



**D** Read the following text and answer the questions.

## UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or UK, is in **Western Europe**. It **comprises** the island of **Great Britain** (England, Scotland and Wales) and the northern one-sixth of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland), **together** with many **smaller** islands.

The mainland areas lie **between** latitudes 49°N and 59°N (the Shetland Islands reach to nearly 61°N), and longitudes 8°W to 2°E. The **Royal Greenwich Observatory**, near London, is the defining point of the Prime Meridian. The United Kingdom has a total area of **approximately** 245,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The UK lies between the North Atlantic and the North Sea, and **comes within** 35 km (22 mi) of the northwest coast of France, from which it is **separated** by the English Channel.

It shares a 499 km international land **boundary** with the Republic of Ireland. The Channel Tunnel bored beneath the English Channel, now **links** the UK with France.

The **physical** geography of the UK varies greatly. England consists of mostly **lowland** terrain, with upland or **mountainous** terrain only found north-west of the Tees-Exe line. The upland areas include the Lake District, the Pennines, North York Moors, **Exmoor** and **Dartmoor**. The **lowland** areas are typically traversed by **ranges** of low hills, frequently composed of **chalk**, and flat plains.

Scotland is the most mountainous country in the UK and its physical geography is distinguished by the Highland Boundary **Fault** which traverses the Scottish mainland from Helensburgh to Stonehaven. The faultline separates the two distinctively different regions of the Highlands to the north and west, and the Lowlands to the south and east.

The Highlands are predominantly mountainous, containing the majority of Scotland's mountainous landscape, while the **Lowlands** contain flatter land, especially across the Central Lowlands, with lowland and mountainous terrain located at the Southern **Uplands**.

Wales is mostly mountainous, though south Wales is less mountainous than north and mid Wales.

Northern Ireland consists of mostly **hilly** landscape and its geography includes the Mourne





climate change, in particular glaciation in northern and western areas.

The tallest mountain in the UK (and British Isles) is Ben Nevis, in the Grampian Mountains, Scotland. The longest river is the River Severn which flows from Wales into England. The largest lake by surface area is Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland, though Scotland's Loch Ness has the largest volume.

1. One sixth of the island of Ireland belongs to the UK

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

2. The distance from the UK to the coast of France is...

- a. 499 km.
- b. 35 km.
- c. 150 km.

3. The UK is linked to France through the Channel Tunnel.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know.

4. The most mountainous country is...

- a. Wales.
- b. Scotland.
- c. England.

5. The largest lake in the UK is in Wales.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know.



6. The tallest mountain in the UK is in Scotland.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know.



## ENGLAND NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM



The England national football team **represents** England (not the whole United Kingdom) in international football competitions such as the **World Cup** and the European Championships. It is controlled by The Football Association, the governing body for football in England.

Partly thanks to historical **accident**, and continuing national sentiment among them, each of the four Home Nations of the United Kingdom **possesses** its own separate football **association**, domestic league and national team. Because the IOC does not accept regional **representative teams**, England, like the other three, do not compete in Olympic football.

England are by far the most successful of the Home Nations, **having** won the 1966 World Cup and the British Home Championship outright thirty-four times, as many as the other three nations have won outright **altogether**.

For the first 80 years of its existence, the England team played its home matches at different **venues** all around the country; for the first few years it used cricket grounds, before later moving on to football clubs' stadiums. England played their first **match** at Wembley Stadium in 1924, the year after it was **completed**, against Scotland, but for the next 27 years would only use Wembley as a venue for Scotland matches; other opposition were still entertained at club grounds around the **country**.

In May 1951, Argentina became the first team other than Scotland to be entertained at Wembley, and by 1960 nearly all of England's home matches were **being** played there. Between 1966 and 1995, England did not play a single home match **anywhere** else.

England's last match at Wembley before its demolition and reconstruction was against Germany on October 7, 2000, a game which England lost 1-0. Since then the team has **played** at 14 different venues around the country, with Old Trafford **having** been the most often used. The FA have ruled that when the new Wembley is completed in mid-2006, England's travels will end, and the team will play all of their home matches there until at least 2036. The main reason for this is **financial**. The FA did not own the old Wembley **stadium**, but it does own the new one, and has taken on debts of hundreds of millions of pounds to pay for it. Thus it **needs** to maximise the revenue from England matches, and does not wish to share it with the **owners** of other **grounds**.

1. The Football Association is the governing body for football in England.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know



2. England has never won the World Championship.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

3. England has won the British Home Championship four times.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

4. Wembley Stadium was completed in 1923.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know

5. The new Wembley Stadium will be completed by 2036.

- a. True.
- b. False.
- c. We don't know