Knowledge Organiser: **United Kingdom**

What is the UK?
- The United Kingdom (UK) is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- The UK is an island nation located in north-western Europe.

Capital cities: London (England), Edinburgh (Scotland), Cardiff (Wales), Belfast (Northern Ireland).

UK Physical Geography
Mountains: Ben Nevis (Scotland), Snowdon (Wales), Scafell Pike (England).
Rivers: Thames, Severn, Trent, Tyne, Clyde.
National Parks: Lake District, Snowdonia, Cairngorms, Brecon Beacons.
Coasts: Varied – cliffs (e.g. Dover), beaches (e.g. Bournemouth), estuaries (e.g. Humber).

Cold and Wet in the UK
Weather: Influenced by the Atlantic Ocean – mild, wet climate.
Rainfall: Highest in the west (e.g. Snowdonia, Lake District), lowest in the east.
Temperature: Cooler in the north and upland areas; warmer in the south-east.

Population Density
Densely Populated: London, South East England, parts of the Midlands.
Sparsely Populated: Highlands of Scotland, parts of Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Influenced by jobs, transport, climate, and physical geography.

Life Expectancy
- Higher in the south of England, lower in parts of the north and west.
- Influenced by income, healthcare, education, and lifestyle.

North-South Divide
North: Higher unemployment, lower income and life expectancy.
South: More investment, better infrastructure, higher wages.
Government Action: Levelling up, investment in transport and industry.

London Growth
- Capital city and economic centre of the UK.
- Grown due to global finance, diverse population, and job opportunities.

Challenges: Housing crisis, pollution, congestion.

Manchester
- Major northern city; strong in media, culture, and sport.
- Regeneration of Salford Quays and MediaCityUK.
- Part of the Northern Powerhouse initiative.

Sunderland
- North East city; known for shipbuilding (historic) and Nissan car plant.
- Economic challenges but recent investment in jobs, education, and culture.
- Home to University of Sunderland and new developments on the riverfront.

UK Employment
Primary Sector: Farming, fishing, mining (less common).
Secondary Sector: Manufacturing, construction.
Tertiary Sector: Services (e.g. retail, health, education).
Quaternary Sector: High-tech and research (e.g. IT, pharmaceuticals).

UK Economy

- One of the largest economies in the world.
- Major industries: finance, healthcare, education, manufacturing.
- London is a global financial centre.

Trade in the UK

Imports: Food, electronics, oil, clothing.
Exports: Cars, pharmaceuticals, machinery, financial services.
Major partners: EU, USA, China.
Ports: Felixstowe, Southampton, Liverpool.

Key Terms

Population Density: Number of people living per square kilometre.
Life Expectancy: Average number of years a person is expected to live.
North-South Divide: Economic and social differences between the north and south of the UK.
Global City: A city with worldwide influence (e.g. London).
Imports/Exports: Goods brought into or sent out of the country.

Revision Questions

1) Name the four countries of the UK.
2) Which river flows through London?
3) Why is the west of the UK wetter than the east?
4) Where is population density highest in the UK?
5) What are two reasons life expectancy might be lower in the north?
6) Give one difference between the north and south of the UK.
7) Why has London grown so much?
8) What industries are important in Manchester?
9) Name one key employer in Sunderland.
10) What are examples of UK imports and exports?