

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РФ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ
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XX CENTURY: EVENTS AND FACES

Учебно-методическое пособие для вузов

Составители:
Н.В. Ильичева,
А.А. Махонина

Издательско-полиграфический центр
Воронежского государственного университета
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d. Discuss in groups.

- Do you agree with the suggested criteria?
- Which is better for a country to have a routine leader or a charismatic one?

Reading 1

3. a. Look at the title of the article. What do you think the message of the article is? How far do you agree with it?

b. Read the article below and say whether you consider repulsive features of character to be an integral part of a political leader.

**If You're a Liar, a Bully or a Cheat,
then You Too Could Be a Great
World Leader**

If you want to get ahead, be egotistical, stubborn and disagreeable. And a bit of untidiness will help too.

The research presented yesterday to the American Psychological Association conference in Washington, **examined the traits** of the most successful men in the US history — all 41 Presidents — and compared them to more average individuals.

The truth is that being nice gets you nowhere — not to the White House or Number 10 or even on to a parish council.

The researchers discovered that the great Presidents were **low on straightforwardness**, vulnerability and order. "The very characteristics which mark people out as an unattractive choice as a spouse or a neighbour make them successful as leaders", said Rubenzer. "One real surprise was that people who are a little disorganized do a bit better. Abraham Lincoln was notoriously untidy, and it certainly seems to be an asset".

The psychologists asked 100 biographers and historians to help them fill in questionnaires and then scored them on different characteristics. Forcefulness, the **willingness to flatter** and manipulate, egotism and assertiveness all seemed to help **push Presidents up the ladder of greatness**.

"As far as UK goes, Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher fit right into our model. Stubborn, assertive and socially often obnoxious — just the right stuff to make them great figures in history", said Ruberzer.

The team further categorized the Presidents into seven personality types — innocents, autocrats, introverts, actors, philosophers, extroverts and maintainers.

Innocents: too nice for their own good, these people **make it to the top through a fluke**. In Britain John Major and the late Alec Douglas-Home, a Tory Prime Minister in the sixties, are in this category.

Autocrats: the disagreeable, bossy bullies. Using the rules applied by the researchers, Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill and the US Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Richard Nixon are in this group.

Introverts: erratic, anxious and tense, like British PMs Ramsey MacDonald and Anthony Eden, and US President Herbert Hoover.

Extroverts: **publicity-hungry**, assertive, dominant, but somehow low on organizational skills. Bill Clinton — **destined for the history books if only for his sex life**, say researchers — and Tony Blair are examples.

Actors: similar to extroverts but less open. They have low concentration. Ronald Reagan and Harold Macmillan are examples.

Philosophers: their interests are wide and they are not afraid of change — like Clement Attlee, Labour's post-war election victor.

Maintainers: traditional, **holding family values** and not open to new experiences. George Bush and Harry Truman are in this group.

(Tracy McVeigh, the *Observer*)

c. For questions (1-6), choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1. According to the research, if a person is pleasant to deal with, kind and friendly
 - A it won't do him/her any good.
 - B it is necessary for him/her to conceal these features of character.
 - C it will bring some positive result in the future.
2. Leaders who don't have good and effective organization
 - A will never gain a high position in life or their job.
 - B are destined to succeed.
 - C can become leader easier than others.
3. Psychologists evaluated all leaders according to
 - A their influence on other people.
 - B the number of points they got for their qualities.
 - C the proportion of their negative features to the positive ones.
4. Presidents were classified on the grounds of
 - A their attitude to success.
 - B their nature and character.
 - C personal opinions of biographers and historians
5. Autocrats and extroverts show similarities in
 - A their behaviour in their private life.
 - B the way they treat weaker people.
 - C their abilities to organize.
6. Philosophers and maintainers represent an opposition because
 - A they regard everything new differently.
 - B they have different experience.
 - C other people don't share their values.