

## **GREAT BRITAIN**

### **I. READING**

#### **1.1. Read and translate the text *The United Kingdom* [13].**

##### **The United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom is an island country. It occupied the territory of the British Isles and it composed of some 5500 isles. The total area of the country is 94,217 miles<sup>2</sup> or 244, 02 km<sup>2</sup>. The United Kingdom is a small country. It's twice smaller than France or Spain.

The two main islands are: Great Britain in which are England, Scotland and Wales to the East and Ireland in which are Northern Ireland and Independent Republic of Ireland in the West. They are separated by the Irish Sea.

The United Kingdom is situated in the North West Coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the north and The North Sea in the East. It separated from the European continent by the English Channel (La Manche) and the Strait of Dover.

Geographically the islands of Great Britain are subdivided into two main regions: Lowland and Highland compares Eastern and Southern England. Highland consists of Scotland, most of Wales, the Pennines and the Lake District. The highest mountains are Ben Nevis (1,343 m) in Scotland and Snowdon (1,085 m) in Wales.

The longest rivers in the UK are the Severn flowing along the border between England and Wales, tributaries of which include the Avon famed by Shakespeare, and the Thames which flows East-West to the port of London.

There are many lakes in Great Britain. In the North West side of the Pennines lies the Lake District – the beautiful lakes which gave its name association with the history of English literature and especially with the name William Wordsworth, the founder of the Lake School of Poets.

The largest cities are London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds and Edinburgh.

##### ***Climate***

Britain is as far North as Siberia. For example, Edinburgh is 56° North of the equator. The same latitude as Moscow. Yet, its climate is generally mild and tempered because of the Gulf Stream (a warm ocean wind) which brings warm from the Gulf of Mexico.

The climate in the UK is usually described as cool, tempered and humid. To say the truth, London is drier than continent cities such as Hamburg. Its weather may be unpredictable, but it's not particularly wet.

The Northern Mountains have much more rain and snow. The Southern part of England and Wales is a little warmer, sunnier and less misty.

During a normal summer the temperature sometimes rises above 25 degrees in the South. Winter temperature below 5 degrees are rarely. It seldom snows heavily in winters. January and February are usually the coldest months; July and August are warmest.

Three main features of Great Britain climate: mild, humid and changeable. That means that it's never too hot or cold, too wet or too dry. This humid and mild climate is good for plants.

In the British homes there has been no central heating. The fireplaces are often used. Many schools and universities have no central heating either and the floors are made from stone.

### ***England***

England consists of 4 parts which make up the UK. England is a large occupied of the territory (131,000 km<sup>2</sup>) is the most industrial and most densely populated part of the UK. Its population is over 47 million people. The capital of England is London.

England is a highly developed industrial part of the country. Historically England is divided into several economic regions: the South is industrial and agricultural region, central England or Midlands, Yorkshire and Northern England.

Heavy machinery, electronics and shipbuilding are developed in London, Nottingham, Bristol, Manchester, New Castle and others.

The wool industry is centered in Leeds and Bradford. Food processing is developed in Liverpool. Midlands make farming lands.

Nottingham is connected with the name of legendary hero Robin Hood. Stratford upon Avon is Shakespeare birthplace. Canterbury is situated in Kent is a cathedral city, the cradle of Christian people gloried by Geoffrey Chaucer.

Another historic place in the South is Hastings. It's a popular resort it's famous by the battle of Hastings in 1066.

One of the monuments situated in the South West is Stone Henge.

Wales lies west of the English Lowland. This part of the UK is rather small; its territory is 26,760 km<sup>2</sup>. The capital of Wales is Cardiff. The population of Wales is over 3 million people.

### ***Scotland***

Scotland is the most Northern part of Great Britain. Its total area is 78,800 km<sup>2</sup>. The Cheviot Hills marks the border between England and Scotland.

Scotland takes up 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the territory of the British Isles. Its population is not very big – a little over 6 million people. The capital is Edinburgh.

Scotland is a country of hills, lakes and rivers. The highest mountain pic is Ben Nevis. There are many rivers but they are not long. The longest and the most important river is the Clyde.

Scottish lakes are called “lochs” because of they are long and the most narrow. The longest and the most beautiful river is Lomond. The famous Scottish loch is Loch Ness because of the monster.

Shipbuilding is one of the most important industries. Others are iron steel, heavy and light engineering and coal-mining.

The main urban centers are Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee.

### ***Northern Ireland***

It's the smallest component of the United Kingdom – 14,121 km<sup>2</sup>.

*It occupied North East of Ireland. The population is 1, 5 million people. The capital is Belfast. The largest river is Shannon. The climate is oceanic. Economy has three main industries: agriculture, textiles, shipbuilding.*

#### **1.2. Study the meaning of the following words and word combinations:**

- *tributaries*
- *gulf*
- *tempered and humid*
- *latitude*
- *central heating*
- *fireplaces*
- *either*
- *floors*
- *stone*
- *densely populated part*
- *heavy machinery*
- *legendary hero*

- *birthplace*
- *cradle*
- *resound*
- *battle*
- *border*
- *narrow*
- *coal-mining.*

**1.3. Study the pronunciation of the geographical names, write down the transcription:**

*France, Spain, England, Scotland, English Channel (La Manche), the Strait of Dover (Pas de Calais) (Дуврский пролив), : Lowland and Highland, the Pennines and the Lake District (Озёрский край), Ben Nevis, Snowdon, Nottingham, Manchester, New Castle, Belfast, Loch Ness, the Thames, London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds and Edinburgh, Gulf of Mexico (Мексиканский залив), Hamburg, Yorkshire.*

**1.4. Answer the following questions:**

- 1) Where is the United Kingdom situated?
- 2) How many parts are there?
- 3) What are the longest rivers?
- 4) What lakes do you know?
- 5) What do you know about Stone Henge?
- 6) What is the most important industry in Scotland?
- 7) What is the capital of Ireland?