An A-Z Of British Culture

Cultures and Contexts
Cultures and Contexts

• Introduction
  • History
  • Facts and figures
  • Who are the British?

• United Kingdom, united culture?
  • England
  • Scotland
  • Wales
  • Northern Ireland
Introduction

- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
  - By sixteenth century: Wales incorporated into English administration and law
  - 1707: Kingdoms of Scotland and England united
  - 1801: Ireland loses its own parliament and becomes part of United Kingdom
  - 1921: Ireland becomes a Republic, with the exception of 6 northern counties

- Who are the British?
Population increase to 2002
Population density

Population density per county, 1995  Projected population change, 1995-2011
## Population: The Four Nations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Pop. (millions)</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Pop. density per km²</th>
<th>Land area '000 km²</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Per capita GDP (UK= 100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>130.4</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Ireland</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>244.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office for National Statistics (2002)
English Culture

- Images of England
- The Monarchy
- Language
- The Lost Empire
- Traditional England
  - ‘Olde England’
  - The Rural Ideal
  - The Village Pub
- Literature
- Art and Architecture
- Cinema
- Theatre
- Music
- Sport
- Food and Drink
- Foods and Festivals
Images of England
The Monarchy
Language

- Received Pronunciation
- Cockney
- Estuary English
- West Country (South West England)
- East Anglian
- Birmingham, Black Country and other industrial Midland accents
- Liverpool (Scouse)
- Manchester and other east Lancashire accents
- Yorkshire
- Newcastle (Geordie) and other north-east England accents
The Lost Empire
Traditional England
Olde England

“For me, England stands for the Church of England, eccentric incumbents, oil-lit churches, Women’s Institutes, modest village inns, arguments about cow parsley on the alter, the noise of mowing machines on Saturday afternoons, ... leaning on gates and looking across fields.”

John Betjemin, 1954
Olde England

“’I know my rights’, village cricket and Elgar, Do-it-Yourself,… Cumberland sausages, double-decker buses, Donne and Dickens, twitching net curtains, country churches, dry-stone walls, gardening, Christopher Wren and Monty Python, easy-going Church of England vicars, the Beatles, bad hotels and good beer, church bells, Constable and Piper, finding foreigners funny..., drinking to excess, Women’s Institutes, fish and chips, curry, Christmas Eve at King’s College, Cambridge…”

Jeremy Paxman, 1998
The Rural Ideal

The Local Pub
Art

Joshua Reynolds

William Blake

William Holman Hunt

William Morris

Thomas Gainsborough

J.M.W. Turner

Dante Gabriel Rossetti
Architecture
Cinema
Theatre
Music
Sport

[Images of various sports activities]
Food and Drink
Food and Drink  Foods and Festivals

Dewhurst: WS 2004/05
Lecture: An A-Z of British Culture
Scottish Culture

- Images of Scotland
- Independence and Self-Rule
  - The Stone of Scone
- Language
- Traditional Scotland
  - Bagpipes
  - The Ceilidh
  - The Highlands and Highland Games
  - Clans, Traditional Dress
- Literature
- Art and Architecture
- Cinema
- Theatre
- Music
- Sport
- Food and Drink
- Festivals
Images of Scotland
Independence and Self-Rule

- New Scottish Parliament at Holyrood
- The Stone of Scone in Westminster Abbey
- The Stone of Scone in Edinburgh

Dewhurst: WS 2004/05
Lecture: An A-Z of British Culture
Language

• Gaelic

• Lallands / Doric / Scots

  Ca canny!  Be careful
  Whit like?  How are you?
  The morn’s mornin.  Tomorrow morning.
  Whaur ye gaun?  Where are you going?
  Come awa ben!  Come in!

• Scottish English

• Other dialects: Ullans, Shaetlan

• Legal terminology:

  Defendant  Accused
  Bailiff    Sheriff officer
  Arson      Willful Fire-raising
Traditional Scotland

Bagpipes

Ceilidh
Highlands and Highland Games
Clans and Traditional Dress

Mackenzie
MacGregor
Buchanan
Menzies
Campbell
Red Fraser
Cameron
Black Watch
Gordon
Douglas

Balmoral
Cap Badge
Argyll Jacket
Kilt
Kilt Pin
Sgian Dubh
Hose
Flashes
Ghillie Brogues
Literature

Scott Memorial, Edinburgh

Lewis Grassic Gibbon

Muriel Spark

Alan Warner

Robert Louis Stevenson

Neil M. Gunn

Irvine Welsh

James Kelman
Alisdair Gray  
Nigel Tranter  
Iain Rankin

Isla Dewar  
Iain Banks
Art

National Portrait Gallery

Sir Henry Raeburn

Portrait of David Hume, by Allan Ramsay

Highland Landscape, by Alexander Nasmyth
Architecture

Hopetoun House  
Culzean Castle  
Glasgow School of Art  
Scone Palace  
Glasgow’s Armadillo (Conference and Exhibition Centre)
Cinema

- *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1969)
- *Women Talking Dirty* (1977)
Theatre

Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow

Edinburgh Festival Theatre

Royal Lyceum Theatre
Edinburgh Tattoo
Sport

[Images of various sports activities]

Dewhurst: WS 2004/05
Lecture: An A-Z of British Culture
Food and Drink
Festivals – Burn’s Night

Robert Burns, *To A Haggis* (1786)
Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!
Aboon them a' yet tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin was help to mend a mill
In time o'need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.
Festivals – Hogmanay
Next week Cultures and Sub-Cultures