

Great Britain takes an active part in the work of the Commonwealth, which is a voluntary association of 50 independent states. The English Queen is recognized as Head of the Commonwealth.

Great Britain promotes sustainable economic and social progress in developing countries. Almost £65 million were spent on disaster relief, help for refugees and emergency humanitarian aid.

Britain's defence policy is based on its membership in NATO, which is committed to defend the territories of all its states-members.

*TASK 1: Prepare a summary of this text*

*TASK 2: Make up questions on the text*

## **LESSON 4. Industry in Great Britain**

### **TEXT 1**

#### **INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN**

##### **1. Read the text.**

Great Britain is one of the most highly industrialized countries in the world. The largest industrial cities in Britain are: London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool, and Sheffield. The district around Birmingham is a land of factories and mines. The Glasgow industrial region has many shipbuilding yards, extensive docks and textile factories.

Sheffield is a big centre of steel industry, and in Manchester there are many textile factories. Liverpool is one of the' biggest ports in the West. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland. Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh are universities towns.

Britain is one of the most important and the largest exporters of automobiles, textile machinery, and electronic equipment.

Agriculture is one of the largest and most important activities in Great Britain. Four fifths of the land is devoted to it and it provides employment for over a million people. Sheep-farming, cattle-farming and dairy-farming are still important branches in the British economy. Vegetables are grown in all parts of the country. The chief grain crops are wheat and barley.

**2. Answer the questions.**

- 1) Is Great Britain a highly industrialized country?
- 2) What are the centres of heavy industry in Great Britain?
- 3) What are the centres of the textile region?
- 4) What are university towns in Great Britain?
- 5) What does Britain export?
- 6) Is agriculture important activity in Great Britain?

**3. Translate the following word combinations.**

Machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, and other consumer goods.

**4. Fill in the gaps with the suitable words.**

- member
- famous
- grown
- countries
- person
- industry
- include

➤ oil

Britain is one of the most highly industrialized 1..... in the world: for every 2..... employed in agriculture 12 are employed in industry. The original base of British 3 ..... was coal-mining, iron and steel and textiles. Today the most productive sectors 4..... high-tech industries, chemicals, finance and the service sectors, especially banking, insurance and tourism.

Birmingham developed engineering, chemicals, electronics and car manufacture. Cambridge is 5.....for software engineering (making programs for computers) and bio-chemical and bio-genetic products. Cattle-farming is the specialty of the west of England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Wheat and fruit are widely 6.....in the south-east of England. Near the east and north-east coast of England and Scotland there are vast reserves of 7 .....and gas. The UK is a 8..... of OPEC - the Oil Producers and Exporters Cartel.

## TEXT 2

### INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN

#### 1. Read the text.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is located in the North West of Europe. It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the English Channel and the North Sea. The geographical position has made the U.K. a commercial and maritime power.

Nowadays Great Britain is one of the highly developed mixed private-and public enterprise economies. The state sector was reduced during the 1980s and 1990s owing to the policies of privatization or denationalization of publicly owned corporations. There was also an improvement in standard of

living. Unemployment and inflation rates were gradually reduced but remained high. The British government controls the production of coal, steel and ships; it also runs certain utilities, the railway and most civil aviation.

Britain lives by industry and trade. The country is one of the world's biggest importers of food and raw materials. In return Britain exports its manufactured goods such as china, automobiles and other vehicles, wooden goods, steel, electrical and mechanical machinery, tractors, instruments, chemical and petrochemical goods and petroleum. Invisible exports – shipping, insurance, aviation, tourism, etc. – earn nearly as much as commodity exports. The USA, Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand and the Federal Republic of Germany are among Britain's main trading partners.

Britain is a major financial and commercial centre of the capitalist world. With its many famous institutions such as the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and Lloyd's, and its international markets for such commodities as rubber, metals and tea the City of London has always been and still remains the most important financial and commercial centre in the world.

Britain has always been a manufacturing country. Manufacturing industries account for one-fifth of the GNP (*Gross National Product* – валовой национальный продукт). Most of the companies in industry are small, though companies with 500 or more employees employ a larger percentage of the work force. Major manufactures include motor vehicles, aerospace equipment, electronic data processing and telecommunication equipment, metal goods, instruments, petrochemicals and other chemicals. High-technology industries are being intensively developed now.

The extracting industry accounts for approximately 6 percent of the GNP but employs less than 1 percent of the work force. Production from oil fields in the North Sea has allowed the United Kingdom to become self-sufficient in petroleum. The United Kingdom's coal industry, despite its steady decline since the early 1950s remains one of the largest and the most technologically advanced in Europe.

Just under half of the total population is in the labour force. The highest proportion of employees (more than two-thirds) are in the service sectors, financial services and distribution. Manufacturing, although it has declined, employs more than one-fifth of all workers. Smaller numbers are in construction, energy, agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Though Great Britain has lost its former position as the leading industrial nation of the world it still ranks among the top industrial countries in growth rates, productivity and competitiveness. The United Kingdom is the 5<sup>th</sup> in size of its GNP among capitalist countries of the world.

## 2. Match English and Russian equivalents.

1. commercial and maritime power	1. обрабатывающая промышленность
2. a high developed country	2. стать самостоятельным, независимым экономически
3. financial and commercial centre	3. основные торговые партнеры
4. productivity and competitiveness	4. финансовый и торговый центр
5. mixed private-and state economy	5. производительность и конкурентоспособность

6. owing to the policy of privatization and denationalization	6. смешанная экономика с государственной и частной собственностью
7. commodity exports 8. main trading partners	7. высокоразвитая страна 8. передовая на технологическом уровне
9. manufacturing industry	9. экспорт товаров
10. to become self-sufficient	10. благодаря политике приватизации и денационализации
11. technologically advanced	11. торговая и морская держава

## **LESSON 5. Agriculture in the UK**

### *Features of modern agriculture in the UK*

Modern Agriculture in Great Britain is considered one of the most effective in the world. The level of mechanization of farming is very high here. While fewer people work in this area, the number of products on individual items is growing.

As of 2012, the United Kingdom is located on the 6th place among the EU countries for the production of agricultural products. The total area of agricultural land is 18.5 million hectares, that is 77% of the total area of the country.