

# Scotland

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## Living in Scotland

Many people are drawn to Scotland by the career opportunities but also by the appeal of enhancing their quality of life. House prices can be cheaper than elsewhere in the UK, the commuting is easier and the countryside offers a wide range of activities from skiing and white-water rafting, to mountain biking and walking in some of the most spectacular scenery you will find anywhere else in the world. From the remote countryside of the Highlands to the vibrant, cosmopolitan streets of Glasgow, Scotland's cities and regions are great places to live and work.

## School



Children start primary school aged between 4 ½ and 5 ½, depending on when their birthday falls. Pupils usually attend primary schools for seven years. Then, aged even or twelve, they start secondary or high school for a compulsory four years with the following two years being optional. Pupils sit National 4/5 exams at the age of fifteen/sixteen, for normally eight subjects, including compulsory exams in English and Mathematics.

## Work

The economy of Scotland is close linked with the rest of the United Kingdom and Europe. Scotland was one of the industrial powerhouses of Europe from the time of the Industrial Revolution onwards, being a world leader in manufacturing. Scotland produces lots of good today, including textiles, whisky, shortbread, jet engines, buses, computer software and ships.

## Benefits and Taxes

There are various benefits and taxes involved in living and working in Scotland. Benefits such as maternity and sick pay, child benefit and state pensions are paid for by taxes such as personal income tax and national insurance.

## Transport

It's easy to commute and travel in Scotland, as the transport system in Scotland is generally well-developed. Scotland has an extensive railway network using cross-country links across Scotland, and good connections to England. The Glasgow Subway is the only underground system in Scotland. The Edinburgh Tram Network opened on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014. It is the only system currently in operation in Scotland. Scotland is covered by a large bus network throughout many towns, cities and rural areas. Scotland also has an extensive road network throughout the country. There are four international airports with scheduled services, operating to Europe, North America and Asia, as well as Northern Ireland and also England and Wales.



## Traditional Dress

The term Highland dress describes the traditional dress of Scotland. It is often characterised by tartan patterns in some form. Male highland dress includes a kilt and sporran.

Traditionally, women and girls do not wear kilts but may wear ankle-length tartan skirts. A tartan sash or shawl may also be worn.



# Comprehension Questions about Scotland

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LI – I am learning to answer literal questions.

Please read the passage about 'Scotland' carefully and answer the following questions.

\*Remember answers for literal questions are found **in** the text.\*

\* Write your answers in full sentences and write as much detail as you can.

\* Don't forget to upload your hard work!

## Questions

- 1) Why are people drawn to live in Scotland?
- 2) At what age in Scotland do children start primary school?
- 3) What two exams are compulsory in Scotland?
- 4) Can you give two examples of benefits in Scotland?
- 5) Which country does Scotland's rail network connect to?
- 6) Where is the only underground transport system in Scotland?
- 7) When did the Edinburgh Tram open?
- 8) What is the traditional dress that men wear?