

## **GREAT BRITAIN**

Great Britain is situated on the British Isles. The British Isles lie to the west of the continent of Europe and consist of two large islands (Great Britain and Ireland) and many small ones. Great Britain and the Northern part of Ireland form the United Kingdom. The total land area of the United Kingdom is 244,000 sq. km.

The population of Great Britain is over 56,000,000. It is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. The average population density is 230 per sq. km - one of the highest in the world.

The western coast of Great Britain is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea. The eastern coast is washed by the waters of the North Sea. The English Channel, which is 32 km wide, separates the south-east of Great Britain from France.

There are many rivers in Great Britain but they are not long. The Severn in Wales and the Shannon in Ireland are the longest.

The island of Great Britain is distinctly divided into two parts: mountainous (north and west) and lowland (south and east).

The British Isles have a mild and temperate climate.

There are mineral resources in Great Britain. They are coal, natural gas, oil, mineral deposits, etc.

Great Britain is a highly industrialised country. Glasgow and Newcastle, each situated on a river, became great centres of engineering and shipbuilding. Lancashire produces cotton goods, Yorkshire — woollen, while Sheffield concentrates on iron and steel.

Birmingham and other towns of the Midlands develop light engineering.

Great Britain is a parliamentary monarchy. It means that there is the Queen (or the King) and the Parliament. The Queen has almost no power in the country. Laws are made by the Parliament.

The British Parliament consists of two chambers: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. There are more than 1,000 members in the House of Lords. Many seats in it are hereditary.

The House of Commons has 635 members. They are elected by a general election (secret ballot).

The government is headed by the Prime Minister, which is the leader of the Party that has won the election. In Great Britain there are the following political parties: the Conservatives, the Labour Party, the Liberals, the Communist Party and others. The Communist Party was founded in 1920.

### **Read and memorize the following words and expressions: uisle, island**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to lie (lay, lain)</li><li>• total land area</li><li>• densely populated</li><li>• average population density</li><li>• distinctly</li><li>• to divide</li><li>• to separate</li><li>• mountain</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• lowland</li><li>• mild and temperate</li><li>• mineral deposits</li><li>• engineering and shipbuilding</li><li>• cotton</li><li>• iron and steel</li><li>• are hereditary</li></ul> |
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### **Give the Russian for:**

Average population density; to be washed by the Atlantic Ocean; to be distinctly divided; mineral resources; parliamentary monarchy; consists of two chambers; they are elected by a general election; to be founded; the government is headed by the Prime Minister.

### **Give the English for:**

Разделён на две части; хлопчатобумажные товары; минеральные ресурсы; не имеет власти; лидер; политические партии; развивают лёгкую промышленность; концентрируется на; это значит.

### **Answer the following questions.**

1. Where is Great Britain situated? 2. What islands does the United Kingdom consist of? 3. What parts does Great Britain include? 4. What is the total area of the United Kingdom? 5. What is the population and the average population density in Great Britain? 6. What oceans and seas wash the coasts of Great Britain? 7. What can you say about the climate of Great Britain? 8. What mineral resources are there in Great Britain? 9. What cities are the great centres of engineering, shipbuilding, cotton goods and woollens? 10. What towns develop light engineering? 11. What kind of country (state) is Great Britain? 12. What chambers does British Parliament consist of? 13. Who heads the government? 14. What political parties are there in Great Britain?

