**POPULATION AND WAY OF LIFE IN THE UK**

**Number of inhabitants**

**The most densly populated areas and cities**

**National idientities, languages, ethnic groups: they all are British but not all the same**

* **The Scottish** – different education, legal and welfare systems, banknotes, feeling of quite a strong distinctiveness, also differences between people from the Lowlands and Highlands
* **The Welsh** – not so different, but 20% of the population speak Welsh – taught at schools, used in newspapers, radio, TV, all public notes and signs in both languages
* **The Irish** – two groups leading segregated lives - the Catholics and the Protestants
* **The English** – trying to distinguish – flags and the „anthem“ Land of Hope and Glory – football and rugby fans
* **Other ethnic identities:**
1. People coming from continental Europe – the same or very similar to the British in look, food, religion, attitudes to the roles of men and women…
2. Black Carribbeans - now most of them born in Britain (the first strong wave after WWII), Christians or non-religious people, language variety, typical music (reggae, ska..), Notting Hill Carnival
3. Asians – members of these communities stuck closely together, marry among themselves, keep their language, religion, music, food and dress preferences, those from Indian origin usually on high educational level, others much lower, religion (islam) being the most important for them, stricter family rules – sometimes problems for the young

**Way of life:**

* Class – important „background“, upper – middle – working, different language, pastimes, sports, ideas about the correct way to behave, different values, speak about different topics
* Stereotypes:
1. Sense of humour
2. Always talking about the weather
3. Land of traditions (true for public life, not private)
4. Breakfast (very few people really have it)
5. Conservatism – they do not like changes
6. Individualism – rather proud of being different (left driving, measurements)
7. Love of nature – World Wildlife Fund 1961, idealised vision of the countryside
8. Love of animals – RSPCA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the great foxhunting debate…
* Multicultural society
* National cuisine and eating habits
* Housing, types of houses, typical English house
* Popular sports
* Cultural life
* Typical hobbies
* Famous personalities
* Other