INTRODUCTION
The United Kingdom played a leading role in developing parliamentary democracy and in advancing literature and science. At its zenith in the 19th century, the British Empire stretched over one-fourth of the earth’s surface. With the dismantling of the Empire, the UK rebuilt itself into a modern and prosperous European nation. The Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1998.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II
Head of Government
Prime Minister Boris JOHNSON
Government Type
parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Capital
London
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the House of Lords (membership not fixed) and the House of Commons (650 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 243,610 sq km
Land: 241,930 sq km
Water: 1,680 sq km
Climate
temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current
Natural Resources
coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, silica sand, slate, arable land

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income, diversified non-EU European economy; fifth-largest importer and exporter globally; after 2016 EU Brexit, increased quantitative easing avoided economic decline; 10% GDP contraction from COVID-19; global financial and diplomacy leader
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $2.798 trillion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $41,600 (2020 est.)
Industries - machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment
Agricultural products - wheat, milk, barley, sugar beets, potatoes, rapeseed, poultry, oats, pork, beef
Exports $742 billion (2020 est.)
cars, gas turbines, gold, crude petroleum, packaged medicines (2019)
partners: US 15%, Germany 10%, China 7%, Netherlands 7%, France 7%, Ireland 6% (2019)
Imports $752.8 billion (2020 est.)
gold, cars, crude and refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment (2019)
partners: Germany 13%, China 10%, US 8%, Netherlands 7%, France 6%, Belgium 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
67.1 million (June 2020 est.)
England 84.3%, Scotland 8.1%, Wales 4.7%, Northern Ireland 2.8%
Population Growth
0.48% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
White 87.2%, Black/African/Caribbean/Black British 3%, Asian/Asian British: Indian 2.3%, Asian/Asian British: Pakistani 1.9%, mixed 2%, other 3.7% (2011 est.)
Language
English; Scots, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Irish, Cornish
Religion
Christian 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7% (2011 est.)