

Exploring the Regions of the United Kingdom

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and compare the distinct human and physical characteristics of different regions within the United Kingdom.

Use your geographical knowledge of the UK to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where required, using geographical vocabulary to support your reasoning.

The United Kingdom is a diverse nation comprised of four countries, each featuring unique regions defined by their physical landscapes, such as mountain ranges and coastal plains, and human features, including major cities, historical sites, and industrial hubs. Finn the dolphin, an expert in mapping, encourages you to look closely at how these regions differ in their land use and economic activities.

Word bank: Topography · Urbanisation · Precipitation · Demographics · Infrastructure · Climate · Agriculture · Economy

1. Compare and contrast the physical geography of the Scottish Highlands with the geography of the South East of England. How does the topography influence land use in these areas? (3 marks)

2. Explain why certain regions, such as the North West of England, historically developed different industries compared to the agricultural regions of East Anglia. (2 marks)

3. If a new national railway project was proposed to connect a remote coastal village in Wales to a major city, what economic and environmental factors would planners need to justify the cost of £500 million? (3 marks)

4. Look at the UK map in your atlas. Identify one region known for its high level of urbanisation and one region known for its primary sector activities (farming, fishing, or mining). Describe one key difference between these two regions. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the economy of a rural region in Northern Ireland if the main local industry, such as dairy farming, was severely impacted by an extreme change in climate? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch map of the United Kingdom. Label the four countries and shade three different regions using colours to represent their main physical or human characteristics (e.g., green for agricultural plains, brown for mountainous terrain, or grey for major urban centres).



Extension challenge: Choose two UK regions and create a travel brochure layout. You must justify why a visitor should choose one over the other based on their geographical features, local culture, and climate. Use at least four terms from the word bank in your justification.