**4. The United Kingdom (Geography – rivers and mountains, population, history, climate, national flag, agriculture, economy, others) and Customs and traditions**

**Geography – rivers and mountains**

**Geography :**

UK is situated on the north-west part of Europe. Great Britain is separated of continental Europe by English Channel (between UK and France). UK is divided into four parts: England, Scotland, Wales (3 historical parts) and Northern Ireland

Its neighbours are Ireland (W) and France (S-E).

1. **Rivers:**

**River Severn** : The longest river in the United Kingdom is the River Severn, 354 km long

**River Thames** : Second-longest in the United Kingdom, The River Thames known alternatively in parts as the River Isis, is a river that flows through southern England including London. At 346 km.

1. **Mountains:**

**Ben Nevis:** Is the highest mountain in Scotland, the United Kingdom and the British Isles. The summit is 4,411 feet (1,345 m) above sea level

**Scafell Pike:**  Is the highest and the most prominent mountain in England, at an elevation of 978 metres (3,209 ft) above sea level. It is located in the Lake District National Park, in Cumbria, and is part of the Southern Fells and the Scafell massif.

**Population :**

There are more then 67 mil inhabitants.

The density is one of the highest in the world. People live mostly in urban areas. In Britain we can find the following ethnic groups: English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh and others. The majority of people speaks English.

**History :**

* the first people to inhabit the British Isles were settlers from Europe
* they arrived between 3,500 and 3,000 B.C and introduced farming, potery and stone tools
* they lived in the south of England Stonehenge was built by these early inhabitants

**The Civil War 1640–1649 :**

Started because of uncompromising differences between the free and slave states over the power of the national government to prohibit slavery in the territories that had not yet become states.

**Climate :**

The UK has a temperate climate. In general, this means that Britain gets cool, wet winters and warm, wet summers. It rarely features the extremes of heat or cold, drought or wind that are common in other climates. The weather conditions are also very changeable.

**National flag :**

The UK flag combines the crosses of the three countries united under one Sovereign - the kingdoms of England and Wales, of Scotland and of Ireland

**Agriculture :**

Agriculture in the United Kingdom uses 71% of the country's land area.

The UK currently produces about 60% of its domestic food consumption.

The most common crops are wheat, barley and oats.

**Economy :**

Britain is traditionally rich in coal and metals such as iron, tin and lead. Britain is one of the leading industrial countries in the world.

Export: machines, petroleum, means of transport, chemicals, pharmaceuticals.

G7 country