanings.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. projects | a route that can be travelled by train |
| 2. guarantee | official documents that show you have lent money to a company |
| 3. rail line | putting money into a business activity to make it successful |
| 4. investment | carefully planned pieces of work |
| 5. bonds | careful because you think something might be dangerous |
| 6. wary | a formal promise that something will be done |

Reading Comprehension 3

Now answer these questions on the text.

1. What three things will Xi Jinping do in London?
2. How much money does the UK want China to invest in the rail line?
3. Where is this project?
4. Where does George Osborne want China to invest?
5. What type of bonds does China want to issue in London?
6. What problems does the US have with China?

Grammar – Capitalisation

Correct the text below by including eight capital letters.

chinese officials then went into a huddle. they felt that “a golden time” sounded like it might be a description of things past and so suggested “a golden era”. but when oliver letwin, a uk member of parliament, gave a speech last month to honour chinese national day, he used the phrase “golden decade”.

Discussion

Which governments does your country have special ties with?
Which countries has your government invested in?

KEY**Starting Up**

1. The British/UK government and the Chinese government
2. Before

Reading Comprehension 1

1. The Chinese president
2. The communist party
3. Next week
4. The UK prime minister
5. A UK member of parliament
6. The UK chancellor

Vocabulary 1

1. golden made of a bright yellow metal or// very successful opportunity or happy time
2. ties the relationship or connections between people, groups, or countries
3. era a period of time in history
4. dine to eat dinner
5. decade a period of ten years
6. speech a talk given to a group of people

Reading Comprehension 2

1. China (or Chinese officials)
2. UK officials
3. David Cameron
4. Chinese officials
5. John Letwin

Vocabulary 2

1. projects carefully planned pieces of work
2. guarantee a formal promise that something will be done
3. rail line a route that can be travelled by train
4. investment putting money into a business activity to make it successful
5. bonds official documents that show you have lent money to a company
6. wary careful because you think something might be dangerous

Reading Comprehension 3

1. Address the UK parliament, dine at Buckingham Palace and ride in a royal carriage
2. £11.8bn
3. In northern England
4. Hinkley Point nuclear power station
5. Bonds in renminbi, the Chinese currency
6. Issues such as cyber espionage and strategic competition in the South China Sea

Grammar – Capitalisation

Chinese officials then went into a huddle. They felt that “a golden time” sounded like it might be a description of things past and so suggested “a golden era”. But when Oliver Letwin, a UK member of parliament, gave a speech last month to honour Chinese national day, he used the phrase “golden decade”.

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