

Level: 1st year- licence

Date:

Subject: British Culture and Civilisation

Hour:

Lecture One: United Kingdom (overview)

Group:

- **Read the passage then do the tasks below**

The United Kingdom, a constitutional monarchy in North Western Europe, is officially the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It includes four countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

England

The national flag of England is white with a red cross. It is called St George's Cross because Saint George is the patron saint of England. The rose is the national flower of England and the lion is the national animal. The lion is the symbol of many English sports teams.

Wales

The Welsh language is an old, Celtic language, which is very different from English. For example, the Welsh name for Wales is 'Cymru', 'Good Morning' is 'Bore da' and 'How are you?' is 'Sut mae?' Street signs are written in Welsh and English, and villages, towns and cities have an English name and a Welsh name, for example the capital city is Cardiff or Caerdydd.

Scotland

Scotland is a very beautiful country with many mountains, forests, beaches, rivers, lochs or lakes. Scotland has its own parliament which makes laws for Scottish people. The Scottish parliament is in the capital city, Edinburgh. About five million people live in Scotland, which is 8.5% of the UK population. Most people live in the south of the country, in and around the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Dundee.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is a popular place to go walking or do outdoor activities such as mountain biking, coasteering (climbing up rocks and jumping into the sea) or zorbing (rolling down a hill in a giant PVC ball). Football, rugby, cricket, Gaelic football and hurling, a type of hockey, are all popular in Northern Ireland. Gaelic football is similar to rugby because players can touch and kick the ball.

Words to Define

Constitutional

Hurling

Monarchy

PVC Ball

Patron

Cricket

Saint

Hockey

Task I: Answer the following questions?

1. What are the main two symbols of England?

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2. What colour is the English National flag?

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3. What is the capital city of Wales?

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4. Where is the Scottish parliament located?

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5. What are the most practiced sports in Northern Ireland?

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Task II: Using your previous answers; write a short summary to express in your own words what you understood from the text you carefully read.