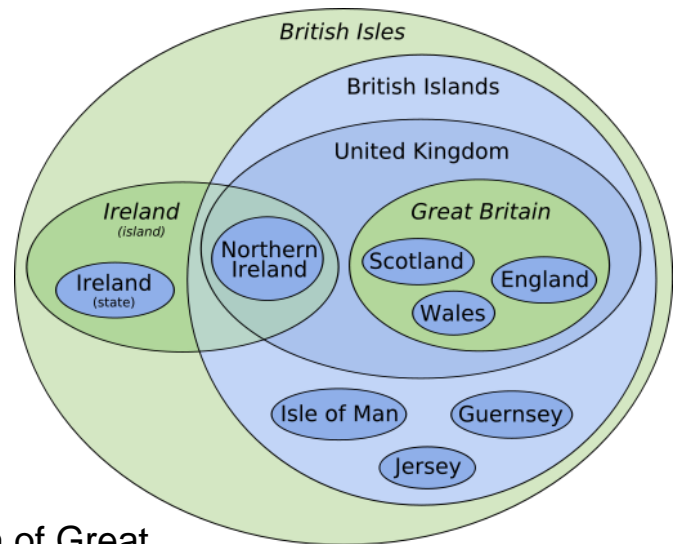


British & US Culture & Society (Pr. El Hadari)

- Lecture 1: Introduction: Overview about the UK -

- The United Kingdom is a country of countries it is also called the UK it is a country of islands cause it consists of a group of islands it is an archipelago. It consists of the following countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Republic of Ireland is also a British Island but is not a part of United Kingdom.
- The official name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- The name Britain is sometimes used to refer to the UK as a whole.
- The head of the government is the Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the head of the state is Queen Elizabeth II.
- The currency of the UK is pound sterling.
- Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland were separated in 1920 and Northern Ireland was formed in 1921.
- The current population of UK is 68.334.304 million according to the last data provided by World Meter website.
- The UK ranks 21 in the list of countries by population.
- England is the largest country by population in the UK (54 million).
- The median age is 40.5.
- The weather in UK is most often associated with rain which can come at any time of the year. It is not related to a specific season. The weather in the UK is unpredictable. In one morning or afternoon one can enjoy Sunrise with the snowball fight and at the same time experience some wind with drizzling rain. In summer the average temperature ranges from 9 to 20 degrees Celsius and it can go beyond to reach 30 degrees Celsius if there is a heat wave. In winter it is between 2 and 7 degrees Celsius and it can go to just below 0 degrees Celsius. That's why most houses, busses, trains and cars have good heating system.



- The UK is famous for its being a land of culture. It is known for its art spaces like London's National Gallery and modern where people can enjoy sell-out shows and paintings dating back to the 13th Century. The UK has a rich literary Heritage which dates back to over a 1000 years it is known for theatrical performances which feature the Works of such great playwrights and Dramatics as William Shakespeare (1564-1616). Other names of famous British authors poets and dramatists are : Geoffrey Chaucer (1334-1400), Jane Austen (1775-1817), George Orwell (1903-1964) and Kazuo Ishiguro. The UK is also known for music. Some of the world's largest names of music are in the UK.
- Some of the major names of rivers in the UK: Thames River, Severn River and Spey River.
- Some major mountains in the UK are Ben Nevis Mountains & Mourne Mountains.