1.

“England” is sometimes, wrongly, used in reference to the whole United Kingdom, the entire island of Great Britain (or simply Britain), or indeed the British Isles. This is not only incorrect but can cause offence to people from other parts of the UK. The diverse history of England, Scotland and Wales has led to very different cultural traditions; the Scots and Welsh have right to feel aggrieved whenever the term “English” is used wrongly, to mean all three.

Countries within a Country – the United Kingdom

The name United Kingdom refers to the union of what were once four separate countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland (though most of Ireland is now independent, only Northern Ireland remains part of the UK).

The UK’s full and official name is the “United Kingdom of great Britain and Northern Ireland”.

History of the making of the UK: 1536 – Act of Union joins England and Wales; 1707 – Act of Union unites Scotland and England, together with Wales to form the Kingdom of Great Britain. 1801 – The Irish Parliament voted to join the Union. The then Kingdom of Great Britain becomes the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. 1922 – Name changed to United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, when most of the Southern counties in Ireland chose independence.

Britain comprises only England and Wales. Great Britain comprises on-ly England, Scotland and Wales. The British Isles are made up of several is-lands, where Great Britain is the largest one.

2.

Geography and Climate

So, what is the United Kingdom? The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country located off the north-western coast of con-tinental Europe.

Four countries make up the UK – England, Wales, Scotland and North-ern Ireland. It consists of a group of islands – 2 large ones and several hun-dred smaller ones. By far the largest island is that which is divided into three countries – England, Wales and Scotland. This island is about 700 miles long and is 300 miles at its widest point. At its nearest point only the 22 miles of the English Channel separate it from the coast of France.

England’s capital London is also the capital city of the UK. Most of England consists of lowland with some mountainous terrain northwest of a line drawn between the Humber estuary in the East and the river Exe in the Southwest. Wales, with its capital Cardiff, lies to the West having a coast-line adjacent to the Irish Sea. It is more mountainous than England, particu-larly in North and Mid Wales.

To the North is Scotland which consists of two very distinct regions known as the Highlands and the Lowlands. The Highlands region is to the North and West of the country and is much more mountainous than its low-land sister. The Lowlands region is home to most of Scotland’s population. It’s here where Scotland’s capital, Edinburgh and the larger city of Glasgow will be found.

Crossing the Irish Sea takes us to Ireland of which only the north east-ern corner (Northern Ireland) is part of the UK. The rest of this island is a separate country, the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland, with its capital, Belfast, is a hilly region boasting the largest inland body of water in the UK, Lough Neagh [a lake the Northern Ireland west of Belfast, the largest in the British Isles, popular with walkers and for sailing], at 150 square miles.

The prevailing winds tend to come from the southwest, bringing with them frequent spells of mild but wet weather from the Atlantic Ocean. Over-all the climate is fairly temperate and similar to much of northern Europe. The weather of the United Kingdom is changeable and unpredictable. Sum-mers are moderately warm, winters are cool to cold. Rains fall throughout the year, and more on the west than the east.

3.

What is the main tourist attraction of United Kingdom?

London is the capital city of the United Kingdom. Covering an area of 607 square miles, it is the largest metropolitan area in the United Kingdom. It is located on the River Thames.

London is the largest financial center along with New York. It has the fifth-largest GDP compared to the other cities in the world. Fashion, cuisine, tourist places, and art and architecture of the city attract a million visitors; it is the most-visited city in the world. The Tower of London, Kew Gardens, Palace of Westminster, St Margaret's Church, Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, and Trafalgar Square are the major attractions.

How big is United Kingdom?

The United Kingdom covers a total area of 94,060 square miles. The country has a coastline of 11,073 miles. As estimated in 2013, the country had a population of 64,100,000. The largest cities in the UK are London, Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds and Glasgow.

What are the administrative divisions of United Kingdom?

The United Kingdom comprises four countries: England, Northern Ire-land, Scotland and Wales; and fourteen overseas territories. Each country has its own system of administration.

Who are the political leaders of United Kingdom?

The United Kingdom is a unitary parliamentary democracy and a con-stitutional monarchy. The Prime Minister is the head of the government.

Monarch - Elizabeth II; Prime Minister - David Cameron

What is the official currency used in United Kingdom?

The pound sterling denoted by the ISO 4217 code GBP is the official currency of the United Kingdom. It is commonly called the pound and is the currency of the Crown dependencies and the British Overseas Territories of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. It is subdivided into 100 pence.

What is the economy of United Kingdom like?

The United Kingdom is the sixth-largest economy in the world with a high per capita. In 2011, the gross domestic product (nominal) was estimat-ed at a total $2.480 trillion, while the per capita was $39,604. The Bank of England is the central bank of the United Kingdom and issues the national currency, the pound sterling; it is the world's third-largest reserve currency.

Services sector is the largest sector, accounting for around seventy-three percent of the GDP. Tourism is a significant part of the economy; the United Kingdom is the sixth-most visited country in the world. London draws the maximum number of international visitors than any city.

The country also has a large automotive and aerospace industry. The pharmaceutical industry is also a significant part of the economy. The Unit-ed States, Germany, Netherlands, France, and China are the major trading partners.