Scotland: a land of contrasts

Scotland provides superb opportunities to enjoy wild and grand scenery which is even more impressive than the postcards suggest. It also offers towns and cities with a rich cultural life, a good mix of accommodation and places to eat and drink. Friendly and welcoming, it is an interesting and colourful all-season destination, where landscapes and the environment, sport and leisure pursuits, heritage and history, culture and cuisine are all part of a rewarding experience.

The best reason for choosing to go on holiday to Scotland is this: is one of the last places inside the crowded and frenetic European Union where it is possible to be alone isolated countryside. This is not to say that Scotland, like everywhere else, does not have its tourist traps, its crowded roads or its popular beauty spots. But it is relatively easy to escape from them.

It would be a mistake to think that Scotland is merely an extension of England. Indeed, no attitude is capable of causing greater offence to the Scots. They successfully resisted English attempts at domination for seven hundred years, and many differences between the two countries persist.

Scotland's history, embodied in its castles, battlefields, and ancient links with France, Flanders and Scandinavia, is special.

1. Answer the following questions using your own words. (2 points: 1 point each)

a) What is Scotland's countryside like?
b) Why do people in Scotland think they are different from the English?

2. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? (1 point: 0.5 each)

a) The only good time to go to Scotland is in summer.
b) There is a variety of places to stay in Scotland.

3. Find a word or phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: (1 point: 0.5 each)

a) full of people
b) drawn, depicted

4. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (2 points: 0.5 each)

1. Scotland is ...

a) full of lively towns and cities.

b) similar to many other countries in Europe.

c) as impressive as postcards suggest.

2. In Scotland, tourists ...

a) are always alone in the country.

b) can easily get away from crowds and traffic.

c) get trapped in popular beauty spots.

3. When you say that Scotland is like England, the Scottish ...
   a) feel insulted.
   b) cause offence.
   c) are amused.

4. Scotland ...

   a) was dominated by England for seven hundred years.

   b) dominated England for seven hundred years.

   c. kept out English invaders for seven hundred years.

5. Composition (100-150 words approximately). Choose one of the following topics. (4 points)

1. Write a letter to persuade a friend to go on holiday with you in Scotland.

2. To what extent is Spain a land of contrasts?