

THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY SPECIAL
EDUCATION

TASHKENT INSTITUTE OF TEXTILE AND LIGHT
INDUSTRY

THE DEPARTMENT: LANGUAGES

REPORT PAPER

THEME: GREAT BRITAIN

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GREAT BRITAIN

Britain lies off the northwest coast of mainland Europe. Its full name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (of the UK). Britain consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and northern Ireland - which share the same monarch, government and national flag known as the union jack ("jack" is a less common word for flag). England is the largest of the four countries and is bordered by Scotland to the north and by Wales to south and Northern Ireland which is part of Britain.

The landscape of Britain is a mixture of highland and lowland. Most of the highest mountains are in Scotland and Wales. The southeast of England is mostly lowland. There are many lakes and rivers in Britain. The longest rivers are the river Severn and the river Thames on which London, the capital of Britain, is situated.

Britain has a variable climate. The weather changes so frequently that's difficult to forecast accurately. Fortunately, the British climate is also mild and temperatures seldom rise above 32°C in summer or fall below -10°C in winter. The months from September to January are the wettest and the heaviest rain falls in the mountainous areas of the north and west. Heavy snow is not very common except in the Scottish highlands.

Britain is a densely populated country, with a total population of about 60 million. Most people live in the southern and eastern parts of England, particularly in and around London, which has nearly 7 million inhabitants.

London is the capital of England and of the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is one of the largest cities in the world. It is an industrial and cultural centre, and the most important in the British Isles.

Birmingham is the second largest city in Great Britain. When William Shakespeare was alive, Birmingham was just a little village. Now it is a centre of the iron and many other industries. Birmingham's factories produce many cars, buses, trolley-buses, trams and other machines. They also produce medical instruments. The territory round Birmingham is known as the Black Country. There are many factories, plants and mines there and there are very few trees.

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland. It is the oldest and largest city in the north. Edinburgh is a large industrial centre. It has electrical, electronics, chemical and other important enterprises.

Glasgow and Liverpool are big seaports. They are very important shipbuilding centers. They have enterprises of almost all industries.

Manchester and Leeds - are the centers of the British textile industry. Sheffield is a centre of the steel and machine building industries.

Cardiff is the capital of Wales. It is the main seaport in Wales. Cardiff is important for its steel works.

Cambridge and Oxford are famous university cities. The first college in Cambridge was found in 1284 and now there are more than 20 colleges there. Cambridge also produces different products of light industry. Oxford is one of the main producers of motor cars in the British Isles.

Bristol is an important port. It is also famous for its electronics, electricity and aircraft industry.

Southampton is the largest passenger port in England. Ships go there from almost every part of the world. They bring sounds of visitors from many countries.

London is situated about 40 miles (64 km) from the mouth of the river Thames. It is divided by the river into two unequal parts. Most of the important buildings stand on the north bank.

London is the heart of Britain. It is not only Britain's capital; it is the country's largest city, the most important seaport and the financial and business centre. London is also Britain's cultural centre, the place with the most theatres, cinemas, concert halls and museums. In addition, it is the country's TV production

centre. The oldest part of London is the City. It is about one square mile in area, but it includes the Bank of England and the headquarters of many of the wealthiest companies and corporations in the world. The City is the financial and business centre of the Commonwealth. The Square Mile is another name for the City of London.

Now about half a million people work in the City during the day. Not many people live in the Square Mile nowadays. Among the sights of the City is the British Museum, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the Central Criminal Court and St. Paul's Cathedral, the bells of which ring at 9 a.m. to mark the beginning of the new working day.

The rest of London is traditionally divided into the West End (to the west of the City) and the East End (to the east of the City). The West End is famous for shopping and entertainment. It includes theatres, cinemas, museums, pubs, galleries and famous London parks, where people can forget that they are in a city at all. The best known and largest park is Hyde Park. It is visited by thousands of Londoners every day. In all London parks you may walk on the grass and lie down to rest on it if the weather permits.

The East End is the working-class area with docks, industrial plants and factories. London plays a very important

role in the industry of Great Britain. It is the country's main centre for printing, clothing manufacture and food processing. Factories are scattered through old city districts, where they are often surrounded by streets of small houses. Nowadays there is a tendency to move the factories out of London to enforce smokeless zones.

There are four countries in the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Laws in Great Britain are made by parliament. It consists of two chambers, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The house of commons is more important as its members are elected by secret ballot. They belong to different political parties. The main parties are the conservative party and labor party. The Chief executive is the prime minister. He heads the government but is not the head of state.

Great Britain is a monarchy and the head of state is a monarch, whose power is limited by parliament. The prime minister is usually leader of the party. That has a majority in the House of Commons. Each new prime minister can make changes in the size of his cabinet, appoint new ministers and make other changes.

Those who wish to travel, either for pleasure or on business have at their disposal various means of transport.

There is for instance, the humble, expensive bicycle. Then there is the motor - cycle, with which you can travel quickly and cheaply, but for long journeys it is rather tiring. With a motor car, one can travel comfortably for along distance without getting too tired.

Luxurious ships cross seas and oceans from one continent to another.

Airplanes carry passengers to various parts of the world in almost as many hours as it takes days to do the journey by other means. But most of us still have to use trains. Look at this picture of a busy railway station. A train is standing at one of the platforms ready to leave.

Some of the passengers are looking out of the windows watching the late -comers who are hurrying looking for empty seats. The engine is ready to draw the train out of the station. On another platform a train has just come in; some passengers are getting in. those who have not taken the precaution of getting their tickets before hand are waiting in queues at the booking office.

At the bookstalls people are choosing books, magazines or newspapers for the journey. At the cloakroom others are depositing or with drawing their luggage. Further along there are refreshment rooms crowded with people snatching a hasty meal,

while those with time to spare are sitting in the waiting rooms. The United Kingdom (abbreviated from "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland") is the political name of the country which consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (sometimes known as Ulster).

Great Britain is the name of the island which is made up of **England, Scotland, Wales**, whereas the British Isles is the geographical name of all the islands off the north-west coast of the European continent. In everyday speech "Britain" is used to mean the United Kingdom. The flag of the United Kingdom, known as the *Union Jack*, is made up of three crosses. The upright red cross on a white background is the cross of the 1st George, the patron saint of England. The white diagonal cross on a blue background is the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, The red diagonal cross on a white background is the cross of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The Welsh flag, called the Welsh dragon, represents a red dragon on a white and green background.

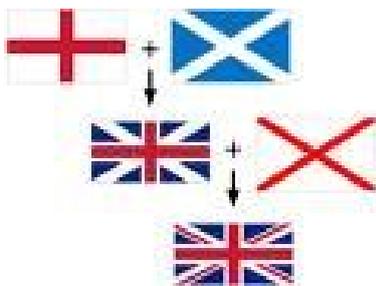
St. George's Day falls on 23 April and is regarded as England's national day. On this day some patriotic Englishmen wear a rose pinned to their jackets'. A red rose is the national emblem of England from the time of the Wars of the Roses (15th century).

St. Andrew's Day (the 30th of November) is regarded as Scotland's national day. On this day some Scotsmen wear a thistle in their buttonhole. As a national emblem of Scotland, thistle apparently first used in the 15th century of defence. The Order of the Thistle is one of the highest orders of knighthood. It was founded in 1687, and is mainly given to Scottish noblemen (limited to 16 in number).



St. Patrick's Day (the 17th of March) is considered as a national day in Northern Ireland and an official bank holiday there. The national emblem of Ireland is shamrock. According to legend, it was the plant chosen by St. Patrick to illustrate the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to the Irish.

St. David's Day (the 1st of March) is the church festival of St.



David, a 6th-century monk and bishop, the patron saint of Wales. The day is regarded as the national holiday of Wales, although it is not an official bank holiday. On this day,

however, many Welshmen wear either a yellow daffodil or a leek pinned to their jackets, as both plants are traditionally regarded as national emblems of Wales.

In the Royal Arms three lions symbolize England, a lion rampant — Scotland, and a harp — Ireland. The whole is encircled and is supported by a lion and a unicorn. The lion has been used as a

symbol of national strength and of the British monarchy for many centuries. The unicorn, a mythical animal that looks like a horse with a long straight horn, has appeared on the Scottish and British royal coats of arms for many centuries, and is a symbol of purity.